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ATTORNEY GENERAL

OFFICE OF THE ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL  
**APPEALS & CONSTITUTIONAL LITIGATION DIVISION**

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August 28, 2020

*Via Email and Certified Mail*

Mr. Ted Blaszk  
Founder/CEO  
Initiative & Referendum Campaign Management Services  
22526 E. Vanetta Ave  
Newman Lake, WA 99025  
[ted.ircms@gmail.com](mailto:ted.ircms@gmail.com)

Re: Solicitation to Provide Unlawful "Ballot Retrieval Services" to Arizona Organizations

Dear Mr. Blaszk:

The Arizona Attorney General's Office ("AGO") is aware that on August 26, 2020, Initiative & Referendum Campaign Management Services ("IRCMS") sent Arizona-based organizations an email offering "ballot retrieval services." Specifically, the email stated as follows:

This election day many mail ballots will be left on the kitchen table. Make sure your votes make it into the ballot box.

Hire IRCMS to augment your Get-Out-The-Vote program. We can add an army of ballot retrieval professionals to your efforts. A large field staff team phoning and driving to the doors of your targeted voters who have yet to return their ballot in the final weeks of the election season.

In preparing this letter, our office reviewed IRCMS' website, [ircms.net](http://ircms.net). This website has a clearly defined Arizona section describing petition signature gathering services, which shows that the company intends to do business within the State of Arizona.

IRCMS's emailed solicitation runs afoul of an Arizona law criminalizing third party ballot collection. See Arizona Revised Statute ("A.R.S.") § 16-1005(H) ("A person who knowingly collects voted or unvoted early ballots from another person is guilty of a class 6 felony."). While the law provides for certain exceptions, "an army of ballot retrieval professionals... driving to the doors of [] targeted voters who have yet to return their ballot" is a felony violation of Arizona law. See A.R.S. § 16-1005(H), (I). The act of soliciting candidate or ballot initiative campaigns to pay for IRCMS's "ballot retrieval services" is a misdemeanor violation of Arizona law. See A.R.S. § 13-1002(B)(6); 13-305(A)(3). A criminal investigation may result if your company continues to solicit "ballot retrieval services" in Arizona, or if it is discovered that such services are discovered to have been performed during any election in the state.

Mr. Ted Blaszak

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The AGO demands that IRCMS immediately and permanently cease and desist from advertising, soliciting, or offering unlawful "ballot retrieval services" to any person, entity, or organization in Arizona. Further, for materials not specifically targeted to Arizonans or Arizona organizations but may nonetheless reach them, IRCMS must include a disclaimer stating that ballot retrieval services are not offered in Arizona as such services violate Arizona law.

Please provide written confirmation that IRCMS has ceased soliciting and/or advertising unlawful "ballot retrieval services" in Arizona **no later than 10:00am Monday, August 31, 2020.**

If you have questions, please contact me at [Jennifer.Wright@azag.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Wright@azag.gov) or (602) 542-8255. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Wright  
Assistant Attorney General  
Elections Integrity Unit  
Appeals & Constitutional Litigation Division



Todd C. Lawson  
Senior Litigation Counsel  
Fraud & Special Prosecutions Section  
Criminal Division