

FTC Consumer Alert

Federal Trade Commission ■ Bureau of Consumer Protection ■ Division of Consumer & Business Education

FTC Cautions Consumers About Voter Registration Scams

Have you received an unsolicited email or phone call from someone who claims to represent your local election board or another civic group and asks for your Social Security number or credit card number to confirm your eligibility or registration to vote?

According to the Federal Trade Commission, the nation's consumer protection agency, scammers may send messages asking for your Social Security number or financial information to register you to vote – or confirm your registration – when they really want to commit identity theft.

As a rule, federal officials say, organizations conducting legitimate voter registration drives either contact you in person or give you a voter registration form that you fill out yourself. They will never ask you to provide your financial information.

If you get an unsolicited phone call or email from someone who claims to need your Social Security number or other personal or financial information to register you to vote, report it to the FTC online at ftc.gov, or by phone at **1-877-FTC-HELP**. If you already have shared your personal information with someone you don't know, you may be the victim of a scam. File your complaint, then visit ftc.gov/idtheft.

To register to vote — and to find out whether your state requires your Social Security number for registration — contact your local election office, or check the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's National Voter Registration Form at www.eac.gov/voter. Most states accept this form. Many states and localities have their own rules about how far in advance of an election you must register to be able to vote, and whether a Social Security number is required for registration.

The FTC works for the consumer to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop, and avoid them. To file a complaint or to get free information on consumer issues, visit ftc.gov or call toll-free, **1-877-FTC-HELP** (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The FTC enters consumer complaints into the Consumer Sentinel Network, a secure online database and investigative tool available to hundreds of civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad.

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1-877-FTC-HELP	FOR THE CONSUMER

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