

October 31, 2016

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BY EMAIL TRANSMISSION AND U.S. MAIL

kim.wyman@sos.wa.gov

Hon. Kim Wyman
Washington Secretary of State
Legislative Building
P.O. Box 40220
Olympia, WA 98504-0220

Re: Mistranslation of Washington State Voters' Pamphlet

Dear Secretary Wyman:

We represent the Washington State Democratic Central Committee ("Washington Democrats"). I write to express our concern about the Washington Secretary of State's distribution of a 2016 General Election Washington State Voters' Pamphlet that provides an incorrect and misleading Spanish translation of voter qualifications in Washington.

You have already publicly acknowledged the error, appear to recognize the importance of quickly correcting it, and have begun to ameliorate the confusion and harm caused by the mistranslation, including by sending letters to a small subset of affected voters. These steps, however, fall far short of what is necessary to correct this frankly egregious error.

It is "the policy of the state of Washington to encourage every eligible person to register to vote and to participate fully in all elections, and to protect the integrity of the electoral process by providing equal access to the process while guarding against discrimination and fraud." RCW 29A.04.205. Your mistranslated Voter Guide does precisely the opposite -- sending a chill through Spanish-language speakers throughout our state.

In order to avoid disenfranchising any voters and to encourage maximum participation in this important democratic process, we ask you that you immediately agree to take the following additional steps:

1. By no later than November 2, 2016, send a supplementary mailer to every household that received the incorrectly translated Voter Guide with a notification that correctly identifies voter qualifications in Washington in both English and Spanish.

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2. Distribute the corrected translation to public libraries that received the Spanish language Voter Guide.

If you are unwilling to agree to these modest and reasonable steps to promote the franchise and protect the integrity of the election, my client will consider all of its legal options, including seeking a court order requiring you to immediately comply with the law.

Very truly yours,



Kevin J. Hamilton

KJH:cma

cc: Becca Glasgow, Washington Attorney General's Office
Jaxon Ravens, Democratic State Party Chair