



## Roy Cooper North Carolina Attorney General

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For immediate release  
Date: April 30, 2008

Contact: Jennifer Canada  
Phone: 919/716-6413

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### **AG Cooper stops illegal calls to voters as primary nears**

*Warns voters to be wary of confusing registration mailings*

**Raleigh:** Telemarketing calls that led North Carolina residents to question whether they could vote have stopped, but voters should question mailings scheduled to arrive soon, Attorney General Roy Cooper said Wednesday.

On Wednesday, Cooper and his consumer protection team demanded that the organization Women's Voices Women Vote stop breaking state law with prerecorded calls to North Carolina residents. The organization said Wednesday the calls would stop.

The robo-calls told residents that they would be receiving a voter registration form in the mail that they needed to sign. But the deadline to register by mail has passed, and some call recipients already were registered, causing confusion.

"Regardless of the motivation, the robo-calls violated the law and they needed to stop," Cooper said.

The calls violated state law by failing to disclose who sponsored the call and failing to offer the organization's contact information to get the calls to stop.

If voters have doubts, they can check a registration at the state Board of Elections website at <http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/VoterLookup.aspx> or by phone through their local county board of elections.

Already this year Cooper urged political parties and candidates to honor the Do Not Call Registry and to abide by state law that requires disclosure. People who join the Registry are protected from commercial calls by both state and federal laws, but those laws currently exclude political robo-calls.

To report telemarketers or candidates that make calls unlawfully, consumers can call 1-877-5-NO-SCAM toll free within the state or download a complaint form at [www.ncdoj.gov](http://www.ncdoj.gov).

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**VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 328-9162**

Holly Schadler, Esquire  
Lichtman, Trister & Ross  
1666 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20009

Re: Unlawful "Robocalls"

Dear Ms. Schadler:

This is to confirm and follow up on our telephone conversation of earlier this afternoon. My understanding is that you are counsel to Women's Voices Women Vote ("WVWV"), the organization that recently sponsored numerous "robocalls" to residential telephone numbers in North Carolina. These pre-recorded calls purportedly came from an individual named Lamont Williams and informed recipients that they would be receiving information in the mail regarding voter registration.

As we discussed, these robocalls appear to have been made in violation of N.C.G.S. § 75-104. Failure to comply with this statute subjects the offender to civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation, and individuals who receive these unlawful calls may separately recover statutory damages in the same amounts. N.C.G.S. § 75-105.

During our conversation I asked that WVWV immediately cease and desist from making any more of these calls, and you agreed. Please ask your client to ensure that no more such calls are made.

In addition, you agreed to immediately provide this office with information regarding the calls made to North Carolinians. Please fax us at your earliest opportunity the following:

1. The names of and contact information for all companies or entities that placed these robocalls for WVWV.
2. Copies of all materials mailed or to be mailed by or on behalf of WVWV to North Carolina residents.
3. The names of and contact information for all individuals involved in writing or editing the content of any robocalls made to North Carolina residents by or on behalf of WVWV.
4. The names of and contact information for all companies or entities that provided or compiled the names or telephone numbers of North Carolina residents who received these robocalls.

5. An explanation of the criteria used by WVVV, or any third party acting on its behalf, to identify or select the names or telephone numbers of North Carolina residents who received these robocalls.

We will appreciate your voluntary cooperation in providing additional information as our investigation progresses. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Gary R. Govert  
Acting Senior Deputy Attorney General