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Tippecanoe County Clerk of the Courts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

I am issuing this statement in response to the press release issued by the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette and Common Cause Indiana.

I did not advise Election Board staff to require a first-time voter registrant whose paper voter registration form was hand delivered to produce additional proof of residency documentation. There has not been a Voter Registration application in our county rejected due to the lack of residency documentation. I did advise election staff to contact voter registrants directly if there were any problems with their applications. It is always our policy to contact voter registrants directly if there are problems. For example, if their social security does not match or if they used an out of state Driver's license number on the form. The later resulted in an opportunity to explain to a student that they could not be registered in more than one state, because that could result in them voting twice.

Election Staff tried to work with Ken Jones, a voter advocate, to help him understand the identity requirements, as he did not want the students to have any requirements. In Indiana, a voter must have a valid picture ID when they vote in person. Staff also stated that every Federal Voter Application form Mr. Jones brought in was processed. Mr. Jones was originally contacted by staff to encourage him to instruct students to write legibly and include an email or phone number so they could be contacted if there were problems. Stacks of applications turned in by advocacy groups need a special level of review. Often these harvested applications are illegible, include residencies other than our county or state, addresses are undeliverable as written, and even birth dates and signatures are missing.

At all times, we seek to make certain all eligible registration applications are processed with the minimum of voter effort. Election Board staff go the extra mile to reach out to the registrant. As a result, all eligible voter registrations get registered.

Unfortunately, I believe the complaint is founded on a misunderstanding of the registration process as set out in statute and in several regards, mischaracterizes the truth of the situation.

We are confident that when the Election Division reviews the matter, those who brought the complaint will have a clearer comprehension of the truth and applicable laws. We look forward to bringing all interested parties along in truly meaningful engagement, and hope all will focus on more constructive methods of dialogue.

For more information, you may contact Julie Roush at 765-423-9724.