

# EXHIBIT

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## Allan C. Vander Laan

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**From:** Timothy Griffin <tgriffin@thomasmoresociety.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 17, 2021 3:52 PM  
**To:** Dar Leaf  
**Attachments:** Sheriff Leaf.docx

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✓EXTERNAL SENDER

## Sheriff Leaf meeting 7/1/20

- Niagara Falls Underground Heritage Center; The PENN GAS Newsroom – some groups coming out about the sheriff
- Sheriff is concerned with investigating fraud. 31 officers in total for (60k residents).
- What is the work load right now? Sex cases, they work with SW enforcement team on drug issues. Meth, fentanyl. Lots of domestic cases. Any offer for anything from government offering to help? HE WOULD BE WILLING TO ASK.
- What does he see as the risk of fraud? SoS's funding came from outside.
- Looking for claim to stop. We think we have a good claim re:
- Sheriff's friend moved to S.C. 20 years ago, died 6 years ago. He gave it to the clerk. Some Voter Fraud...
- Penny W. (didn't catch name), Clerk in for the township of Hastings.
- **Pam Palmer** is the county clerk for Barry County. She is friendly but a democrat.
- But willing to draw up an affidavit.
- Sheriff says they aren't checking signatures like forensics, with loops and pen swirls. Don't know if they now have Parkinson's.
- Sheriff doesn't think they have access to software
- Would the sheriff be willing to go on record saying they don't have the resources to investigate election fraud? Yes.
- They don't have a handwriting analyst in house, and would have to hire someone.
- How many reports are you getting? A box up here, he gave a bunch to Ruth Johnson. They are doing an investigation.

- Prosecutor is a woman who lost previous election but is back. Total there for 10 years. Calls herself republican, but leans on CA Attorney's Association.
- She has suspended COVID.
- E-MAIL. Him info on NGB-Van & Governor Whitmire.
- What are the machines in Michigan for? SEND TO
- Can we open logs to see on election day what is going on?
- **PHILL FASHION REQUEST FROM SHERIFF'S TO BE ABLE TO MONITOR COMPUTER LOGS. GET NATIONAL EXPERTS TO SIGN ON. Stark in Berkeley could sign off on. Harry Hursty?**
- Recall petition, She put it off at the 7/22.
- [Commonlawyer.com](http://Commonlawyer.com) > Commonlaw.
- Sheriff is very pro-militia. Gave speech at Rosa Parks Circle. Grand Rapids supporting.
- They discussed voter history in some places.
- 1.) Willing to ask for resources
- 2.) Get the names of the logs
- 3.) We need to form a letter that says to request log information
- 4.) Send him articles about vulnerabilities
- Find article on Detroit woman being charged with voter fraud in Detroit.
- 5.) Are we interested in a conference call?

- Sheriff EMAIL –
- We have only one case of voter fraud in 16 years, why change it?!?!)
- dleaf@barrycounty.org (MARK it with emergency).
- 4.)

## MEMO

I spoke with Sheriff Dar Leaf of Barry County Michigan today.

He is definitely willing to meet with us this coming week. He is on fire and has a lot theories about who/why COVID was released, what the democrats plan to do, etc. He says that he knows other sheriffs that feel the same way.

Leaf also said he would pass my information along to Senator Ruth Johnson, who has been outspoken about the unilateral ballot application process.

I also left a voicemail for County Clerk/Register Lisa Posthumus Lyons (616-632-7590).

### **Dar Leaf.**

Leaf states that his small county won't be able to investigate all of the election fraud that could happen as a results of these ballot applications being sent out. What I didn't anticipate is the scope of the fraud that is likely already happening.

He mentioned the fact that Michigan voters were sent 7.7 Million absentee ballots. There are 9.8 Million Michigan residents. Less than 1.4 Million Michigan voters voted in 2016.<sup>1</sup> Sheriff Leaf himself received an absentee ballot application for a gentleman that has not lived at the residence for 16 years, and has been dead for four years. An estimated 2.27 Michigan residents are children.<sup>2</sup> He has other similar stories from Barry County about people who have received these absentee ballot applications for voters that don't live at the house.

I think the value of Sheriff Leaf as a leader on election integrity efforts is twofold:

- 1.) Leaf and other sheriffs don't have the resources or ability to combat fraud on this massive level. They don't have the investigators, or personnel and even if they did, he says they don't have the funds for training them. As you know, training local investigators on how to find and build a case against white collar crime is difficult.
- 2.) Second, he's been sheriff for along time and has contacts everywhere. He could easily recruit people who have received these ballot applications, registered to other voters.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633\\_8722-195479--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8722-195479--,00.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.nccp.org/profiles/MI\\_profile\\_6.html](http://www.nccp.org/profiles/MI_profile_6.html)

He brought up this other issue that got me wondering if the SoS is violating § 168.759's prohibition on absentee ballot-application-harvesting. I am including my analysis as I walked through this and chased down the relevant code sections, but I don't think there is anything here.

### **No violation of § 168.759**

The sheriff wants to “charge the secretary of state”, with illegal solicitation of absentee ballots. That is likely outside the scope of his authority. But can the SoS be treated as a sort-of absentee-ballot-application-harvester? No. (But that is not to say what she is doing isn't wrong and maybe illegal)

**The letter.** I'm attaching a picture of the letter that Benson sent to voters along with a cloudy picture of part of the ballot application. The letter says, “if you would like to vote by mail in these elections, you can request your ballot be sent directly to you”. However, the ballot application invites voters to permanently sign up to vote. “Other Elections: Complete to join permanent absent voter application list. I want to vote in all elections .” We have already established that this is likely outside the scope of the SoS. But is there a chance this can be read as a solicitation of ballots?

Michigan Code § 168.759 discusses absentee ballots.

(4) states that no one can take signed absentee ballot applications except the enumerated people.

(5) highlights a statement that the person returning the ballot must state that returner did not “solicit or request to return the application”.

(8) precludes absentee ballot application harvesting, stating that the same unauthorized person cannot both deliver and collect the ballot applications, making it a criminal offense!

**Conclusion.** Even if the SoS is soliciting people to vote, she is likely authorized under the statute and is only soliciting but isn't collecting and returning, so probably not prosecutable (unfortunately).



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

Dear Registered Voter,

You have the right to vote by mail in every election. Voting by mail is easy, convenient, and secure. During the outbreak of COVID-19, it also enables you to stay home and stay safe while still making your voice heard in our elections.

There are two upcoming elections in Michigan this year: a statewide election in August and a national election in November. If you would like to vote by mail in these elections, you can request that your clerk mail your ballot directly to you by completing the enclosed form. After you have signed the form, you can submit it in any one of the following ways:

- **Option 1** – Scan or take a photo of the form that clearly shows your signature, and email it to your clerk at the email address included on the bottom of your AV application.

OR

- **Option 2** – Mail or drop-off the form to your local clerk at the address included on the bottom of your AV application.

Go to [www.Michigan.gov/Vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/Vote) for more information about how to return your absent voter ballot application electronically.

Democracy is essential to the success of our nation, and your vote is the foundation of our democracy. Thank you for doing your part by being a registered voter, and making your voice heard.

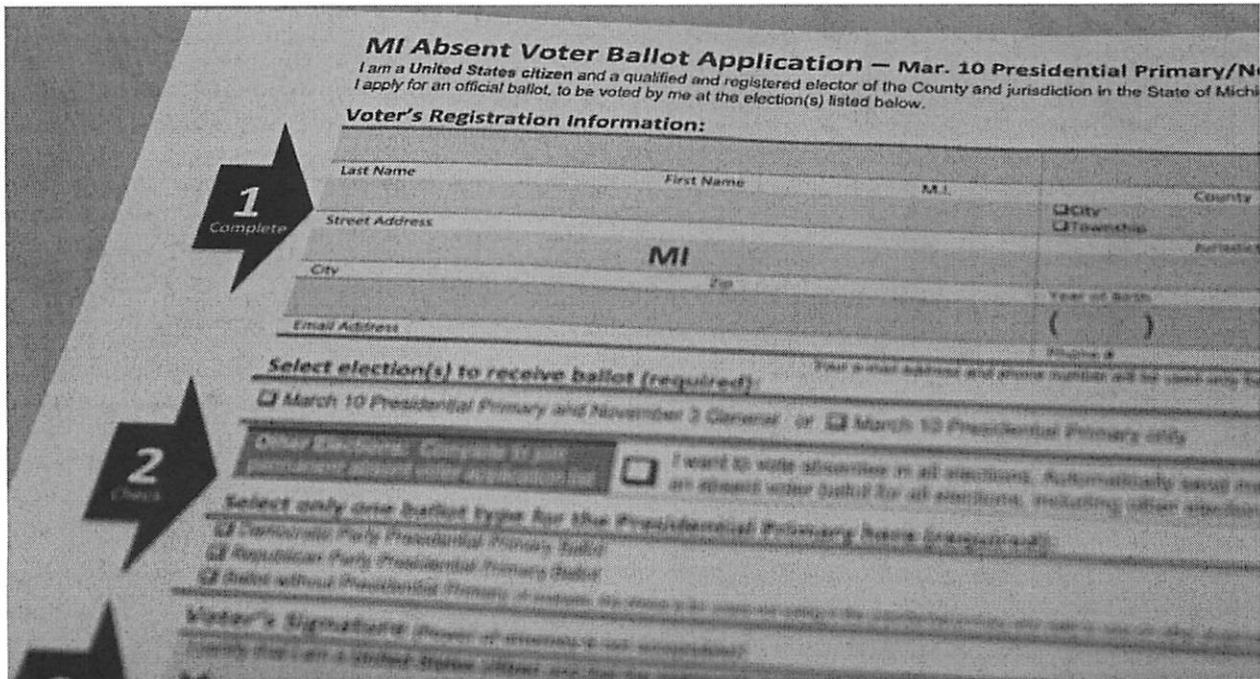
Sincerely,

Jocelyn Benson  
Michigan Secretary of State

RICHARD H. AUSTIN BUILDING • 4TH FLOOR • 430 W. ALLEGAN • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48918  
[Michigan.gov/SOS](http://Michigan.gov/SOS) • 517-335-3269



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(4) An applicant for an absent voter ballot shall sign the application. A clerk or assistant clerk shall not deliver an absent voter ballot to an applicant who does not sign the application. A person shall not be in possession of a signed absent voter ballot application except for the applicant; a member of the applicant's immediate family; a person residing in the applicant's household; a person whose job normally includes the handling of mail, but only during the course of his or her employment; a registered elector requested by the applicant to return the application; or a clerk, assistant of the clerk, or other authorized election official. A registered elector who is requested by the applicant to return his or her absent voter ballot application shall sign the certificate on the absent voter ballot application.

(5) The clerk of a city, township, or village shall have absent voter ballot application forms available in the clerk's office at all times and shall furnish an absent voter ballot application form to anyone upon a verbal or written request. The absent voter ballot application shall be in substantially the following form:

"Application for absent voter ballot for:

[ ] The primary or special primary election to be held on .....(Date).

[ ] The election to be held on .....(Date).

(Check applicable election or elections)

I, ....., a United States citizen and a qualified and registered elector of the ..... precinct of the township of ..... or village of ..... or of the ..... ward of the city of ....., in the county of ..... and state of Michigan, apply for an official ballot, or ballots, to be voted by me at the election or elections as requested in this application.

The statutory grounds on which I base my request are:

[ ] I expect to be absent from the community in which I am registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day.

[ ] I am physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another.

[ ] I cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of my religion.

I have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where I reside.

I am 60 years of age or older.

I cannot attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

(Check applicable reason)

Send absent voter ballot to me at:

.....

.....

(Street No. or R.R.)

.....

.....

(Post Office)

(State)

(Zip Code)

My registered address

.....

.....

(Street No. or R.R.)

.....

.....

(Post Office)

(State)

(Zip  
Code)

Date.....

I certify that I am a United States citizen and that the statements in this absent voter ballot application are true.

.....

.....

(Signature)

**WARNING**

You must be a United States citizen to vote. If you are not a United States citizen, you will not be issued an absent voter ballot.

A person making a false statement in this absent voter ballot application is guilty of a misdemeanor. It is a violation of Michigan election law for a person other than those listed in the instructions to return, offer to return, agree to return, or solicit to return your absent voter ballot application to the clerk. An assistant authorized by the clerk who receives absent voter ballot applications at a location other than the clerk's office must have credentials signed by the clerk. Ask to see his or her credentials before entrusting your application with a person claiming to have the clerk's authorization to return your application.

Certificate of Authorized Registered Elector Returning Absent Voter Ballot Application  
I certify that my name is ..... , my address is ..... , and my date of birth is ..... ; that I am delivering the absent voter ballot application of ..... at his

or her request; that I did not solicit or request to return the application; that I have not made any markings on the application; that I have not altered the application in any way; that I have not influenced the applicant; and that I am aware that a false statement in this certificate is a violation of Michigan election law.

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(Date)

(Signature)"

(6) The following instructions for an applicant for an absent voter ballot shall be included with each application furnished an applicant:

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS FOR ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS**

Step 1. After completely filling out the application, sign and date the application in the place designated. Your signature must appear on the application or you will not receive an absent voter ballot.

Step 2. Deliver the application by 1 of the following methods:

(a) Place the application in an envelope addressed to the appropriate clerk and place the necessary postage upon the return envelope and deposit it in the United States mail or with another public postal service, express mail service, parcel post service, or common carrier.

(b) Deliver the application personally to the clerk's office, to the clerk, or to an authorized assistant of the clerk.

(c) In either (a) or (b), a member of the immediate family of the voter including a father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, or grandchild or a person residing in the voter's household may mail or deliver the application to the clerk for the applicant.

(d) If an applicant cannot return the application in any of the above methods, the applicant may select any registered elector to return the application. The person returning the application must sign and return the certificate at the bottom of the application.

(7) A person who prints and distributes absent voter ballot applications shall print on the application the warning, certificate of authorized registered elector returning absent voter ballot application, and instructions required by this section.

(8) A person who makes a false statement in an absent voter ballot application is guilty of a misdemeanor. A person who forges a signature on an absent voter ballot application is guilty of a felony. A person who is not authorized in this act and who both distributes absent voter ballot applications to absent voters and returns those absent voter ballot applications to a clerk or assistant of the clerk is guilty of a misdemeanor.