Marion Mailings Purport to Be Official Voter Registration

They may not pose a danger, but officials urge voters to register through official channels.

By PHILL STUART
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As the 2018 election draws closer, the push to get voters registered is ramping up, and some Marion County voters are receiving confusing mail.

According to a news release from the Marion County Supervisor of Elections, there is a mailing that looks official that has been sent out countywide, but it does not come from the supervisor of elections or the state.

The mailing includes a blank voter registration form and a return envelope, and urges people to register by Tuesday in order to vote in November. The return envelope does have the correct address printed on it.

Marion County Supervisor of Elections Wesley Wilcox said he does not believe there is any danger to using the mailing to register to vote, but he personally recommends against it.

"I would not use it," he said. "The best place to register to vote is at a government agency like where you go to get your driver’s license or the supervisor of elections or register online."

He said he does not think the mailings constitute a scam because they do not ask for money or personally identifiable information.

"It’s not a scam in the sense that they are gathering information," Wilcox said. "It’s not an official mailing, but it looks like an official mailing, so in that sense it is a little suspicious. They may be trying to shake people’s confidence in the system and make people question if they are registered or not.

Just because this particular mailing does not appear to be a mail scam out there, Wilcox said. "There are scams out there to do anything you can imagine," he said. "Whenever you have a deadline like this coming up, there will be scams associated with it."

Marion County residents are not the only ones who have received mailings urging people to register to vote.

Bryan Lassey, office manager for the Sumter County Seniors vs. Crime office, said the office has received reports about people receiving unsolicited voter registration mail.

Lassey said he does not know what the organization sending the mailings is trying to accomplish and doesn’t know if it’s a scam, but he urged people to be cautious when giving out personal information.

Like Wilcox, Lassey also said the best thing to do is to deal directly with your county’s supervisor of elections when you want to register to vote.

REGISTER TO VOTE

The deadline to register to vote in the upcoming Nov. 6 election is Tuesday.

You can register to vote online or in person. For more information, visit the website of your county’s supervisor of elections:

Sumter County: Sumtererelections.org
Lake County: Lakevotes.com
Marion County: Votemarion.com

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