

 Follow up

Alcorn, James (SBE)

From: Barbara Gunter [b.gunter@co.bedford.va.us] **Sent:** Wed 7/8/2009 1:05 PM
To: Alcorn, James (SBE)
Cc:
Subject: Residency Policy
Attachments:

James,

I am not pleased with the proposed Voter Residency policy and accept your invitation to comment. Although some effort has been made to define residency, this policy creates just as many questions as it answers. Some of my issues with the policy are:

- 1) if an application is incomplete or there are issues with the residency address provided, how many times are we expected to try and contact the registrant before denying the application?
- 2) how long does the registrant have to respond to our requests for additional information before we deny an application?
- 3) do we even have a right to deny an incomplete application due to residence address under this policy?

There is conflicting information in the policy in several areas. Why do we attempt to contact a voter by phone if we are required to put any request for additional information in writing?

Does this policy give us the legal right to modify/append a voter's written application based on a telephone call? As an attorney, you know that "He said/she said" has very little authority in court. Required intent "for an unlimited period of time" is apparently equal to "at least six months duration" and apparently college students are exempted from any guideline for residency.

I think SBE has done a disservice to our voter registration system by creating a document that generates more questions than answers and hope that the Board will see those issues and give more weight to the recommendations provided by the VRAV and VEBA members of the Residency Task Force.

Barbara J. Gunter, VREO
Bedford County Registrar
Phone: 540-586-7649
E-Mail: b.gunter@co.bedford.va.us

"People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote - a very different thing." - Walter H. Judd