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ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974

MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

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October 1, 2012

Mr. Nathan Sproul  
Managing Partner  
Lincoln Strategy Group  
80 E. Rio Salado Pkwy. Suite 817  
Tempe, AZ 85281

Dear Mr. Sproul:

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has been investigating allegations of voter registration fraud for several years. I am writing to request documents and transcribed interviews with you and company officials relating to allegations of widespread irregularities in the voter registration efforts of Strategic Allied Consulting, a company you reportedly formed less than four months ago at the behest of the Republican National Committee (RNC) to conduct voter registration in seven swing states for the upcoming November elections.

Last week, the Republican National Committee severed all ties with your company after Florida officials identified up to ten counties with problematic voter registrations submitted by your company. For example, the Palm Beach elections supervisor said many registrations had similar signatures and apparently phony addresses, including a gas station in Miami, a medical building in Boca Raton, and an automobile dealership in Palm Beach County. In addition, the Okaloosa County elections supervisor said the suspected fraud included apparent cases of dead people registered as Republican voters.<sup>1</sup>

As a result, the Palm Beach State Attorney's Office announced that these allegations are "currently being investigated," and officials from the Florida Department of State confirmed that they "are considering turning the matter over to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *RNC Cuts Ties with Firm Over Voter Fraud Allegations*, NBC News (Sept. 27, 2012) (online at [http://firstread.nbcnews.com/\\_news/2012/09/27/14126789-rnc-cuts-ties-with-firm-over-voter-fraud-allegations?lite](http://firstread.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/09/27/14126789-rnc-cuts-ties-with-firm-over-voter-fraud-allegations?lite)). See also *More Suspicious Voter Forms Are Found*, New York Times (Sept. 29, 2012) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2012/09/30/us/politics/suspicious-voter-forms-found-in-10-florida-counties.html?hp&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/30/us/politics/suspicious-voter-forms-found-in-10-florida-counties.html?hp&_r=0)) (reporting that "local election supervisors continue to search their forms for questionable signatures, addresses or other identifiers").

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

Reports of improper activities by your company have also now spread to other states. For example, a Fox affiliate in Denver reported last week that an official employed by your company admitted on videotape that they were registering only Republican voters because, as she stated, “We’re out here in support of Romney.”<sup>3</sup>

When news of these activities broke last week, the RNC issued a public statement that it was terminating its relationship with your company. RNC communications director Sean Spicer stated: “We’ve made it clear we’re not doing business with these guys anymore. We’ve come out pretty strong against this kind of stuff—and we have zero tolerance for this.”<sup>4</sup> He also stated that the RNC “acted swiftly and boldly.”<sup>5</sup>

In contrast, you reportedly “criticized Florida and national Republican officials” for terminating your contracts.<sup>6</sup> You claimed that the RNC was aware of similar voter registration fraud allegations against you and your companies in the past, including allegations dating back to 2004 that employees of your companies registered Democratic voters in Nevada and Oregon “and then destroyed their forms.”<sup>7</sup>

Instead of the RNC having “zero tolerance” for voter registration fraud, you claimed that RNC officials asked you to form your new company, Strategic Allied Consulting, in June for the specific purpose of concealing your connections to these previous allegations. In a blunt concession, you reportedly stated that you “created Strategic Allied Consulting at the request of the Republican National Committee because of the bad publicity stemming from past allegations.”<sup>8</sup>

You explained this effort further by stating: “In order to be able to do the job that the state parties were hiring us to do, the [RNC] asked us to do it with a different company’s name.”<sup>9</sup> As one press report explained, “Strategic Allied was set up at an address in Glen Allen, Va., and Sproul does not show up on the corporate paperwork.”<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *Colo. Girl Registering “Only Romney” Voters Tied to Firm Dumped by RNC Over Fraud*, Fox 31 Denver (KDVR) (Sept. 28, 2012) (online at <http://kdvr.com/2012/09/28/colorado-gop-dumps-firm-with-ties-to-voter-fraud/>).

<sup>4</sup> *RNC Cuts Ties with Firm Over Voter Fraud Allegations*, NBC News (Sept. 27, 2012).

<sup>5</sup> *RNC Cuts Ties to Firm After Voter Fraud Allegations*, Los Angeles Times (Sept. 27, 2012) (online at <http://www.latimes.com/news/politics/la-pn-republicans-voter-fraud-florida-20120927,0,5472858.story>).

<sup>6</sup> *RNC Cuts Ties with Firm Over Voter Fraud Allegations*, NBC News (Sept. 27, 2012).

<sup>7</sup> *RNC Cuts Ties to Firm After Voter Fraud Allegations*, Los Angeles Times (Sept. 27, 2012).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

According to the RNC, Strategic Allied Consulting is the only company the RNC hired to conduct voter registration, and it has been paid millions of dollars from both the RNC and state Republican parties. In fact, state officials report that the RNC specifically requested that they work through your company. For example, the executive director of the Florida Republican Party stated: “we immediately informed the Republican National Committee that we were terminating the contract with the voter registration vendor we hired at their request.”<sup>11</sup>

In light of these conflicting accounts, I am writing to request that you provide the following documents:

- (1) Copies of all contracts, agreements, and memoranda of understanding between Strategic Allied Consulting and the RNC, state political parties, or any other entities;
- (2) Copies of all communications, including emails, between and among you and officials working for Strategic Allied Consulting, the RNC, state political parties, or other entities relating to the establishment of Strategic Allied Consulting as a separate entity;
- (3) Copies of all materials used by Strategic Allied Consulting for voter registration training, including manuals, videos, and other materials; and
- (4) Copies of all reports, inquiries, notices, and other information from any source alleging any irregularities with voter registration efforts conducted by Strategic Allied Consulting.

Please provide these documents by October 12, 2012. In addition, I request that you make yourself available for a transcribed interview with Committee staff the week of October 12, 2012. I also request that you identify and make available for transcribed interviews the top officials at Strategic Allied Consulting responsible for conducting the company’s voter registration efforts. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Darrell E. Issa, Chairman

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<sup>11</sup> *GOP Fires Vendor Over Possible Voter Fraud in Florida*, Associated Press (Sept. 28, 2012) (online at <http://politics.heraldtribune.com/2012/09/28/gop-fires-vendor-over-possible-voter-fraud-in-florida/>).