



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 16, 2020**

## **Non-profit group OKVote acknowledges error in voter registration mailing**

In an effort to connect with unregistered voters, OKVote partnered with a third-party direct mail company trusted to identify Oklahomans who had recently moved and who were not listed in public records as registered voters. The process the third-party vendor used to identify unregistered voters has been determined to contain unanticipated flaws and included a number of individuals who did not match the criteria, causing confusion among some recipients. As a result, some Oklahoma residents who were already registered to vote received a mailing encouraging them to vote and to update their voter registration.

The mailing went out around Sept. 10 to approximately 31,000 households and contained a letter and voter registration form. The mailing was initiated by and paid for by OKVote and was not affiliated with the Oklahoma State Election Board. It is estimated that 1-2% of those who received the mailing were either already registered or recently registered to vote at their current address.

"Any amount of voter confusion is regrettable, and we sincerely apologize for this mistake," said Mark Whitmire, founder of OKVote. "Our goal is to help every eligible resident register to vote so their voice can be heard in all elections, and we aim to fulfill this mission with transparency and accountability. Our intention has always been to help, not hurt, the work of our state and county election boards, and we will work to ensure all of our efforts going forward meet this goal. We appreciate the work our statewide and local election boards are doing and we apologize for the unnecessary distraction this has caused them."

If a recipient has a concern about their registration status as a result of receiving the mailer, they can verify that status at [okvoterportal.okelections.us](http://okvoterportal.okelections.us). Anyone who feels that they received a mailer erroneously and would like more information should email OKVote at [info@okvote.org](mailto:info@okvote.org).

OKVote operates as a non-profit, 501(c)3 non-partisan organization and is not affiliated with the Oklahoma State Election Board or any county election boards.

The mission of OKVote is to make the voter registration process simple and accessible to every Oklahoman by eliminating every barrier to access. Since April, OKVote has responded to 6,500 requests for voter registrations in Oklahoma through a grassroots, volunteer-led effort. The non-profit was started in order to boost Oklahoma's low ranking as #38 in the country for registered voters per capita. More information can be found at [www.okvote.org](http://www.okvote.org).