

Delivered-To: hans@ubermorgen.com
Date: Sun, 03 Sep 2000 16:54:23 -0400
From: Public Relations <pr@voteauction.com>
Organization: voteauction.com
X-Accept-Language: en
To: mkanders@javanet.com
Subject: Re: WIRED News Voteauction.com followup questions

Mark,

below you will see the answers to most of the questions, apologies for the delay in responding.

Mark Anderson wrote:

> Hans et al--
>
> I'm now working on my followup article on Voteauction.com for WIRED News
> and several followup questions (after our interview) have arisen that I
> would appreciate any answers you might be able to provide:
>
> * How many registrations and bids do you now have? How many new
> registrations have come in since Voteauction.com re-opened on 22 Aug?
>

voteauction.com now has 361 votes available for auction, with many forms that have not yet been processed. This is an increase of approximately 175 since the site relaunched.

>
> * How do you plan to verify that the voters who sign up with
> Voteauction.com will indeed vote for the candidate they've been paid to
> vote for?

Verification will now be the responsibility of the winning bidder. They can choose from a variety of methods for verification of the votes. They may have the voters send in their absentee ballots for verification, they may have the voters take a photograph inside the voting booth, or they may go on the honor system - this is the system that many vote-purchasing endeavors have used in the past. We have chosen to have the winning bidders responsible for the verification because it would not be feasible to have people send their absentee ballots all the way to Austria and have us send them back to America within an appropriate time frame.

>
>
> * How many hits has your website had since opening on 22 Aug? Has the
> traffic increased or decreased since opening?

Those statistics are not currently available.

>
>
> * Are you aware of any other companies or individuals doing what you're
> doing in the "election industry"? That is, the website claims
> Voteauction.com is the "Election Industry Leader," but is this not in
> fact by default?
>

The Election Industry we refer to has been developing for several years. It is based on a system where campaign contributors invest their money in the various candidates and political parties. The candidates and parties hire political consultants who take 10 - 15% of the money and then spend the rest on advertising and related campaign expenses. Voteauction.com is the Election Industry Leader because we are the first company to take the industry in a new direction. Currently it is mostly a business to business transaction, with the businesses treating the voter as a product. Voteauction.com treats the voter as an equal member in the industry with a valuable capital resource, his or her vote.

We have been approached by other organizations who want to set up similar sites, but none of these sites are currently online as far as we know.

>
> I'm going to be working on this story over the weekend and will be
> submitting it to WIRED News at the end of the day on Monday (east coast,
> u.s.). Any responses you might have to the above would be greatly
> appreciated.
>
> Thank you for your time,
>

- > Mark Anderson
- > WIRED News
- >
- > -----
- > Mark K. Anderson
- > Northampton, Mass.
- > mkanders@javanet.com
- > 413-586-8961 voice
- > 253-399-3201 fax

Public Relations

Delivered-To: hans@ubermorgen.com
Subject: URGENT: Request for comment re: Voteauction.com
Date: Mon, 21 Aug 00 15:51:17 -0400
x-sender: mkanders@mail.javanet.com
From: Mark Anderson <mkanders@javanet.com>
To: "Luzius Bernhard" <hans@ubermorgen.com>

Mr. Bernhard--

I'm an American reporter for WIRED News, and I spoke with James Baumgartner this afternoon (3:30 p.m. New York time). He indicated that you had bought Voteauction.com. I have several questions for you related to this sale:

- 1) Do you plan on continuing the operation of Voteauction.com? If so, will your Voteauction.com operate with the same policies as Voteauction.com under Baumgartner's direction?
- 2) It has been pointed out -- in, for instance, the story I wrote last week about Voteauction for WIRED News (*) -- that the buying and selling of votes is illegal under the laws of every state in the U.S. In New York state, for instance, it's considered a felony in both several state laws and in the state constitution. If you do indeed plan on continuing Voteauction.com selling U.S. votes, how do you plan to contend with the many potential criminal indictments -- for both Voteauction and its participants -- that could arise as a result?
- 3) What were the terms of the sale? Were there any requirements Mr. Baumgartner put on the operations of the site? Were there any terms that you required before you would buy Voteauction?

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your time,

Mark Anderson
Northampton, Mass. USA
253-399-3201 fax
mkanders@javanet.com

(*) <http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,38229,00.html>

Delivered-To: hans@ubermorgen.com
X-Authentication-Warning: cortez.sss.rpi.edu: baumgj owned process doing -bs
Date: Mon, 21 Aug 2000 22:02:36 -0400 (EDT)
From: James M Baumgartner <baumgj@rpi.edu>
X-Sender: baumgj@cortez.sss.rpi.edu
To: willworkforfood@hotmail.com
cc: ccutter@schwartz-pr.com, frank@rtmark, admin@rtmark, hans@ubermorgen.com
Subject: voteauction: phase 2

Chris, Frank, Ray, Hans

(sorry for redundant info, this is the daily round-up for 8/21)

Voteauction has been sold to an investor in Austria, for the time being. I am still the North American Press Contact. I've talked to a couple of journalists today and said that he bought it because he believes that he could reap a profit from the current American Political system. Voteauction was sold for an "undisclosed ammount" (actually, about 1 Euro.) I am starting to craft the next press release to send out and I was wondering if you had any ideas. I'll work on it tonight and send you the draft. Ideas for interview angles would be helpful as well. I talked with Janet Kornblum at USA Today - pretty good interview, I think. I also talked with KPIX-CBS in San Francisco, Mark Anderson at Wirednews, and Billy O'Keefe from TMS-campus wire. Fox 4-news in Kansas City was also left a message for me, I called them back, but I haven't heard from them again - they were looking for the local angle which would be cool.

That's all the update for now - I'm off to work on the release. Anyone can feel free to email ideas and brainstorm for it.

James

To: WO'Keefe@Tribune.com
From: ubermorgen <hans@ubermorgen.com>
Subject: Re: VoteAuction.com
Cc:
Bcc: James M Baumgartner <baumgj@rpi.edu>, frank@rtmark.com, admin@rtmark.com
X-Attachments:

Hello,

dear billy

the deal has just been closed and i am very happy to be the new owner of this fantastic domain and the related business along with it!

i think that this is a great opportunity for a foreign investor to capitalize on the american election industry. in fact, there are many other new american industries that i am considering investing in, including the prison industry and the K-12 education industry. america continues to privatize many of its public sectors, and this presents many opportunities for the foreign investor.

the weird thing here is that we all fully agree with the people who are outraged by this thing, this voteauction.com! we don't want it to be possible to buy votes - we just don't want corporations to be able to, any longer. or better said we would like to control or at least benefit from parts of the american election industry with our holding and specially with this exciting new biz-venture voteauction.com.

so, yes.. we do plan to continue this service. we might include some minor changes, but we dont expect to make fundamental changes. speed is the key!

we have been under investigation by american legal institutions several times over the last years.

so, i expect the result of this voteauction-deal to be pretty edgy. but what can you do? worst case scenarios and high-risk ventures are our business-lifestyle and our key to success. if we run into serious legal troubles we will just delegate this business to one of our offshore companies, and they are definitely and perfectly out of reach!

best regards

luzius a. bernhard
etoy holding ag, vienna/austria

ps: our sub-company ubermorgen.com is in no way affiliated with the voteauction.com deal. it is one of our new media assets in europe.

I recently spoke to James Baumgartner regarding voteauction.com, and he mentioned that you had decided to buy the domain. I am a reporter for a national college press service, based in Chicago, and am currently doing a write-up on the whole voteauction.com concept. Is there any information you can share with me in regards to the future of voteauction.com and any plans you have for the domain? Any comments would be greatly appreciated. A reply to this address will do just fine.

Thank you,
Billy O'Keefe
Tribune Media Services
Chicago, IL 60068

Delivered-To: hans@ubermorgen.com
From: WO'Keefe@Tribune.com
To: hans@ubermorgen.com
Cc: WO'Keefe@Tribune.com
Subject: VoteAuction.com
Date: Mon, 21 Aug 2000 16:56:58 -0500

Hello,

I recently spoke to James Baumgartner regarding voteauction.com, and he mentioned that you had decided to buy the domain. I am a reporter for a national college press service, based in Chicago, and am currently doing a write-up on the whole voteauction.com concept. Is there any information you can share with me in regards to the future of voteauction.com and any plans you have for the domain? Any comments would be greatly appreciated. A reply to this address will do just fine.

Thank you,
Billy O'Keefe
Tribune Media Services
Chicago, IL 60068

journal -
reply
> etoy ?
yes!!!

To: Mark Anderson <mkanders@javanet.com>
From: ubermorgen <hans@ubermorgen.com>
Subject: Re: URGENT: Request for comment re: Voteauction.com
Cc:
Bcc: James M Baumgartner <baumgj@rpi.edu>, frank@rtmark.com, admin@rtmark.com
X-Attachments:

dear mark

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3) What were the terms of the sale? Were there any requirements Mr. Baumgartner put on the operations of the site? Were there any terms that you required before you would buy Voteauction?

we have both signed a contract including various non-disclosures.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

best regards

luzius a. bernhard
etoy holding ag, vienna/austria

ps: our sub-company ubermorgen.com is in no way affiliated with the voteauction.com deal. it is one of our new media assets in europe.