

**DIVISIONS**

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- Political Reform



**BILL JONES**  
**Secretary of State**  
**State of California**

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October 6, 2000

BY E-MAIL TRANSMISSION AND CERTIFIED MAIL

Hans Bernhard  
 \*\*\*\*\*gasse \*\*\_\*\*  
 Vienna, AU a-10\*\*  
 AU 43.\*\*\*.\*\*\*.\*\*.\*\*

Re: **Criminal Activity by Voteauction. Com**

Dear Sir:

This letter is to formally notify you that Voteauction.com is engaged in criminal activity in the State of California.

You are identified by DomainBank.com and media reports as the registrant, administrative, and zone contact as well as the owner of an enterprise known as "Voteauction.com". (see attachments) This enterprise was sold to you by an American citizen, James Baumgartner on August 22, 2000 after he was advised by elections officials in the State of New York that he was engaging in criminal conduct by operating the enterprise to buy and sell votes.

Your website specifically offers to broker the sale and purchase of votes throughout the United States of America and here in the State of California. A "block" of 810 votes is now offered for sale. Such activity is corruption of the voting process in violation of Elections Code sections 18500, 18521, 18522, and 18562 as well as Penal Code section 182, criminal conspiracy. These offenses are felonies that carry a maximum penalty of three years in state prison in California for each violation.

The right to free and fair elections is a cornerstone of American democracy. Any person or entity that tries to sell, does sell, or brokers the sale of votes in California will be pursued with the utmost vigor.

\*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*

October 6, 2000

As the Chief Elections Officer of the State of California, I demand that you end this activity immediately. If you continue, you and anyone knowingly working with you may be criminally prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Sincerely,

*/s/*

BILL JONES  
Secretary of State  
State of California