

SUFFOLK, ss.



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT
OF THE TRIAL COURT
CIVIL ACTION

No. 00-4893 G

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, BY AND THROUGH Plaintiff(s)
WILLIAM F. CALVIN, SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

v.

HANS BERNHARD ET AL

Defendant(s)

SUMMONS AND ORDER OF NOTICE

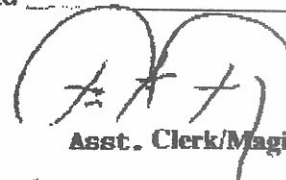
To the above-named Defendant(s): HANS BERNHARD, LUZIUS A. BERNHARD, SILVERSERVER and
OSKAR OBEREDER

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Maite A. Parsi Esq.,
plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 200 Portland St., Boston, MA 02114,
an answer to the complaint which is herewith served upon you, within 20 days after service of this summons
upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against
you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You are also required to file your answer to the complaint in
the office of the Clerk of this court at Boston either before service upon plaintiff's attorney or within a reason-
able time thereafter.

Unless otherwise provided by Rule 13(a), your answer must state as a counterclaim any claim which
you may have against the plaintiff which arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter
of the plaintiff's claim or you will thereafter be barred from making such claim in any other action.

WE ALSO NOTIFY YOU that application has been made in said action, as appears in the complaint,
re: Prayer 1
for a preliminary injunction and that a hearing upon such application will be held at the court house at said
Boston of our said court on Monday in room 3 12th Floor the sixth
day of November A.D. 2000, at two o'clock PM, at which time you may
appear and show cause why such application should not be granted.

Witness, Suzanne V. DelVecchio, Esquire, at Boston, the third day of
November, in the year of our Lord two thousand


Asst. Clerk/Magistrate

NOTES.

1. This summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4 of the Massachusetts Rules of Civil Procedure.
2. When more than one defendant is involved, the names of all defendants should appear in the caption. If a separate summons is used for each defendant, each should be addressed to the particular defendant.

incorporates them herein.

56. The Defendants, by and through Vote-Auction.com Web site, have solicited, aided and encouraged individuals and entities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to either show or provide their absentee ballots to the highest bidder.

57. The Defendants, by and through the Vote-Auction.com Web site, have solicited, aided and encouraged Massachusetts voters to show their votes to the highest bidder.

58. The Defendants have violated the provisions of M.G.L. 56 §25 which states in pertinent part that "[w]hocver, at a primary, caucus or election ...allows the marking of his ballot to be seen by any person for any purpose not authorized by law, or gives a false answer to or makes a false oath before a presiding officer, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than six months or by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars."

59. Silverserver and its coordinator Oskar Obereder is also responsible for the violations of Massachusetts law in that they support and service Vote-Auction, with knowledge that their actions allow Vote-Auction and the Bernhard Defendants to solicit and aid voters to show their votes to the highest bidder.

60. This Court may enjoin such violations of law pursuant to M.G.L. c. 56 §59.

VI. RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, the Commonwealth requests that this Court:

1. Enter a temporary restraining order enjoining and restraining the Defendants and all those acting in concert with them from:
 - A. Using or operating any Internet Web site that solicits, aids or allows residents of Massachusetts to sell their votes to be cast at the November 7, 2000 General Election.
 - B. Using, operating, facilitating or accessing domain name "Vote-Auction.com" and to remove such Web site from the Internet completely or, in the alternative, to modify the Internet Web site known as Vote-Auction.com or any domain name with the same purpose and goals so as to indicate that selling, buying or bidding on votes is not valid in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
 - C. Allowing or continuing registration of the Internet domain name "Vote-Auction.com" or any other domain name offering substantially the same service

Respectfully Submitted,
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
By its Attorney,

THOMAS F. REILLY
ATTORNEY GENERAL


Maite A. Parsi BBO# 554009
Assistant Attorney General
200 Portland Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 727-2200
maite.parsi@ago.state.ma.us

Date: 11/3/00

VERIFICATION

I, Michelle K. Tassinari, being duly sworn, depose and say that I am Legal Counsel to the Elections Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth; that I have read the foregoing complaint and know its contents, and that the allegations set forth are true, except as to those allegations made upon information and belief, which are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.


Michelle K. Tassinari

Exhibits

Exhibit A Affidavit of Michelle Tassinari

Exhibit 1 - Electronic mail message to info@voteauction.com

Exhibit 2 - Return Receipt for electronic mail in Exhibit A

Exhibit 3 - Voteauction.com Web pages

Exhibit B Preliminary Injunction Order issued by the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois and posted on [V]ote-Auction.com at <http://63.86.111.157/preliminary%20injunction%20order.htm>

Exhibit C Affidavit of Maite A. Parsi

Exhibit 1 Vote-Auction.com Web pages

Exhibit D Anderson, Mark K., "Austrian Takes Bids on U.S. Votes", 9/6/00, posted by Wired.com at <http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,38559,00.html>

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SUFFOLK, SS.

SUPERIOR COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, BY
AND THROUGH WILLIAM F. GALVIN,
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

V.

HANS BERNHARD, LUZIUS A. BERNHARD,
SILVERSERVER, AND OSKAR OBEREDER

Affidavit of Michelle K. Tassinari

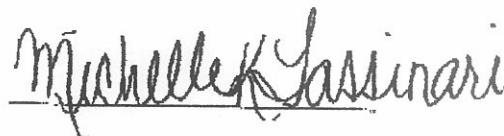
I, Michelle K. Tassinari hereby depose and say upon oath as follows:

1. I am Legal Counsel to the Elections Division for the Secretary of the Commonwealth and as such have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein.
2. On October 18, 2000, I visited the website www.voteauction.com.
3. After reading the materials provided on the website, I wrote an e-mail on behalf of Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin to the site, indicating that the site appeared to violate state laws. The message was sent on October 18, 2000, at 4:55 p.m., to the e-mail address listed on the site— info@voteauction.com —and is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.
4. When sending the message, I set up a return receipt to acknowledge that the message had been received by info@voteauction.com. I received the return receipt on October 18, 2000, at 4:49 p.m., which acknowledged the successful delivery of the message. The return receipt message is attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

5. When sending the message, I also set up a read receipt to acknowledge that the message had been read by info@voteauction.com. I have never received the read receipt acknowledging that the message was read.

6. On October 19, 2000, I printed as much of the information contained on www.voteauction.com as possible. That information is attached hereto as Exhibit 3.

Signed under the pains and penalties of perjury this 2nd day of November, 2000.



Michelle K. Tassinari

Tassinari, Michelle @ SEC

From: Tassinari, Michelle @ SEC
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2000 4:55 PM
To: 'info@voteauction.com'
Subject: Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Importance: High

October 18, 2000

Voteauction.com

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of William F. Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Secretary). The Secretary is charged with the administration of state and federal elections for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. After a review of your web-site, voteauction.com, and the materials contained thereon, it is the opinion of this office that the service you offer is in violation of Massachusetts state law.

As we understand your service, registered voters sign up to "sell" their vote. Voters from each state are then grouped together and the winning bidder for each state will be able to choose who the group will vote for *en masse*. Your web-site indicates that the starting bid for each state is \$100, with a minimum bid increase of \$50. While your site indicates that Voteauction.com will not directly receive any money to purchase votes, it will provide the winning bidder with the names and other identifying information gathered by your website in order to directly contact the voteauction.com voters in order to provide payment and direction as to whom to vote and voter verification of such vote.

Please be advised that the services you offer on your web-site appear to be in direct conflict with Massachusetts General Laws chapter 56, section 32, which states in pertinent part that "[n]o person shall, directly or indirectly, pay, give or promise to a voter, any gift or reward to influence his vote or to induce him to withhold his vote." M. G. L. c. 56, § 32 (1998 ed.). It appears that your web-site is, at the very least, indirectly promising voters a reward for voting a certain way. Also, it appears that the winning bidder will be violating the cited provision in that they will directly pay the voters to vote a certain way. Please note that the above provision is a criminal violation.

Accordingly, we request that you forthwith remove the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from your web-site as a participating state. Be further advised that this office has referred the matter to the Office of the Attorney General for Massachusetts for its review.

Very truly yours,
Michelle K. Tassinari
Legal Counsel
Elections Division

EXHIBIT 1

1.

2.

Tassinari, Michelle @ SEC

From: Mail Delivery Subsystem [MAILER-DAEMON@sec.state.ma.us]
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2000 4:49 PM
To: Tassinari, Michelle @ SEC
Subject: Return receipt



ATT21545.TXT



ATT21546.TXT

16:49:01 -0400

The original message was received at Wed, 18 Oct 2000

from secmx.sec.state.ma.us [170.63.14.10]

----- The following addresses had successful delivery notifications

<info@voteauction.com> (relayed to non-DSN-aware mailer)

----- Transcript of session follows -----

<info@voteauction.com>... relayed; expect no further notifications

EXHIBIT 2

3.

Untitled Document

Page 1 of 1



EXHIBIT 3

Voteanction.com

Page 1 of 1

sell
register to
sell your vote

bid
register to bid
on a voting block

check
the current price
of a voting block

"Bringing Capitalism and Democracy Closer Together"

Due to pending litigation in Illinois, Voteauction.com has suspended registration for residents of Illinois. We will keep you updated on the progress of pending legal action.

Statistics

Pollsters use them, politicians use them, liars use them, and now voteauction.com is using them too. Check out some interesting statistics on the type of person who registers with voteauction.com.

[click here](#)

Voter Empowerment Kit

Are campaign dollars flowing as freely in your local election as they are in the Presidential election? Are your local candidates wasting campaign investors' money on advertising, instead of giving it to the people? Currently, voteauction.com only has the resources to concentrate on the US presidential election. We hope to expand our enterprise into elections all over the world - wherever campaign contributors are using large sums of money to influence an election. Until that time, we hope that you will use our Voter Empowerment Kit to market your own vote to campaign investors in your area. The kit also includes ready-to-print bumperstickers, business cards, and link buttons. The empowerment kit is free of charge and free of copyright. Take a closer look [here](#).



Voteauction.com is awarded "Political Site of the Day" for September 11, 2000 from [aboutpolitics.com](#)

Voteauction Message Board

Interact with other voteauction.com users and post your opinions about voteauction.com, vote-selling, campaign investing, and campaign finance.

Untitled Document

Page 2 of 2

Voteauction.com is owned by an Austrian holding company that has invested in many of America's new, emerging industries. Like the Prison industry, the election industry is another excellent example of how privatization in America is creating great opportunities for investment. We purchased voteauction.com in order to investigate the profit-making potential of the American Election Industry.

Voteauction.com is not valid in New York State.

how it works

Voteauction.com is devoted to combining the American principles of democracy and capitalism by bringing the big money of campaigns directly to the voting public. We provide a forum for campaign contributors and voters to come together for free-market exchange.

Until recently, the Election Industry was controlled by an exclusive group of political consultants. These consultants spend the campaign contributors' money on advertising while taking a 10-15% cut for themselves. The political consultants are paid based on their ability to "deliver" voters to the candidates. This effectively treats the voters as a product to be sold to the candidates (and/or their campaign contributors.) This is similar to the way television (and other media outlets) operate. In television, the end product is the viewer whose attention is sold to television's customer, the advertiser.

Voteauction.com has created a new paradigm in the election industry. Now the voters can take control of their voting capital and campaign investors will see a greater return on their investment.

50% of the voting age population routinely stays home on election day. Are they fed up with the system? Are they disappointed by the two major parties? Are they desensitized by the thousands of political ads they see on Television? Voteauction.com will allow these voters to profit from their democratic capital. By offering their voting capital at auction, these traditionally non-voting citizens will be participating in the democratic process and the expanding economy.

Voteauction.com also provides a more efficient method for campaign investors to obtain their objectives. When a major communication company contributes over a million dollars to a political party, do they hope that this investment will result in increased profits? Of course they do! Although they may have a net worth of billions of dollars, most corporations do not spend 1 million dollars without some hope of a return on their investment. Unfortunately, 10-15% of this investment is taken off the top by the campaign consultants. Voteauction.com allows campaign investors to get their dollar's worth by connecting them directly with the voters.

The winning bidder for each state will be able to choose who the group will vote for en masse. The free market will determine the value of the votes in each state. Votes in heavily populated states may be more valuable than votes in less populous states; however, if there is a large number of voteauction voters in a small state, the voteauction voters could help swing

Check the Bids

Page 1 of 2

Minimum bid is \$100. Minimum bid increase is \$50 for bids less than \$10000. For bids over \$10000, minimum bid increase is \$500.

Current bids for the voting blocks:

State (# electoral votes)	Number of Voteauction.com voters	Current Total Price	Current Price per vote	Current Leading Bidder
Totals	21079	\$262550	(N/A)	(N/A)
Alabama (9)	214	\$2100	\$9.44	5601
Alaska (3)	6	0	0	none
Arizona (8)	207	\$2300	\$10.98	6301
Arkansas (6)	156	\$2500	\$16.07	8801
California (54) *	2546	\$48000	\$19.61	—
Colorado (8)	162	\$2950	\$18.97	8301
Connecticut (8)	292	\$3100	\$15.12	8701
Delaware (3)	52	0	0	none
District of Columbia (3)	371	\$3400	\$10.59	5601
Florida (25)	540	\$9500	\$11.61	6301
Georgia (13)	231	\$1800	\$10.59	6215
Hawaii (4)	65	0	0	none
Idaho (4)	74	0	0	none
Illinois (22) *	1632	\$28500	\$12.38	—
Indiana (12)	721	\$12000	\$9.79	6301
Iowa (7)	212	\$2400	\$10.42	8215
Kansas (6)	120	\$1000	\$9.62	8701
Kentucky (8)	245	\$1700	\$7.36	9501
Louisiana (9)	63	\$500	\$3.57	8101
Maine (4)	265	\$1400	\$6.57	9515
Maryland (10)	589	\$8000	\$14.34	5601
Massachusetts (12)	731	\$4000	\$6.08	8315
Michigan (18)	1429	\$28000	\$22.73	9301
Minnesota (10)	215	\$2800	\$13.64	9501
Mississippi (7)	178	\$1400	\$8.63	8301
Missouri (11)	562	\$6000	\$10.62	8701

that state and thus the state's electoral votes. The value of a vote in a particular state could change on a daily basis. Votes have been purchased in the past (in fact the United States has a long history of vote buying going back to George Washington) but it has never taken this form.

The starting bid for each state is \$100, with a minimum bid increase of \$50. Voteauction.com will not receive any money from the auction. The winning bidder will have to contact the voteauction.com voters in order to provide payment and for the voters to provide verification.

Individuals, corporations and organizations must first register in order to bid on one of the voting blocks. Spending money to influence voters is protected by the free speech clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. constitution. A recent U.S. Supreme Court decision (*Buckley v. Valeo*) has equated freedom of spending money with the freedom of speech. Freedom of spending and freedom of speech are central components of our capitalist democracy.

For this election, voteauction.com is concentrating on just the U.S. Presidential election. However, we feel that our bold new concept will revolutionize the election industry and we will soon be able to grow our business into every election market niche from Senatorial races to municipal water commissioner.

Check the Bids

Page 2 of 2

Montana (3)	49	0	0	none
Nebraska (5)	89	\$900	\$10.98	9101
Nevada (4)	161	\$1400	\$8.75	8301
New Hampshire (4)	153	0	0	none
New Jersey (15)	1266	\$6000	\$6.96	9215
New Mexico (5)	182	\$800	\$5.00	7815
New York (33)	Not Valid in New York	-----	-----	-----
North Carolina (14)	422	\$4600	\$6.98	8015
North Dakota (3)	51	0	0	none
Ohio (21)	1344	\$19000	\$6.19	5801
Oklahoma (8)	290	\$2000	\$5.15	5901
Oregon (7)	418	\$5100	\$11.60	8701
Pennsylvania (23)	1376	\$27000	\$18.24	9010
Rhode Island (4)	83	0	0	none
South Carolina (8)	248	\$3500	\$11.01	5201
South Dakota (3)	42	0	0	none
Tennessee (11)	367	\$3500	\$5.66	4515
Texas (32)	1164	\$2600	\$4.19	9515
Utah (5)	187	0	0	none
Vermont (3)	51	0	0	none
Virginia (13)	282	\$3200	\$11.97	8315
Washington (11)	371	\$5000	\$11.05	9215
West Virginia (5)	121	0	0	none
Wisconsin (11)	428	\$4600	\$10.14	9701
Wyoming (3)	56	0	0	none

* bidding has been canceled in these states. The numbers shown here reflect the last active bid.

last updated 16 October, 2000

FAX TRANSMISSION
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

200 PORTLAND ST.
BOSTON, MA 02114
617-727-2200
FAX: 617-727-3076

To: The Silver Server

Date: November 3, 2000

Fax #: ~~01-434-49-332-5611~~

Pages: 99 including this cover sheet.

From: 011-43-1-4933429
Maite Parsi, AAG

Subject: Vote-Auction.Com

COMMENTS:

I will be sending 10 pages at a time

*****CONFIDENTIALITY*****

The documents accompanying this telecopier transmission contain information which may be confidential and/or privileged. The information is intended solely for the use of the addressee named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are advised that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the information transmitted is prohibited. If you have received this telecopier transmission in error, please notify the sender by telephone immediately and return the original transmission to the sender by first class mail via the U.S. Postal Service. Thank you for your compliance.

IF THERE ARE PROBLEMS RECEIVING THIS TRANSMISSION,
PLEASE CONTACT THE SENDER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Register to Sell Your Vote

Page 1 of 2

Whether you are a first-time voter, or you've been voting since World War II, you know that your presidential vote is very valuable in our democracy. Your vote is so valuable, that the candidates, their parties and the corporations that support them are spending millions of dollars this year in an attempt to influence your decision. Unfortunately this money is spent on advertising campaigns, pollsters and high-priced consultants. Votcauction.com is cutting out the middleman and bringing the big money of presidential politics directly to you.

Fields marked with a * are required. This information will be used to create a demographic profile of the various voting blocks. Your personal information will be kept strictly confidential. It will not be sold, released, or retransmitted for any reason. When you register on this page, you will also be registered for the voters email list which will contain important updates for votcauction voters. You will not receive any advertising or unsolicited emails (spam) as a result of this list.

First (Given) Name	<input type="text"/>	*	Middle Initial	<input type="text"/>
Last (Family) Name	<input type="text"/>	*		
Address (Line 1)	<input type="text"/>	*		
Address (Line 2)	<input type="text"/>			
City	<input type="text"/>	*	State	<input type="text" value="AL"/> * (not valid in NY, CA, IL)
Zip Code	<input type="text"/>	*		
Email address	<input type="text"/>	*		
Age (on November 7, 2000)	<input type="text" value="18"/>	*	Sex	<input type="text"/>
I describe myself as:	<input type="text" value="Asian/Pacific Islander"/>	*	Employment Status	<input type="text" value="Full-Time"/>
Occupation	<input type="text" value="Administrative/Clerical"/>	*	Highest Education Level	<input type="text" value="Some High School"/>
Household Income	<input type="text" value="Less than 15,000"/>	*	Political Affiliation	<input type="text" value="Communist"/>

Register to Sell Your Vote

Page 2 of 2

I am
selling
my vote
because:



Statistics, A look at the numbers that shape our world.

Voters registered with the site:

Gender	
Female	10%
Male	85%
Unspecified	5%

Race	
Asian/Pacific Islander	10%
Black/African American	6%
Native American	3%
Spanish/Hispanic/Latino	3%
White/Caucasian	78%

Political Affiliation	
Communist	9%
Democrat	18%
Green	4%
Independent	15%
Libertarian	4%
Reform	1%
Republican	18%
Socialist	2%
None	29%

statistics

037
Page 2 of 3

Income Bracket	
Less than \$15,000	22%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	11%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	13%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	13%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	21%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	9%
Over \$100,000	11%

Education	
Some High School	13%
High School Graduate	11%
Some College	39%
College Graduate	26%
Graduate School	11%

Occupation	
Administrative/Clerical	14%
Attorney	1%
Doctor	1%
Educator	3%
Managerial/Executive	8%
Professional/Technical	34%
Sales	7%
Service Labor	2%
Skilled Labor/Construction	3%
Police/Armed Forces	1%
Other	26%

statistics

Page 3 of 3

Voter Empowerment Kit

Page 1 of 1

Voter Empowerment Kit

Download Materials to cash in on your voting capital.

Voteauction.com only has the resources to concentrate on the United States Presidential election. Although the Presidential election is generating more wealth than any other election this year, it is not generating as much wealth per vote as many of the senatorial, congressional and other elections. The voter empowerment kit will allow you to access some of this additional wealth. The kit includes a form letter that you can send to a local political candidate who is spending a great deal of money on this year's election. Or, you could send a letter to the candidate's financial supporters and let them know that they are wasting their money on political advertisements, that this money should go directly to the voters instead. Feel free to use the voteauction.com logo on your own website. You can also take the voteauction.com logo and create your own promotional material. Unless otherwise noted, all files are microsoft word (.doc)

Form letter for candidates (20 Kb)

Form letter for campaign investors (20 Kb)

Voter Empowerment Kit flyer - includes both letters plus general information about voteauction.com (57 Kb)

Voteauction.com bumperstickers: 11.5" by 3" (1.6 Mb); 8.5" by 3.75" (1.8 Mb) [use full-sheet sticker paper]

Voteauction.com business cards (353 Kb) [use Avery business cards #5376 or similar]

Voteauction.com small stickers 1" by 4" (869 Kb) [Avery 5262 or similar]

Voteauction.com small stickers 1.33" by 4" (1.3 Mb) [Avery 5261 or similar]

Voteauction link button (png file - 117 Kb) (jpg file - 67 Kb)

Future Fonts for that voteauction.com look (zip file - 128 Kb)

For information about avery label and business card templates, go to www.avery.com

Form letter for candidates:

Use this letter to let your local candidates know that they are wasting their money on advertising and need to give it straight to the voters.

Dear _____

I realize that in this election, every vote is very valuable and I appreciate that you are spending so much money trying to influence the minds of undecided voters like me. However, I am disappointed that you are wasting your valuable campaign war chest on political advertising. Political ads are an inefficient waste of money that insults the intelligence of the voter.

Since you are spending so much money on this year's election, why not give it straight to the voters instead? For a mere \$____, you can influence my vote directly and be assured of my support.

In 1976, the US Supreme Court equated spending money with free speech, so you can be assured that paying me for my support is protected by the constitution.

I look forward to doing business with you.

Sincerely,

Form Letter for Campaign Contributors:

Use this letter to let campaign contributors know that they should stop wasting their money on the candidates and just buy the voters instead.

Dear _____,

I noticed that you have contributed \$ _____ to the _____ election campaign (or _____ party, or _____ Political Action Committee). Did you realize that a political consultant will take 10-15% of your money before spending the rest on advertising? And even when that money is spent on advertising, who knows how effective that advertising will be? You should quit wasting money on this inefficient system.

Since you are spending so much money on this year's election, why not give it straight to the voters instead? For a mere \$ _____, you can influence my vote directly and be assured of my support for your candidate of choice.

In 1976, the US Supreme Court equated spending money with free speech, so you can be assured that paying me for my support is protected by the constitution.

I look forward to doing business with you.

Sincerely,

Voteauction in Action

Page 1 of 1

Here is the schedule of the Voteauction Action Team (VAT):

08/01/00	VAT in Philadelphia for Republican National Convention. Voter Empowerment Kits are distributed near the Liberty Bell and the First Union Center.
09/15/00	VAT in New York. Voter Empowerment Kits are distributed at Columbia University, New York University.
09/18/00 - 09/22/00	VAT in the San Francisco Bay Area. Voter Empowerment Kits are distributed in the Haight-Ashbury District, Chinatown, North Beach, Telegraph Avenue (Berkeley), and on the steps of the State Capitol Building in Sacramento.
10/03/00	VAT in Boston, MA. Voter Empowerment Kits were distributed to demonstrators outside of the JFK Library, site of the first Presidential debates.

history **of vote buying in America**

From the "Father of our Country," George Washington, to the mafia-connected political bosses of the prohibition era, to today's politicians funded by "soft money", big money has often had an important influence on United States elections.

Here are a few examples of vote-buying in America:

In 1757, George Washington ran for a seat in the Virginia House of Burgesses. For this election he purchased more than a quart and a half of alcoholic beverages for each of the 391 voters in his district.

A candidate in the 1838 New York mayoral election paid \$22 per uncommitted vote.

In 1907, Congress passed legislation to prohibit corporations from making direct campaign contributions for federal candidates. Unions were banned from making the same types of contributions in 1947. By the late 1960's and early 1970's candidates began ignoring these laws by accepting large donations. Insurance executive Clement Stone gave \$2.8 million to Richard Nixon's 1968 election campaign. The Milk Producers Association gave \$2 million for Nixon's re-election campaign in 1972. (Nixon subsequently supported an increase in milk price subsidies.) Although these instances are examples of big corporations purchasing influence with candidates as opposed to purchasing influence with voters, it is significant that the donations were made to Nixon's campaign. This money was then used to pay for advertising, and other expenses. It is media advertising that now influences the voter.

Paul Allen (co-founder of Microsoft) purchased the Seattle Seahawks in 1997. He then called for a referendum to ask for \$300 million in state money to build a new stadium. Instead of obtaining the thousands of required signatures necessary to put an issue on the ballot, he simply paid for the costs of the election. He then spends over \$4 million in advertising to convince the people of Washington to vote for the new stadium. The result: The Football/Soccer stadium is expected to be finished in 2002.



let us know if we missed any story or discussion board about voteauction.com

Voteauction.com in the American Press:

CNN.com: Web site offers to sell U.S. presidential votes, Web site offering to sell votes shut down, Vote-selling website to be revived, possibly offshore

Wirednews.com: Close Vote? You Can Bid On It, Voteauction Bids the Dust, Austrian Takes Bids on U.S. Votes, Thousands Sign Up to Sell Votes

NY1 News: Website to Make It Possible to Sell Your Vote Online

USA Today: Votes Up For Auction Draw Official Inquiries

ABC News: Personal (Campaign) Finance

Slate.com: Buy This Vote!

Washington Post: Buy This Vote! (same article as slate.com)

Minnesota Public Radio's Future Tense: Sell Your Vote (real audio file)

The Industry Standard: Wanna Buy My Vote? Fuhgeddaboutit

Auction watch: Straight Talk from Voteauction.com

Voting Integrity Project: VIP Reports - Going, Going Gone!

Fox 4 News, Kansas City: Voteauction.com founder, James Baumgartner, phone interview. 8/23/00 (not available online)

KPIX, San Francisco: not available online

Associated Press: Web Sites Offer Votes For Sale

Metroland, Albany, NY: How Much Is That Voter In The Window?
(9/1/00 - not available online.)

Salt Lake Tribune: Auction Gives New Meaning to "Check Here"

California Secretary of State: Jones Issues Warning Against On-line Vote Buying Schemes

Federal Computer Week: Is a vote-selling Web site parody or threat?

Fortune Small Business: American Cynicism, 101

Chicago Sun-Times: Web vote sale all about buzz

Cnet: Chicago tries to close vote Web site

The Register: Votes for sale online in the US

Cluebot: Americans sell their votes for \$10 each

Everett Herald (WA): Bid to sell votes on Web rankles officials

Sioux City Journal: Vote buying becomes more blatant

Thirsty: UPDATE: Voteauction.com up and running again

Voteauction.com in the International Press:

Transfert: Voter, c'est facile et ça peut rapporter gros ! ; Votes aux enchères : suite et... fin

Heise online: Chicago will Stimmenkauf per Internet stoppen

Telepolis/ixmagazin: Schock-Marketing aus dem Netz-Underground

Lenta.RU: <http://lenta.ru/internet/2000/08/17/vote/>

Denni zpravy z Internetu: Vsechno je prece na prodej, tak proc by ne volicske blasy?

Spiegel Online: Behörden stoppen Stimmenverkauf im Web

NET-BC: US-Wahlkampf: Demokratie jetzt online käuflich?

Voteauction.com on discussion boards:

Picnet: Selling Your Vote for Cash

FreeRepublic: Discussion of "Vote-Selling Website to be revived, possibly offshore"

slashdot: from the retail-goods-at-wholesale-prices department

Cnet Canada: eBay thwarts sale of presidential election votes

News & Press

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October 3, 2000: Voteauction Action Team visits the first U.S. Presidential debates. Over 200 voter empowerment kits are distributed to the crowd gathered outside the JFK Library.

August 28, 2000: Voteauction.com re-launches with added features to better serve the user.

August 22, 2000: Voteauction.com is sold to an Austrian Holding company for an undisclosed sum.

Let us know if we missed any story or discussion board about voteaucton.com info@voteauction.com

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, COUNTY DIVISIONBOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO,
LANGDON D. NEAL, RICHARD A. COWEN, and THERESA M. PETRONE,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

HANS BERNHARD, LUZIUS A. BERNHARD,
OSKAR OBEREDER, CHRISTOPH JOHANNES MUTTER,
JAMES BAUMGARTNER and DOMAIN BANK, INC.,

Defendants.

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PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION ORDER

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

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This matter coming before the Court upon Plaintiffs' Emergency Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order or Preliminary Injunction pursuant to Sections 2-701, 11-101 and 11-102 of the Code of Civil Procedure (735 ILCS 5/2-701, 5/11-101 and 5/11-102), seek declaratory judgment, injunctive and other relief against said Defendants either jointly, severally or in the alternative, and upon Plaintiffs' verified Complaint for Declaratory Judgment, Injunction and other relief filed against Defendants HANS BERNHARD, LUZIUS A. BERNHARD, OSKAR OBEREDER, CHRISTOPH JOHANNES MUTTER, JAMES BAUMGARTNER and DOMAIN BANK, INC., and the Court having reviewed and considered the allegations in the verified complaint and exhibits thereto, as well as evidence presented at the hearing on this Motion, and having heard and considered oral argument, the Court finds as follows:

1. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action.
2. This Court has personal jurisdiction over all of the parties in this action.
3. Venue is proper in Cook County.
4. Plaintiffs BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, LANGDON D. NEAL, RICHARD A. COWEN and THERESA M. PETRONE, having standing to bring this action.
5. Plaintiffs have demonstrated a likelihood of success on the merits and the proofs, once submitted would likely show that:

A. Defendants James Baumgartner, Hans Bernhard, Luzius Barnhard, Oskar Obereder, and Christoff Johannes Mutter, and those acting in concert with them, have violated the election laws of the State of Illinois and of the United States by using and operating an Internet web site known as "voteauction.com" as an auction forum for the purpose of encouraging, soliciting and allowing residents of Illinois to sell their votes to be cast at the November 7, 2000 General Election and encouraging solicitation and allow...