Exhibit 4
Detroit Free Press article
(September 12, 2008)

September 12, 2008

GOP won't use foreclosure list to block voters

Macomb County party chair says blog is wrong

BY KATHLEEN GRAY and AMBER HUNT
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITERS

Michigan Republicans will send thousands of challengers to polling places on Election Day, but party officials said they won't be using foreclosed home lists to contest voters.

Their comments followed allegations in a liberal blog, "The Michigan Messenger," that the Macomb County Republican Party would use foreclosure lists to challenge voters who no longer live in their foreclosed homes.

Rumors that Republicans were trying to keep people who had lost their homes from voting went viral on the Internet on Thursday as activists announced plans to rally outside Republican presidential candidate John McCain's Farmington Hills campaign office today to demand the resignation of James Carabelli, the Macomb County GOP chairman.

Carabelli flatly denied quotes attributed to him, saying he told a staffer for the blog that volunteers only would check to make sure that an address in a poll book matches the one the voter gives.

The GOP is "absolutely not" gathering foreclosed home addresses for poll challenges, Carabelli said. He said the blog was "actually kind of shocking. It's completely untrue."

The Michigan Republican Party also won't allow its challengers to use foreclosure lists, spokesman Bill Nowling said.

"What does a name on a foreclosure list tell us? Nothing," Nowling said. "We go into the polling place with the qualified voter file and that is all."

A person's name and address on a foreclosure list doesn't mean he or she has left the home, Nowling said.

Eartha Jane Melzer, who talked to Carabelli for the blog, said she stands by her story but didn't tape her interview.

"It could be that they're embarrassed at having such a cynical tactic exposed," she said.

Under a new state law requiring voters to produce photo identification, poll challengers may check to see that the person voting matches the ID.

In 2004, 4,276 Republican volunteers were challengers in 1,800 Michigan precincts. A similar effort will occur this year, Nowling said.

Democrats and other organizations say the GOP challengers aim to intimidate and suppress the vote.

*Contact **KATHLEEN GRAY** at 313-223-4407 or kgray99@freepress.com.*