

**Advisory Opinion of the Indiana University Student Government Election Commission**  
**Issued: Thursday, April 16th, 2020**

On April 16th, the Election Commission received the following question:

*“Would it be appropriate to share the link to vote via a shortened URL link such as bit.ly, and it would directly go to the BeInvolved site?”*

The question was made in regards to the last clause of Section 601 of the Procedural Election Code, which reads as follows:

*Section 601: Voter Fraud. Voter fraud shall be defined as, but not limited to, any act that prevents a voter from casting a vote in any IUSG Election, any act that attempts to remove a voter’s right to cast a vote for himself or herself, any act that attempts to purchase the ability to vote for a voter, or any act in which anyone attempts to cast a vote for another voter without their expressed consent. Examples of voter fraud include, but are not limited to, the following: ● Intimidating a voter or offering a voter any amount of money or services in exchange for a vote. Goods given to voters after a vote must be below two dollars (\$2.00) in value (stickers, candy, pens, etc. are acceptable). The Election Commission has full discretion to rule on this matter, so written notification seeking the Election Commission’s permission is encouraged. ● Preventing a voter from casting a vote or preventing a voter from casting a vote for the candidate they desire. ● Changing a vote once it has been cast or using false information to cast a vote. ● Pressuring a voter to vote one way or another while they are in the immediate process of voting. ● **Providing technology of any sort to a voter through personal solicitation – essentially serving as a polling station.***

Given that the distribution of the electronic link to vote is not considered providing technology to a voter, the transformation of that link would also not count as providing technology to a voter. This allows for the shortening of the link into a bit.ly format to be distributed to voters. It would also allow for other formats like QR codes. That being the case, these links may not deceive the voter and must link directly to the BeInvolved page for the spring Executive ballot.

Respectfully,

The Indiana University Student Government Election Commission  
Quinn Gordon, Chair  
Lucy Newell  
Rachell Pena  
Runjin Li