

Complaint Form  
IUSG Election Commission

Date Complaint Submitted: April 4, 2021

Complaint Submitted By: Elevate (Ky Freeman & Madeline Dederichs) and Legacy (Carrick Moon & Shibani Mody)

Complaint Submitted Against: Inspire (Dorynn Mentor & Carling Louden)

Date & Time of Violation: April 1 & 2, 2021 around 9PM and 12AM

**There are three violations of R.B. § 3-8-5 Improper Use of Telecommunications: Class Varies Section 5.**

*(a) A person or ticket who:*

*(1) emails, texts, or calls a student or students for the purpose of campaigning without **clearly** offering the recipient the option not to receive further communications from that person or ticket...*

*(3) emails, texts, or calls a student for the purpose of campaigning after that student has requested to stop receiving such communications from that candidate or ticket commits improper use of telecommunications, an election violation. (emphasis added)*

Description of Violation:

Background: Two mass text messages were sent to students at Indiana University around midnight on April 2, 2021 from both Dorynn Mentor, the presidential candidate, as well as Carling Louden, the vice presidential candidate, on the Inspire ticket from several different phone numbers with an (812) area code. The text explicitly asks students by name to vote for the Inspire campaign, providing a link to do so through the BeInvolved site.

- I. First text message fails to contain any *clear* option to unsubscribe from further communications. (Evidence 1)

A second text message from the phone numbers were sent again around 9PM on April 2, 2021. The text reminds the recipients by name to vote for the Inspire campaign and provides a link to the BeInvolved site.

- II. Second text message fails to contain any *clear* option to unsubscribe from further communications.

Many members of the Elevate and Legacy campaigns became aware of this mass text message through social media, direct contact from concerned students, and receiving the message themselves. As seen in the screenshots on the next page, there is no (*clear*) option to opt out of receiving these communications, a direct violation of the above code. In some of the screenshots,

students attempted to tell Dorynn that they were not interested in receiving any more messages, yet received an additional message by the Inspire ticket, Mentor and Louden, a second time. We have reason to believe that over 5,000 students were contacted through these text messages from different phone numbers because the messages were sent around 9PM and 12AM on April 1 & 2, 2021, and the election commission informed all candidates on April 2 that, “Last night as of 6:23 pm 3586 votes had been cast. This morning as of 10:11 am 4892 votes had been cast.” Due to the fact that 1,306 votes were cast at off hours between Thursday night and Friday morning, we have reason to believe that over 1,306 students received the text message as well from the different phone numbers the text message came from.

In addition to the outpouring number of students who contacted Elevate and Legacy from both the undergraduate and graduation populations, we have been notified that many students attending other IU campuses received the text message encouraging them to vote for Inspire. (Evidence 2) The vast reach these text messages from Mentor and Louden had to students attending other IU campuses with access to BeInvolved is concerning because we are not sure if students at campuses other than IU Bloomington had access to the voter’s ballot.

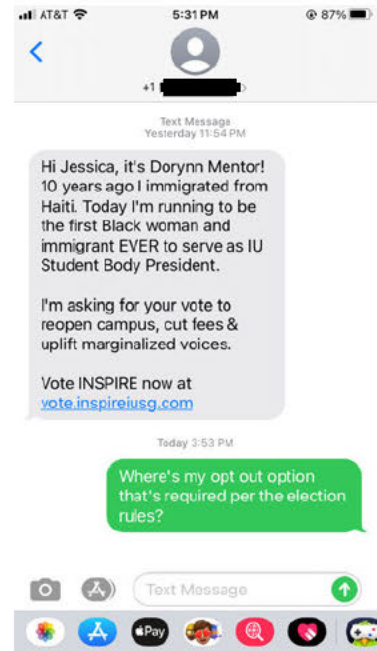
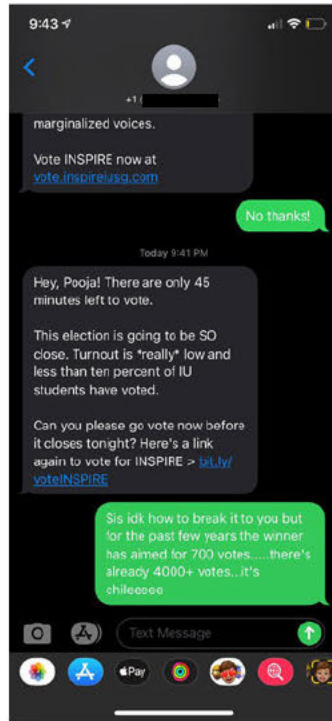
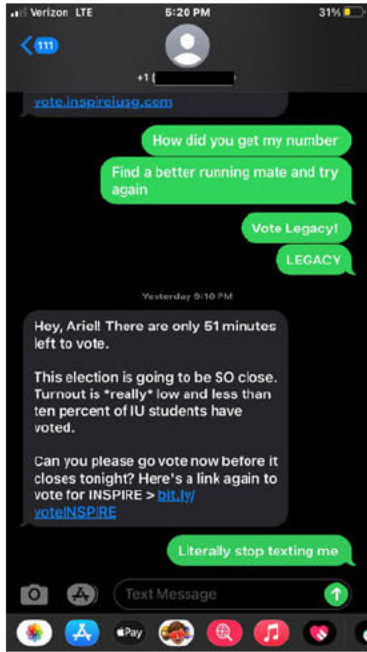
### III. Failed to not to send further communications to students who opt out

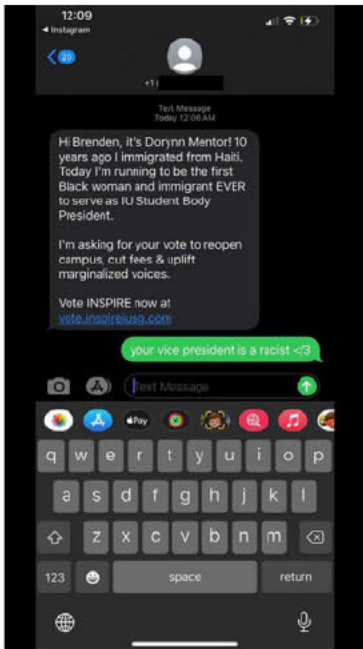
We have grounds to believe that students who opted out of campaign messaging continued to receive communications from the Inspire ticket. The Elevate and Legacy campaigns were made aware of instances where a student opted out of communications from Inspire over email on April 2 at 4:06PM and continued to receive messages that afternoon over text at 5:24PM. (Evidence 3).

R.B. § 3-8-5 states that if a student unsubscribes from an email, they in-turn must not receive *“further communications from that person or ticket.”*

We request that, in addition to accepting this complaint, that the Election Commission investigates 1) the number of students contacted by Inspire, 2) whether students attending other IU campuses voted in the IUSG election 3) how many students unsubscribed from email correspondence and continued to receive text messages. Per R.B. § 3-8-3 Candidate Dishonesty: Class A Section 3, the Inspire campaign is compelled to share this evidence with the Election Commission upon request.

Attachments:  
(Evidence 1)

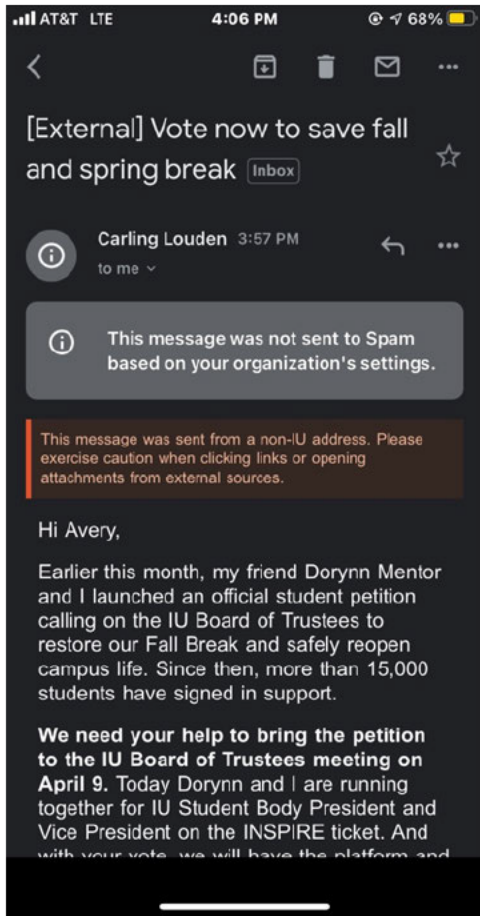




(Evidence 2)



(Evidence 3)



Student unsubscribed from mass campaign communications from Inspire at 4:06PM April 2, and received a text message from Inspire again at 5:24PM.

