

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY – November 12, 2012

Media reports have indicated that some local businesses in the San Diego area are providing discounts on food and beverages to individuals who show “I Voted” stickers on Election Day.

The public is reminded that federal law prohibits expenditures to influence voting, including offers to make an expenditure to any person to vote or withhold his or her vote. Federal law also prohibits paying or offering to pay individuals for registering to vote or for voting. Federal laws are specifically directed at eliminating pecuniary considerations from the voting process. Businesses should not offer free or discounted food, drink or services in exchange for voting.

References: Title 18, United States Code, Section 597
Title 42, United States Code, Section 1973i(c)