



FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS, JERRY HOLLAND:

SUPERVISORS STAND FOR VOTER ENFRANCHISEMENT

Supervisors fight for fair, transparent, accurate elections and all votes to count

“Today the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections submitted our response to Judge Terry Lewis’ August 1st order for a reasonable special elections calendar and comments. Never before have supervisors been asked to consider redrawing election lines in the middle of an ongoing election where ballots have already been cast.

Our association is a bipartisan body comprised of supervisors from all over Florida of varying county sizes and operations. We are united to ensure fair, secure, transparent and accurate elections.

In the hearing, Judge Lewis said ‘the cure should not be worse than the illness’ and we have been working non-stop to do just that and explore elections scenarios from combining existing election schedules to creating a new accurate timeline that would allow for alternative congressional elections should the judge choose to make such an order. It’s our role to stand up for the voter.

The supervisors ultimately unanimously concluded that in order to ensure election laws are followed, that all voters have the chance to cast a ballot and have their vote counted, and to ensure accurate transparent elections: a special congressional election cannot be combined with the existing election already underway. To do so would risk compromising the integrity these elections, create mass voter confusion or possible fraud, and violate election laws. We want all eligible voters to be able to cast a ballot and have it count. We submit our response to the judge with this as our priority. We are not, however, by this submission, evaluating the legality of a special congressional election beyond 2014. That is outside of our authority, our directive was only to consider an accurate time schedule.

What most people may not realize is voting begins almost a month and a half prior to Election Day, mainly our military and/or overseas voters. To throw out their protections under the law is nothing less than declaring disenfranchisement for a particular class of people, and we as Supervisors of Elections do not want to compromise their, or any, voters’ rights.

We have submitted a timeline that we believe is swift, feasible, follows election laws and ensures voter enfranchisement while providing fair, accurate and transparent elections.”

– Jerry Holland