



August 30, 2019

**Via Email Only**

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**Re: Hurricane Dorian and Potential Impact upon Municipal Elections  
And Election-Related Deadlines**

We are writing on behalf of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Common Cause Florida and Fair Elections Center to inquire whether the Secretary of State and Division of Elections will be seeking an extension of the voter registration book closing deadlines, vote by mail request deadlines, deadlines for the return of vote by mail ballots and any of the dates for upcoming municipal elections in light of the likelihood that Hurricane Dorian will be making landfall in Florida sometime on Monday or Tuesday of next week and will have wide-ranging impacts across the state.

As you know, there are six (6) municipal elections scheduled for September 3 and 10, 2019, including:

09/03/19	Apalachicola	General Election	Franklin
09/03/19	Town of Westville	General Election	Holmes
09/10/19	City of Macclenny	Primary Election	Baker
09/10/19	Town of Glen	Primary Election	Baker
09/10/19	Bronson	General Election	Levy
09/10/19	Virginia Gardens	General Election	Miami-Dade

In addition, the deadline to request vote by mail ballots for the September 10, 2019 municipal elections expires on Saturday, August 31, 2019 and the voter registration book closing for the October 1, 2019 municipal election in Homestead in Miami-Dade County is on Tuesday, September 3, 2019.

On August 27, there were 10 municipal elections where the Supervisor of Elections or City Clerks need to safeguard the ballots as the Canvassing Boards work through the unofficial and official results towards certification of the elections.

08/27/19	City of Blountstown	Municipal	Calhoun
08/27/19	Jacob	General Election	Jackson
08/27/19	City of Monticello	Primary Election	Jefferson
08/27/19	City of Clermont	Primary Election	Lake
08/27/19	City of Groveland	Primary Election	Lake
08/27/19	City of Stuart	General Election	Martin
08/27/19	St. Petersburg	Primary Election	Pinellas
08/27/19	Santa Rosa	Special Election	Santa Rosa
08/27/19	City of Lake Helen	Primary Election	Volusia
08/27/19	Town of Ponce Inlet	General Election	Volusia

On August 28, 2019, Governor DeSantis issued a preliminary Executive Order (19-189), a copy of which is attached hereto, declaring a state of emergency in 26 of Florida's counties, including in Baker and Miami-Dade counties where municipal elections are scheduled on September 10, 2019, due to forecasts showing Hurricane Dorian is likely to make landfall in the state.

Subsequently, on August 29, 2019, Governor DeSantis issued a second Executive Order (19-190), a copy of which is attached herein, in which he extended the emergency declaration to all 67 of the state's counties, including all the other counties holding upcoming municipal elections, due to forecasts showing the strengthening of the storm and the likelihood that the hurricane will impact much of the state.

Despite these municipal elections and related election deadlines, neither of Governor DeSantis' Executive Orders specifically discussed what, if any, emergency measures or contingency plans have been made with respect to these elections and election-related deadlines.

Given the likelihood that some or even all of the municipal elections will be impacted by Hurricane Dorian, we are writing to request that you provide us and the voters in the state with information about what, if any, contingency plans have been made with respect to these elections and upcoming election-related deadlines and to ensure that all information concerning any changes to election-related deadlines, election schedules, relocations of polling locations and other changes be posted in a timely way to the state's emergency management website in

addition to the county supervisors' and city clerks' websites and the websites of the Division of Elections and Secretary of State so that the state's voters have access to the most current and accurate election information in a centralized location.

We also have concerns about whether there may be disruptions in the delivery of vote by mail ballots to voters and to election officials if USPS services are disrupted due to the storm and would like to know what, if any, contingency plans are being made to ensure that voters will not be disenfranchised by these disruptions if they vote by mail.

Finally, we wish to extend our sincere concern for the safety and welfare of all the people in Florida who are impacted by this storm. We are hoping for the best possible outcome for the state and its residents.

Thank you for your consideration and prompt attention to this urgent matter.

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Attachments: Executive Orders 19-189 and 19-190