



TOMMY DOYLE
Supervisor of Elections

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Sunday, October 2, 2022
Maria Matthews, Esq.
Division of Elections, Director
Florida Department of State
R.A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

RE: Hurricane Ian Event
Lee County Request for Executive Order

Dear Director Matthews,

Per our recent discussions, the Lee County Supervisor of Elections is requesting an Executive Order from Governor Ron DeSantis to allow us to conduct the 2022 General Election using Voting Centers instead of Election Day precincts. Hurricane Ian devastated Lee County and its neighbors. In Lee County, there remain few viable Election Day polling locations post-storm. Several established polling locations no longer exist. Securing a sufficient number of poll workers to staff ninety-seven (97) voting sites will be problematic. Hurricane Ian has displaced countless Lee County voters and poll workers from their homes.

We want to continue to provide our voters with the best possible voting experience. Urgent consideration of our requests in this letter for an Executive Order will expedite our election operations and aid us under the current circumstances and conditions in carrying out our duties in an efficient and orderly manner while ensuring the security and integrity of the November 8 General Election.

Early Voting Sites Converted to Vote Centers

In Lee County, Early Voting is scheduled to begin on Monday, October 24, and run through Saturday, November 5. We request to allow the conversion of our twelve (12) Early Voting sites to twelve (12) Vote Centers. If authorized by the Governor's Executive Order, voting would begin on Monday, October 24, and run through Election Day, November 8. By implementing Vote Centers, and eliminating Election Day polling places, voters impacted by Hurricane Ian can access any Lee County Vote Center, regardless of their address of legal residence in the county. Vote Centers would decrease the number of Provisional Ballots resulting in voters wanting to vote at the wrong Election Day precinct because of home displacement.

Vote Center hours of operation will be 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and provide three (3) additional days of voting at multiple sites in the county from Sunday, November 6 through Election Day, November 8.

Because Lee County voters are familiar with the established locations of our Early Voting sites, any site converted to a Vote Center can continue to operate in a temporary set-up if the site sustained damage and cannot be used. In this case, we would erect an air-conditioned tent building in the site parking lot to act as the Vote Center housing, surveilled by 24-hour security personnel. Generator power will be necessary for this setup if electrical power is not otherwise available. Voting equipment would necessitate a combination of ExpressVote devices, Ballot-on-Demand (BOD) Printers, DS200 Optical Scan Tabulators, portable bathrooms, and would ensure that temporary sites comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

In anticipation that a currently established site is unavailable because of catastrophic damage, parking, or roadway inaccessibility, backup sites outfitted with temporary tent buildings that are ADA compliant include the parking lot across from our Main Office at the Melvin Morgan Constitutional Complex (formerly the News-Press). This location would take the place of the Downtown Fort Myers Regional Library. Another site considered in place of the North Fort Myers Recreation Center is the Lee Civic Center parking lot.

In addition to our offices, Secure Ballot Intake Stations for Vote-by-Mail Ballot drop-off will be available at Vote Centers. However, the Vote-by-Mail Ballot drop-off deadline should be Sunday before Election Day to ensure we can receive, process, and tabulate dropped-off Vote-by-Mail Ballots from twelve (12) Vote Centers and timely report preliminary results on Election Day.

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October 2, 2022

Maria Matthews, Esq.

Division of Elections, Director

RE: Hurricane Ian Event

Lee County Request for Executive Order

Vote-by-Mail Ballot Signed, Written Request Waived s.101.62, FS.

We request that the requirement that a voter submits a signed, written request for a Vote-by-Mail Ballot be waived to afford voters in Lee County the ease of obtaining a Vote-by-Mail Ballot and the ability to cast their vote in the November 8 General Election. Particularly affected by this requirement are a significant number of voters in Lee County who have been displaced from their homes.

By Florida Law, a voter requesting that a Vote-by-Mail Ballot be mailed to an address not on file in the voter's record or precinct register must submit a signed, written request to the Supervisor. Given the current conditions, this is problematic, considering the impact of Hurricane Ian has left vast areas of the county without power, reliable internet, cellular or telephone service, or mail delivery. Additionally, faxing, scanning, or emailing may be out of reach for these voters.

The requirement to provide a signed, written request to send a Vote-by-Mail Ballot to an address other than one on file would burden voters without the resources necessary to get the signed, written request to the Supervisor. A voter affected by the impact of Hurricane Ian may have the ability to call the Supervisor or have a statutorily designated immediate family member with telephone or cellular service request on their behalf by providing the voter's required statutory identifiers.

Website Vote-by-Mail Ballot requesting may be problematic since the Florida Voter Registration System (FVRS), is designed to recognize existing addresses on file in a voter's record. Since the FVRS is designed to conform to statutory guidelines for requesting a Vote-by-Mail Ballot, voters using the website to request a ballot will be unnecessarily burdened by being required to print and sign a web request form. If an Executive Order by the Governor waives the signed, written request requirement, then a disclaimer can be added to the Vote-by-Mail web request section of the Supervisor's website to alert the voter that they should call the office to request their ballot.

Poll Worker Training, s. 101.014, FS

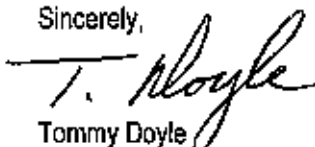
Lee County Supervisor of Elections was to begin poll worker training on October 4, 2022. Due to the devastation of Hurricane Ian, we are without electrical power or water at our training facility. We are currently assessing poll worker availability. An Executive Order waving the requirements for poll worker training before the General Election would be beneficial. Section 102.014(2), Florida Statutes allows a person who has attended previous training conducted within two (2) years before the election to be appointed by the Supervisor to fill a vacancy on an election board.

Because of the uncertainty of poll work availability, we are asking the Governor to waive the requirement that a poll worker is a registered voter of the county in which they are appointed to work. By waiving this requirement, experienced poll workers registered to vote in other Florida counties may qualify to be poll workers in Lee County.

Neighboring Counties

Please remember some of my neighboring counties are in the same situation, so please consider not just Lee County but those other counties adversely effected and give them same latitudes that Lee County is requesting.

Sincerely,



Tommy Doyle

Supervisor of Elections