

From: Melissa Blazier
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 8:32 AM
To: Chris Hall <Chris.Hall@colliercountyfl.gov>
Cc: Amy Patterson <Amy.Patterson@colliercountyfl.gov>; Louise Jarvis <Louise.Jarvis@colliercountyfl.gov>
Subject: 2024 General Election Resolution

Commissioner Hall,

As Collier County Supervisor of Elections, with 18+ years of election administration experience, I find the attached proposed resolution to be deeply flawed and highly unnecessary. The statements purporting to support the 11 requests are riddled with erroneous conclusions and lack any manner of legally relevant evidence. I am concerned that this matter is being presented to the board without being thoroughly vetted to the legitimacy of its claims. One of the key questions is, if the outside organization that provided this information to the Collier County Republican Executive Committee had proof or evidence that the State of Florida's election had violated both federal and state laws, why would they not present that evidence through the proper legal channels versus through a nonbinding resolution at the local level? This resolution states that the 2022 General Election, in the State of Florida, was fraught with massive inaccuracies that violate both Federal and State laws. This is the same election, may I remind you, that 44 races and contests were decided in Collier County – including County Commission District 2.

The majority of requests this resolution calls for are either already incorporated into existing law, are in direct violation of existing law or would require technology that is not yet available or authorized for use in the State of Florida. My comments on each of the 11 requests is also attached. As election officials in Florida, my staff and I take an oath of office to uphold both the US and Florida constitutions and to implement Florida's election laws. Should this resolution pass, we are under no obligation to follow it unless otherwise required by state and federal law.

To use the words of Governor DeSantis, Florida is the GOLD STANDARD for election administration and Collier County is a leader in the state for conducting elections. By considering or even passing this resolution, the public's confidence in the elections that are conducted by the hundreds of Collier County citizen election workers who work hard to ensure fair, accurate and legal elections is further eroded. The statements in this resolution only fuel the harassment of the many individuals who come together to ensure the integrity of the electoral process in our community.

I truly hope that you give consideration to my thoughts and concerns and do not pass this egregious resolution.

Sincerely,
Melissa R. Blazier

Melissa Blazier, CERA, MFCEP
Supervisor of Elections

Supervisor of Elections
Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Building
3750 Enterprise Ave
Naples FL 34104
239-252-8333
FAX 239-252-8934

Florida has a very broad public records law. Written communications to or from public officials regarding public business constitute public records and are available to the public and media upon request unless the information is subject to a specific statutory exemption. Therefore, this email and any that you sent that generated this response may be subject to public disclosure.

Resolution Requests:

1. Laws already exist in the State of Florida. FS 97.041 prescribes the qualifications to register to vote and FS 101.043 prescribes the identification required at the polls.
2. FS 101.015 outlines the robust chain of custody the SOE must have for all ballots. In addition, anything that publicly documents a voter's ballot selections would be a violation of FS 101.041.
3. FS 101.015 prescribes the voting systems that are allowable in the State of Florida and again, FS 101.041 details a voter's right to a secret ballot.
4. This is a direct violation of FS 97.055.
5. FS 101.015 prescribes the standards for voting systems in the State of Florida.
6. The pre-election testing and post-election audit of our election equipment and ballots are both used with real ballots as is outlined in FS 101.5612 and FS 101.591. These activities are open to the public, including candidates and political parties.
7. We currently have a robust chain of custody, as outlined in FS 101.015 that is not in violation of FS 101.041 as described in this resolution.
8. Adjudication of ballots is conducted by the county canvassing board per FS 102.141 and requests for access to ballots, images and CVRs can be made per FS 119.07 but limitations may apply per FS 101.572.
9. This is in direct violation of several statutes including FS 101.572, 119.071(1)(f) and 119.071(3)(d).
10. This could only be accomplished via a court order or change in legislation because currently nothing in FS exists to allow such a change.
11. We have been obeying the law. We are obeying the law. This list of demands is asking a sworn Constitutional Officer to break the laws of the great State of Florida.