



June 22, 2021

Dear Supervisor of Elections,

We would like to thank you for your efforts during the 2021 Florida Legislative Session to improve SB 90. While we continue to have many concerns about how the new law will impact voters, there is no question that this bill would have been exponentially worse without the hard work of you and your peers this session. So, again, we thank you

Unfortunately, the new law is already leading to confusion among voters, candidates, and elected officials. It is urgent that steps be taken now to prevent SB 90's many problematic provisions from becoming obstacles that disenfranchise voters in the next election. Fortunately, you have the authority to implement many aspects of the bill so that voters stand a better chance of not being harmed. To that end, we have developed a series of recommendations which would address some of the concerns. We realize that you have been put in the unfortunate position of having to implement this terrible law with no additional funds from the state and we would love an opportunity to discuss these recommendations with you and your team in the coming weeks. We would also like to offer and to assist you in amplifying your voter education efforts.

To be clear, our organizations are not parties to any litigation relating to SB 90 and merely seek to ensure that the new law is implemented in a way that is most favorable to voters.

Recommendations for the implementation of SB 90:

Drop Boxes

1. Locations for drop boxes should be publicized on the Supervisor of Elections website two to four weeks prior to the 30-day deadline to submit plans to the state in multiple languages in order to provide an opportunity for community input. There should be multiple methods for providing input, including: online

options through accessible platforms, email, as well as in-person meetings or public forums.

2. Once drop box locations are submitted to the state, we ask that you display address locations prominently on the front page of your website. This will enable those doing voter education to direct people to your website as a resource.
3. Posters with maps or lists of drop box locations should be posted in areas of government offices that voters frequent, such as your main and branch offices and other county facilities. Signs or posters could also be put up at sites that will serve as early voting sites and drop box locations in advance so that people are aware.
4. We urge you to request the funds necessary to offer locations and hours of availability consistent with those offered in 2020 at a minimum. If a location available in 2020 will no longer be available in upcoming elections, please make an effort to advise voters in the vicinity of the changes.
5. If reductions are considered, we feel strongly that you should prioritize keeping open locations that serve historically underrepresented constituents, such as Black, Latino, and younger voters.
6. We urge you to offer 24 hour or after-hour locations at the SOE main offices during the final days of early voting at a minimum. Specifically, we ask that you offer 24 hour drop boxes at SOE offices on Election Day and the final Sunday and Monday prior to election day.
7. When determining the location of drop boxes, please consider the new regulations on solicitation zones and place them in an area that will not burden with more restrictions nonpartisan election protection services.
8. Please collect and make public the data on ballot drop box usage in machine readable formats such as excel. Data should include at least the location/street address of the drop box, days and hours the drop box is available, and total ballots collected by day.

Voter Education by SOEs

1. Inform voters of new identification requirements for vote-by-mail requests and voter registration changes throughout education materials using all available means of communication.
2. Direct voters to resources that ensure that voters who do not have a FL Drivers License or a FL State Identification card know how to obtain one.
3. Place an explanation of changes to the law and how it impacts voters on the front page of your websites as soon as possible to clarify common questions.
4. Make sure new vote-by-mail designee limitations are communicated on your website and in all vote-by-mail related education materials.

5. Hold info sessions with religious leaders, assisted living facilities, caregivers, community leaders, jails, hospitals, etc. to inform them on how the new law may affect their operations moving forward, particularly in regards to new designee limitations and third party voter registration group requirements.
6. When sending a vote by mail ballot to voters, inform them of when their current vote by mail application expires and that they need to renew it if they wish to receive their vote by mail ballot in future elections.
7. Advise voters in the appropriate language, subject to the Voting Rights Act or other regulations, about the changes included in the new law.
8. Send voters who have not requested a mail ballot an application to do so.

Staffing

1. Add additional staff to ensure that observers watching ballot duplication and signature matching before or during the canvass process do not disrupt or delay the process.
2. Additional staff should also be added to handle any potential increase in the number of ballots needing to be cured due to protests by observers emboldened by the new law.
3. Budget for additional staffing to maintain 24-hour dropbox availability for at least one location to accommodate voters who work long hours.

Voter Registration Drives

1. Take steps to ensure that voters are not penalized if a third party voter registration group delivers a registration application to a county where a voter is not registered. If there has been a misdirected voter registration application, forward that registration to the correct county for registration.
2. Take steps to ensure that third-party organizations are not fined if the voter returns an application given to them by a third-party organization after 14 days.
3. Provide educational materials for groups doing voter registration so that they know how to navigate the new law.

Other Suggestions

1. New observer requirements for the duplication of ballots and signature matching by the canvassing board is likely to be a logistical challenge for many counties. Smaller counties that do not have a large space for their canvassing board may need to secure a larger space and/or create remote viewing options for observers involving video.
2. Promote early voting through voter education and offer the maximum allowable hours and days during the 2022 general election to ensure that locations are

easily accessible by all Black, Latino, youth, seniors and that all sites are accessible.

3. Ensure that all poll workers and election officials are well versed in voting ID requirements, and voters are not turned away due to confusion, particularly when addressing voters whose gender expression does not match their ID.

Thank you for taking the time to read through these recommendations. We look forward to collaborating with you to continue ensuring elections are accessible to all voters.

Sincerely,

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