

August 16, 2021

Dear City and Town Governments,

We understand that you are currently working hand in hand with your County Supervisor of Elections as you gear up for the upcoming municipal elections cycle. We share our deepest appreciation for your work to ensure that elections are accessible and efficient for all voters.

With many of your municipalities implementing their first elections under the new Florida voting laws, it is urgent that steps be taken now to eliminate any obstacles that may prevent voters from being able to cast their ballots and participate in our democratic processes. As such, we encourage you to offer eligible voters all potential options available for them to participate in the elections - starting with early voting, a critical access point for Florida's voters.

Early voting encourages voter turnout and helps prevent voters from missing work time in order to cast their ballots. Spreading in-person voting out over additional days could also protect voters and elections staff if the COVID-19 surge our state is currently seeing continues. It is also worth mentioning that [63.8%](#) of registered voters in Florida opted to use early voting options during the 2020 General Election. Given recent changes to election laws, it may also help to provide early voting as a chance to test new processes. As such, we highly encourage you to offer at least one early voting location operating the Saturday and Sunday before Election Day in your region for the municipal election or elections that are happening throughout 2021.

Some municipalities that are already listing early voting options are Anna Maria, Apalachicola, Bradenton Beach, Holmes Beach, Homestead, Labelle, Lake Helen, Marathon, Ponce Inlet, Orlando, St. Cloud, Starke, Stuart and Venice. Other municipalities that will be offering early voting options if an election is needed after the qualifying period are Auburndale, Fort Meade, Lakeland and Winter Haven. We understand that depending on the size of your voting population, an early voting option might not be economically feasible, but we hope that you take into consideration our suggestions to ensure voters have the best opportunity to participate in the upcoming elections.

Once again, we thank you for your work in ensuring the elections process is accessible and efficient for voters. We look forward to collaborating with you during the fall municipal elections and into the 2022 cycle.

Cordially,

Ricardo J. Negrón-Almodovar
FL Campaign Manager, All Voting is Local

Marcos Vilar
Executive Director, Alianza for Progress

Gabriella Rodriguez
Executive Director, QLatinx

Aliki Moncrief
Executive Director, Florida Conservation Voters

Jalisa Giles
Civic Engagement Director, Democracy For All Florida

Daniel J. Downer
Executive Director, The Bros in Convo Initiative

William Joel Bravo
Deputy Political Director, FLIC Votes

Maria Revelles
Director, CHISPA Florida

David Ayala
National Organizer, Formerly Incarcerated, Convicted People & Families Movement

Maruxa Cardenas
Co-Executive Director, La Mesa Boricua de Florida

Alejandro Berrios
Co-Founder, Mi Vecino

Kira Romero-Craft
Director, Southeast Region, LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Micah Kubic, Ph.D.
Executive Director, ACLU of Florida

Ancel Pratt III,
Executive Director, Emgage Foundation (Florida)

Liz Avore
Vice President, Law & Policy, Voting Rights Lab