



April 9, 2024

The Honorable Cord Byrd, Secretary of State  
Florida Department of State  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

CC: Ms. Maria Matthews  
Director, Florida Division of Elections  
R.A. Gray Building, Room 316  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Re: Translation of Materials and Forms

Dear Secretary Byrd,

All Voting is Local Action, a nonpartisan voting rights organization, and partners write to call attention to a serious issue that creates barriers to the accessibility of forms and materials the Division of Elections developed and published.

While Florida is covered under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act for statewide voting materials in Spanish<sup>1</sup>, it has come to our attention that the [Florida Voter Guide for the 2024 Election Cycle](#), revised in November of 2023, is only available in English. With the statewide Presidential Preference Primary already completed and voting well underway for many municipal elections across the state, the lack of a guide translated into Spanish is harmful to Florida voters whose primary language is Spanish.

Furthermore, we call attention to the fact that on September 26, 2023, the Division of Elections adopted [Rule 1S-2.042: Third Party Voter Registration Organizations](#) (3PVROs), in compliance with requirements set forth by SB 7050, signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis and effective on July 1, 2023. The aforementioned rule, which provides procedures for the regulation of 3PVROs and their registration activities, contains a series of forms<sup>2</sup> to be completed, as necessary, by 3PVROs, supervisors of elections, or individuals. These documents have also not been made available in Spanish.

Additionally, and of particular concern, is the lack of translated versions of Form DS-DE 129, entitled “[3PVRO Voter Registration Application Receipt](#).” For many of the applicants our organizations serve, Spanish is their primary language. The lack of an officially translated voter registration application receipt during the rule-making process means that 3PVROs could not provide input as to the accuracy of the translated materials, and not having the form available after its effective date means that applicants may not understand the document that is being presented to them.

Equally concerning is the lack of a translated version of Form DS-DE 127, entitled “[Non-Felon and U.S. Citizen Declarations](#).” Many of our employees and volunteers are primarily Spanish speakers and Form DS-DE 127 has serious legal implications that every signee must fully comprehend before completing it. It’s also important to note that Form DS-DE 127 includes the

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<sup>1</sup> Minority Language Requirements in Florida [DE Reference Guide 0004](#)

<sup>2</sup> Form DS-DE 119, entitled “[Third-Party Voter Registration Organization Registration Form](#).”

Form DS-DE 121, entitled “[Form for Complaint Against Third-Party Voter Registration Organization](#).”

Form DS-DE 124, entitled “[Supervisor of Elections' Accounting of Third-Party Voter Registration Organization's Voter Registration Applications](#).”

Form DS-DE 126, entitled “[Supervisors of Elections' Transmittal Form – 3PVRO Noncompliance](#).”

Form DS-DE 127, entitled “[Non-Felon and U.S. Citizen Declarations](#).”

Form DS-DE 129, entitled “[3PVRO Voter Registration Application Receipt](#).”

Non-Felon<sup>3</sup> and the U.S. Citizen Declarations<sup>4</sup>. For the latter, Judge Mark E. Walker granted a preliminary injunction on July 3, 2023, and halted its implementation. This preliminary injunction is still in effect.

Recently, the Division of Elections held a rule development workshop for the [Polling Place Procedures Manual](#)<sup>5</sup>. We urge the state to provide a translation of the manual immediately after the final version is adopted, and ideally, for future proceedings, a translated version of the published drafts should be made available for interested parties to review and submit feedback. All poll workers, including bilingual staff, deserve the same access to materials in order to provide the best service to all voters in the state of Florida.

Voting rights organizations have repeatedly asked for there to be public hearings in Spanish concerning new rules or at the bare minimum, a discussion of translated materials before they go into effect. Unfortunately, those opportunities have not been made available. We eagerly look forward to all the forms referenced in this letter being available in Spanish, promptly. We also hope that the Division considers requests for public discussion of materials in Spanish so that new forms and materials are available both in English and Spanish at the same time.

Cordially,

Ricardo J. Negron-Almodovar FL Senior Campaign Manager All Voting is Local Action	Cassandra Brown Cofounder, Executive Director All About the Ballots	Adora Obi Nweze President NAACP Florida State Conference
May Thach Florida Organizing Manager National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum	Amy Keith Executive Director Common Cause Florida	Isabelle C. Muhlbauer Advocate Manager for Voting Rights - National LatinoJustice PRLDEF
Felipe Sousa-Lazaballet Executive Director Hope CommUnity Center	Oswaldo Fonseca Community Engagement Manager Del Ambiente	Maruxa Cardenas Co-Director La Mesa Boricua de Florida
Gabriella Rodriguez Executive Director QLatinx	Chris Furino Co-Executive Director Central Florida Jobs with Justice	Cecile M. Scoon, Esq. Co-President League of Women Voters of Florida
Debbie Chandler, Esq. Co-President League of Women Voters of Florida	Laudi Campo Florida Office State Director Hispanic Federation	Michelle Kanter Cohen Policy Director and Senior Counsel Fair Elections Center
Rebecca Pelham	Marcos Vilar	Jackie Colon

<sup>3</sup> FS 97.0575(1)(e)

<sup>4</sup> FS 97.0575(1)(f)

<sup>5</sup> Rule 1S-2.034 Polling Place Procedures Manual

Executive Director Engage Miami	Executive Director Alianza for Progress	Southeast Director of Civic Engagement NALEO Educational Fund
Soraya Márquez Florida State Director Mi Familia Vota	Renata R. Bozzetto, PhD Deputy Director Florida Immigrant Coalition	Jonel Edwards Mickles Co-Executive Director Dream Defenders
Jared Nordlund Florida State Advocacy Director UnidosUS	Moné Holder Chief Advocacy & Political Officer Florida Rising	