



October 20, 2022

Mr. Jeffrey O'Dell
Chief of Police
Kissimmee Police Department
8 N Stewart Avenue
Kissimmee, FL 34741

Dear Chief O'Dell,

All Voting is Local is a nonpartisan voting rights organization that fights to eliminate needless and discriminatory barriers to voting before they happen, to build a democracy that works for us all. During elections, we work together with voting rights groups and community advocates to coordinate volunteer efforts to assist voters across the state at early voting locations and election day polling sites.

We wanted to inform you of an issue that was brought to our attention by nonpartisan election protection volunteers. On Wednesday, August 17 and Thursday, August 18, volunteers identified City of Kissimmee Police presence at the Osceola Welcome Center, during early voting times for the Florida Primary election. *Their vehicles were parked inside the 150-foot no electioneering zone.*

While voter and poll worker safety are of utmost concern, multiple police vehicles in the designated area for voters outside a polling place may be intimidating or convey a sense of emergency that could discourage voters from participating. To avoid a reduced voter turnout due to law enforcement presence at the polls, but understanding that there are fair and legitimate reasons for law enforcement to appear in and around polling locations, we strongly recommend that officers present at polling locations for reasons other than exercising their right to vote, or responding to a situation on site are asked that they:

- don't congregate at voting locations during voting times;
- park outside of the no electioneering zone;
- don't remain on site longer than is necessary;
- and wear plain clothing if stationed at a site for security reasons.

We look forward to a safe, secure and efficient election for all Florida voters.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Negrón-Almodovar
Florida Senior Campaign Manager
All Voting is Local

Krizia Lopez Arce
Communications Manager
Chispa Florida, a program of Florida Conservation Voters

Melanie Emmanuelli
Executive Director
Alianza Center

Carolina Wassmer
Florida State Program Director
Poder Latinx

Pastor Marcus
Faith Outreach State Director
Equal Ground

Laudi Campo
Senior Florida State Director
Hispanic Federation