

June 1, 2020

Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

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Dear Governor DeSantis,

We are writing to request that you extend Executive Order 20-94 and Executive Order 20-121 for a moratorium period of an additional 60 days to prevent a cataclysmic housing problem across the state of Florida. Approximately one-third of Florida residents live in rental housing and estimates are that up to one-fourth of the state is currently unemployed.

Your current order ends June 2, when landlords may evict tenants if their rent is not paid in full. This Sunday's Tampa Bay Times headlined that evictions are happening regardless of your directive, further exacerbating the plight of those unable to pay. With high unemployment and difficulties filing for claims, too many residents risk homelessness – increasing the burden to Florida's social safety net.

Under the current order, residents can be evicted for issues other than non-payment—this has not changed. Our fear is that tenants who have been unable to pay their rent since your first Executive Order that expired May 17 may be hit with an expectation that they pay rent for May and June or face eviction. This is unreasonable. The economy has deteriorated so most tenants will be unable to make full payment of back rent.

Other states, aware of the upcoming rental cliff have incorporated means for back rent to be repaid over a period of months, with the disallowance of late fees. We urge you to consider these steps as well. It is our hope and we assume, yours as well, that this crisis will be ended soon.

Florida suffers from an affordable housing crisis already. Let us not make it worse.

With appreciation,



Patricia Brigham, President
League of Women Voters of Florida