



October 19, 2022

Sent via Email

Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
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GovernorRon.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com

Florida Department of State
500 S Bronough Street
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SecretaryofState@DOS.MyFlorida.com

RE: Hurricane Ian, Emergency Management and Elections (Executive Order 22-234)

Dear Governor DeSantis and Secretary of State Byrd,

Responding quickly to the immediate needs of all communities so that they can exercise their fundamental right to vote is a hallmark of good governance. Governor DeSantis's Executive Order in regards to Hurricane Ian, Emergency Management and Elections (Executive Order 22-234) which grants authority for three out of the 26 severely impacted counties to extend voting hours, modify requests for vote by mail, and other changes is an important first step in the government trying to meet the emergent needs of a state that has endured the devastation of another destructive hurricane. We commend you both for taking these actions.

However, additional voting modifications are desperately needed across the state due to the domino effect of displacement. Many communities have been impacted and people have fled from their homes to different areas across our state. In the past, after Hurricane Michael and other hurricanes, some of the most vulnerable communities did not receive full recovery resources and some are still lacking state and federal resources that at least match

those given to wealthier communities. This has been due, in part, to the destruction of many properties in minority communities that are estate properties without a specific title in one name so repairs, loans, and FEMA support are delayed or denied and then families and citizens cannot return to rebuild and to vote. Many minority communities cannot afford the probate process to place title to property title in a specific person. Given the unique challenges that communities of color face when it comes to addressing such weather-related devastation, Florida must be equally vigilant, if not more, in ensuring that it addresses the multiple needs of all Floridians, regardless of economic status, race, or political affiliation.

Therefore, we urgently request that Governor DeSantis extend voting accommodations to the [26 counties](#) that are under the FEMA disaster designation. We are aware that many people's homes are destroyed and they have fled their destroyed homes and will not be able to receive their vote-by-mail ballot at their old address nor will they be able to vote in their old precincts. We also request additional early voting with an additional weekend and additional hours for all counties in the state as people have been displaced throughout the state.

Finally, we request that careful consideration be given to the placement of voting centers or precincts in the most affected areas so that all citizens can benefit from the additional precincts. In particular, please ensure that minority communities and low-income communities that have had voting precincts in the past, be given new precincts in the same communities if older precincts were destroyed or are inoperable.

Sincerely,

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