



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® O F F L O R I D A

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League of Women Voters of Florida Calls on State to Protect Eligible Voters

TALLAHASSEE, FL -- Over the weekend, Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner announced the state's intentions to continue its systematic purging of voters from Florida's voter rolls, despite the proximity of the August 14th primary and November 6th general elections. Today, Deirdre Macnab, President of the League of Women Voters of Florida, issued the following statement in response to the state's actions:

Are Florida's purges within 90 days of a federal election endangering eligible voters? The League says emphatically yes. Recent headlines highlighting eligible voters who have received warning letters from the state requiring them to prove their citizenship in order to stay on the rolls show that the state's actions have put eligible citizens' democratic rights at risk.

The recent admission by Secretary Detzner that the lists most recently provided to Florida's Supervisors of Elections were based on 'obsolete' and 'outdated' information is part of a pattern in Florida that has had the impact of unlawfully disenfranchising, in some cases, thousands of eligible voters.

Now, with less than 30 days until the primary election, the League asks Secretary Detzner and Governor Scott to safeguard the voting process by taking the following steps:

- 1) Make a public commitment to conduct list maintenance transparently, accurately, and far enough in advance of an election to ensure that eligible voters are not wrongly removed without time to correct errors.
- 2) Ensure that only accurate information is used to conduct list maintenance, rather than relying on questionable data matching.
- 3) Comply with the federal Voting Rights Act to ensure non-discrimination, as well as the National Voter Registration Act to ensure accuracy and fair treatment of eligible voters.

The League has doubts about the accuracy and reliability of the federal data match that the state is planning to undertake, and we call on Florida's leaders to ensure that eligible voters are not removed erroneously from the rolls. The League believes that accurate, up-to-date voter lists are critical, and we salute the work that Florida's 67 Supervisors of Elections do every day, as they and their staff carefully and deliberately maintain a voter

database of more than 11 million Florida citizens.

Purges based on inaccurate information are unacceptable and put Florida's eligible voters, like the World War II veterans and small business owners we have all read about, at risk. Hasty and rushed efforts to purge voters have been shown this year -- and in previous elections -- to endanger the status of everyday eligible Floridians.

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The League of Women Voters of Florida, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information, please visit the League's website at: www.TheFloridaVoter.org.