September 14, 2017

The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor of Florida  
Via Fax: 850/487-0801 and Email: Rick.scott@eog.myflorida.com

The Honorable Ken Detzner, Florida Secretary of State  
Email: SecretaryofState@DOS.MyFlorida.com

The Honorable Maria Matthews, Director, Division of Elections  
Email: Maria.matthews@dos.myflorida.com

The Honorable Christina White, Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections  
Email: christina.white@miamidade.gov

The Honorable Tommy Doyle, Lee County Supervisor of Elections  
Email: elections@lee.vote

The Honorable Tammy Jones, Levy County Supervisor of Elections  
Email: tammy@votelevy.com

Subject: Appeal to Postpone September 2017 Elections Due to the Impact of Hurricane Irma

Dear Governor Scott, Secretary Detzner, Director Matthews and Supervisors of Elections:

Common Cause Florida, Florida State Voices and the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law are writing to make an urgent appeal that you take immediate action to postpone the following September 26, 2017 Florida elections and related early voting periods due to the devastating impact of Hurricane Irma on the State of Florida and its residents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Election Type</th>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/26/2017</td>
<td>Village of Virginia Gardens</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>Miami-Dade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/26/2017</td>
<td>City of Cape Coral</td>
<td>Primary Election</td>
<td>Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/26/2017</td>
<td>City of Fort Myers</td>
<td>Primary Election</td>
<td>Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/26/2017</td>
<td>Town of Bronson</td>
<td>General</td>
<td>Levy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/26/2017</td>
<td>City of Williston</td>
<td>Special Election</td>
<td>Levy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/26/2017</td>
<td>State Rep. Dist. 116</td>
<td>Special Election</td>
<td>Miami-Dade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The impact of Hurricane Irma has been significant across the State of Florida, with extensive damage and power outages. It is imperative that the elections are postponed to ensure the safety and accessibility of voting for all residents affected by the hurricane. We urge you to take the necessary steps to delay these elections until conditions improve and residents can safely participate.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

[Note: Signatures may be included in the actual document but are not visible in the provided image.]
Needless to say, Hurricane Irma affected virtually every county, city and town in Florida, from the southern-most parts of the Florida Keys to the northern-most reaches of the state, and on both the Atlanta and Gulf Coasts. Many Floridians heeded Governor Scott’s impassioned pleas for residents to evacuate and take shelter away from their homes. It was estimated that these evacuation orders impacted some 6.3 million Florida residents and visitors. See, http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/08/us/hurricane-irma-evacuation-florida/index.html.

Some people evacuated to other locations within Florida, while others fled to neighboring states and beyond seeking shelter and safety for themselves and their families. The massive evacuation likely saved many lives and prevented many serious injuries. However, many of those evacuees, especially those with limited resources and fixed incomes, will face incredible hardships when they return home in rebuilding their lives. We are particularly concerned about the effect of the storm on the ability of the more vulnerable Floridians to make it to the polls in light of these circumstances.

Although Hurricane Irma made landfall last Sunday and Florida’s dedicated emergency responders, law enforcement personnel, road and power crews have already begun the arduous task of search and recovery, relief and rebuilding efforts, it will take a significant amount of time for the people of Florida and the State to recover from the devastating impacts from this storm. Even today, more than 2.6 million customers of Florida’s utility providers are still without power. See, the Florida Disaster Outage Report Webpage: http://www.floridadisaster.org/info/outage_reports/latest.pdf

Many schools and businesses remain closed in the jurisdictions where these upcoming elections are scheduled. Public transportation in many of these areas is either unavailable entirely or available only at significant reduced schedules and routes, and many people are still having difficulty locating gasoline for their vehicles.

Given the terrible loss of life, human suffering and substantial impact on virtually every facet of the daily lives of Floridians in the aftermath of this storm, we respectfully ask you to defer these elections and related early voting periods for at least 10-20 days to give residents an opportunity to return to their homes, start the healing and rebuilding process, and try to return to a semblance of normal life. The requested delay will increase the chances that polling places will be open and, more important, that Florida’s citizens will be able to make it to the polling places so as to exercise their fundamental right to vote. With regard to the primary elections we are requesting that you postpone, we would also ask that the dates for the general elections following those primaries be adjusted to account for the postponement of the primaries.

Finally, while we are respectfully asking you to postpone elections scheduled to take place on September 26, 2017, there is a possibility that election dates occurring after September 26th may also need to be adjusted, depending upon the relief and recovery efforts in the jurisdictions holding those elections. We will continue to review and assess whether such additional relief will be necessary as the recovery and relief efforts progress.
Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

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