

What is the Florida Election Reform Coalition (FLERC)?

In late 2018, Florida just had completed a challenging election rife with recounts, lawsuits, delayed election results, and questions surrounding the successfully passed Florida Constitutional Amendment 4. Voter interest groups agreed that Florida voters would benefit from a serious review of its voting laws. These groups created a non-partisan coalition, the *Florida Election Reform Coalition* or *FLERC*, to identify mutual interests and develop strategies to address Florida election reform, fix voting systems and evaluate bills queuing up for the 2019 Florida legislative session. Member organizations include *ACLU of Florida*, *Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law*, *Common Cause of Florida*, *Florida Education Association*, *Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law*, *League of Women Voters of Florida*, *Southern Poverty Law Center* and *VerifiedVoting.org*.

To effectively address fast moving legislation during the two-month legislative session, FLERC member organizations formed a steering committee led by Co-chairs Scott McCoy (Southern Poverty Law Center) and Kristen Carlson (Florida League of Women Voters). The FLERC steering committee:

- Meets weekly to coordinate advocacy, leverage influence and member lobbying resources
- Makes day-to-day decisions on FLERC strategy and priorities by tracking “in progress” legislation and realistically assessing chances for passage
- Discusses strategies including talking points for bills, best presenters for committee hearings and how best to approach a bill sponsor about an amendment
- Keeps its members in direct contact with legislators and their staff

Patricia Brigham, President of the Florida League of Women Voters stated, “The work of the coalition has been valuable, and members have been generous with their time. When the 2019 Legislative Session is over, FLERC must not measure its effectiveness and outcomes strictly on the basis of bills passed, opposed or killed, as our work will not be over. The coalition will continue to develop and grow so that our collective effort will ultimately shift the political climate on voting rights in Florida. By maintaining the important working relationships formed this year, FLERC can emerge with a successful framework that will benefit Florida voters in the future.”