Oct. 25, 2019

Gov. Ron DeSantis  
Executive Office  
400 S Monroe St  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis:

We are only months away from 2020 when -- as required every 10 years by the U.S. Constitution -- the U.S. Census will be conducted. These vital statistics, set for the next 10 years, provide the basis for drawing Congressional, legislative and instate voting districts.

The importance of the count cannot be underestimated. Federal dollars are distributed to states based on these numbers.

Private businesses depend on accurate census figures to determine locations, employee and customer needs. Counties and municipalities depend on accurate counts to assist in planning, building, and sustainability.

Undercounting results in underfunding for social needs, roads and highways, safety, education, etc. California has allocated $100 million to ensure a complete count, and New York City has pledged $40 million.

For the first time Floridians will be asked to use digital and phone responses to census questions. Therefore, the need for public education, assistance, computer access, etc. should not be underestimated. State funding would assist counties and cities in designing methods to ensure that rural and minority populations are included.

The League of Women Voters of Florida urges you to act now and name a “complete count” state committee and appropriate the funds needed to ensure accurate calculations.

The future of Florida depends on it.

Patti Brigham (she/her)  
President  
League of Women Voters of Florida  
P.O. Box 1911, Orlando, FL 32802  
407-797-2562