July 23, 2020

Dear Governor DeSantis,

We ask you to stay the execution of evictions for many Floridian families past July 31st, 2020. The mentioned date is fast approaching and, on that date, hundreds, if not thousands, of Floridians will be evicted from their primary residences and forced into the homeless population. While CARES funding has stayed evictions for many citizens, there are still eviction notices piling up in every county just waiting for the date when the moratorium is lifted. An extension through the month of August is necessary to prevent these.

The League had hoped, just as you had, that an extension would not be needed. Our shared hope that the economy would have bounced back sufficiently so that more people would be able to go to work in order to earn the funds to pay their rent has not been met. As you are aware, situations have deteriorated over the past month with more citizens succumbing to COVID-19 and the fatalities increasing. In this climate, rather than returning to work, additional workers are being told that their establishments are shutting down once again.

With the cooperation of the public respecting social distancing and wearing masks, we are hopeful this may be the last extension needed. Once our state regains its footing vis-à-vis the virus, we can move forward to a more normal economic existence. In the meantime, it would be heartless to punish residents even as they have already faced job loss and loss of health. Extension of the eviction and foreclosure moratorium is a critical necessity at this stage of the virus.

With appreciation,

Patricia Brigham, President
League of Women Voters of Florida