

Michael Richards
Election Administration Coordinator
Project Vote, Florida Office
120 East Colonial Drive
Orlando, Florida 32801

July 13, 2009

The Honorable Charlie Crist
Office of the Governor
The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Governor Crist:

First of all, we, the below-signed organizations, are deeply saddened by the untimely passing of Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Phyllis Busansky. Supervisor Busansky was known by many for having the integrity, honor, and competency to ensure that elections in Hillsborough County were run effectively and fairly.

We understand the importance of the work Supervisor Busansky was elected to perform, and the difficult task you face in appointing Mrs. Busansky's successor. The citizens of Hillsborough County need for you to appoint a citizen who will not only serve with honor and integrity like their predecessor, but who has a demonstrated commitment to advocating for those citizens who are currently underrepresented in the electorate, such as African-Americans, Latinos, those of low-income, the elderly, persons with disabilities and our young and first time voters.

We write today, Governor Crist, to ask that you appoint someone who will work to enforce and expand access to the ballot rather than limit it. We ask that you appoint someone who will remove barriers to the ballot and ensure that all eligible Hillsborough County citizens can exercise their right to vote, and that those votes are counted. Hillsborough County needs an elections supervisor who will demand compliance with the National Voter Registration Act, the Voting Rights Act, and Help America Vote Act from his or her staff and, most importantly, from him or herself.

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We respectfully ask that, in making your appointment, you consider carefully the need to expand the electorate and protect eligible voters from disenfranchisement, and we urge you to appoint a qualified and conscientious candidate who will protect the rights of all the citizens of Hillsborough County. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of the undersigned representatives.

Respectfully,

Project Vote

by: Michael Richards, Election Administration Coordinator
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Email: mrichards@projectvote.org

American Civil Liberties Union of Florida

by: Muslima Lewis, Staff Attorney and Director, Racial Justice and Voting Rights Projects; and
Rebecca Steele, Staff Attorney and Director, West Central Regional Office
Phone: 786-363-2729 / 813-254-0925
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Florida Voters Coalition

by: Dan McCrea, President
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Progress Florida

by: Mark Ferrulo, Executive Director
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Florida Public Interest Research Group

by: Brad Ashwell, Legislative Advocate
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Florida ACORN

by: Stephanie Porta, Head Organizer
Phone: 407-423-9832
Email: sporta@acorn.org

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Florida Consumer Action Network Foundation

by: Bill Newton, Executive Director
Phone: 813-877-6712 / 813-490-0270
Email: billn@fcan.org

c: The Honorable Ken Hagan, Chairman and District 2 Commissioner,
Hillsborough County BCC
The Honorable Mark Sharpe, Vice-Chair and District 7 Commissioner,
Hillsborough County BCC
The Honorable Al Higginbotham, Chaplain and District 4 Commissioner,
Hillsborough County BCC
The Honorable Rose V. Ferlita, District 1 Commissioner, Hillsborough County
BCC
The Honorable Kevin White, District 3 Commissioner, Hillsborough County BCC
The Honorable Jim Norman, District 5 Commissioner, Hillsborough County BCC
The Honorable Kevin Beckner, District 6 Commissioner, Hillsborough County
BCC