

SB 956 - LIST OF CONCERNS

The below-signed organizations urge Florida legislators to delete or modify SB 956's amendments described below, for the following reasons:

- 1) Amendments to Section 102.031
 - a) Taking action to expand the "no-solicitation zone," and further restrict activities allowed within this area, is overly broad, and would create a constantly shifting zone that would be impossible to enforce.
 - b) Restricting voters in their ability to receive important nonpartisan information about voting at the polling place is also a poor policy decision.

- 2) Amendments to sections 97.0535, 101.043, and 101.6923
 - a) These limitations on acceptable IDs, without proposing acceptable alternatives, will prevent eligible citizens from registering to vote, and properly registered voters from exercising their right to vote.
 - b) We urge you to work with interested parties to develop a more expansive list of acceptable forms of identification.

- 3) Amendments to 98.065
 - a) Increasing the frequency of list maintenance programs will cause more validly registered voters to be removed from the voter rolls.
 - b) Requiring monthly list maintenance in even years may be an impossible burden on Supervisors of Elections.
 - c) We are glad to hear that the Committee intends to reinstate the requirement that list maintenance activities be completed no later than 90 days before a federal election, since this 90-day window is mandated by federal law.

Advancement Project
American Civil Liberties Union of Florida
Common Cause Florida
Florida 501C3 Civic Engagement Table -- A State Voices Network Project
The Florida Public Interest Research Group
Florida State Conference NAACP
League of Women Voters of Florida
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (Florida Black Youth Vote)
Project Vote

(please see other side)

EARLY VOTING

In order to avoid in future elections the extensive voter lines, negative press coverage, and last minute voting rule changes that occurred in 2008, we urge Florida legislators to amend the early voting law to expand access to and smooth the process of early voting. We believe that the three most important amendments to the early voting law are:

- (1) Expanding the type of facilities that may be used as early voting sites, to afford Supervisors of Elections discretion to use *any* facility that meets the other requirements of voting;
- (2) Directing the Division of Elections to establish by rule (with public comment) a formula for determining an appropriate number of early voting sites in each county; and
- (3) Expanding early voting hours during weekdays and on weekends.

REFORM THE “NO MATCH, NO VOTE” LAW

Florida’s “no-match, no vote” law, § 97.053(6), Fla. Stat.,¹ is one of the most restrictive voter registration requirements in the country. The law prohibits the registration of voter applicants whose identification number cannot be matched with a record in the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles database or the Social Security database. *Id.*

- (1) This law extends beyond what is required by federal law, and, during 2006 and 2007 had the effect of preventing 16,000 voter applicants from being added to the rolls.
- (2) The law has discriminatory impact: while Latino applicants were 15% of the applicant pool, they were 39% of those blocked by the law; though African-American applicants were 13% of the applicant pool, they were 26% of those blocked by the law.
- (3) We urge you to amend the law to allow unmatched voter applicants who present themselves on or before Election Day, or during early voting, with ID that satisfies Florida’s identification law (§ 101.043, Fla. Stat.), to vote by regular ballot.
- (4) During the 2008 general election, many supervisors of elections locally adopted the procedures described in (3), and found them effective.
- (5) We urge you to codify these nondiscriminatory practices, and also to provide for a broader range of identification with which unmatched voters could correct their matching deficiency.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Boockvar, Advancement Project, by phone at (610) 804-2913, or by electronic mail: kboockvar@advancementproject.org

¹ This law is currently being challenged in federal court. *Fla. State Conf. of the NAACP v. Browning*, Case No. 4:07-cv-402-SPM-WCS (N.D. Fla. 2007). Advancement Project and other counsel represent plaintiffs in the lawsuit, the Florida State Conference of the NAACP, the Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition, and the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project.