



## BREVARD **REPUBLICAN** EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **2023 Brevard County Legislative Delegation Meeting**

**Representative Thad Altman, Chair**

Representative Robert Brackett

Representative Randy Fine

Representative Tyler Sirios

Representative Chase Tramont

**Senator Tom Wright, Vice Chair**

Senator Debbie Mayfield

### **Stand-alone 100% Election Ballot Count Audit System for all 67 Counties**

**similar to**

### **Brevard County's 100% Election Ballot Count Audit**

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Good evening, I'm Julie Heim, presenting for Richard Nink, the newly appointed Chair for the BREC Election Integrity Committee, who had to depart early for a medical emergency with his mother.

Thank you for providing your Brevard County Constituents time to address you in a public forum. I'll be speaking to one of the items that the Brevard Republican Executive Committee (BREC) Election Integrity Committee (EIC) would like for you to consider improving and incorporating via an amendment during this year's legislative session. I'll be addressing the need for a "Stand-alone 100% Election Ballot Count Audit System for all 67 Counties" similar to Brevard County's 100% Election Ballot Count Audit.

There is ongoing public distrust in election ballot count results across the country. Florida has an opportunity to be upheld as the gold standard for the entire country. Current Florida Statutes require a manual or automated ballot count audit. For the automated independent election ballot count audit, 20% or more randomly selected precincts are required. This is a good thing. In Brevard County, the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) audits 100% of the Races & Precincts ballots using the Clear Ballot certified audit system. This 100% ballot recount audit significantly helps give the electorate confidence that the elections in Brevard are fair, accurate, and secure. On behalf of the BREC EIC, we request the Florida Legislature to consider amending existing Florida State Statutes for 100% Races and Precincts election ballot count audit in all 67 Florida

Counties modeled after a similar approach as successfully executed in Brevard County for the 2022 Primary and General Elections.

- Ensures that all 67 counties are done uniformly



## BREVARD REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Ready for 2024 election cycle
- This audit process has strong BREC EIC support
- Clear Ballot vendor not affiliated with the early, VBM, or polling eqpt
- Clear Ballot audit system already approved by the State Legislature
- Public can attend, ask questions, and see the ballot count audit results
  - See Brevard County Voting System Post-Election Audit Report
- Per Brevard SOE: easier to manage 100% vice 20% random precincts
- Voting system Audit procedures are captured in FS 101.591 and DOS DOE Rule 1S-5.026 FL admin code
- Over 30 Florida Counties currently use Clear Ballot machines
- Implementation cost savings with approved Clear Ballot machines

We request a follow-up meeting so that we can discuss this important Election Integrity issue in more detail at a future date.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Richard can be reached at:

*Richard Nink*

*Chair, Election Integrity Committee (EIC)*

*Committeeman Precinct 511*

*Brevard Republican Executive Committee (BREC)*

*Email: [RNink@hotmail.com](mailto:RNink@hotmail.com)*

### **Return VBM Ballot to Polling Place**

Thank you for your time tonight.

During the midterm elections back in November I worked as a poll watcher where I and other poll watchers noticed many times voters returning their vote-by-mail ballots inside their envelopes to the polls because they decided instead to vote in person – which of course is their right.

When this situation occurs, the Florida Statutes say the ballot shall be marked "canceled" and placed with other canceled ballots. However, what is happening at the polling places, is the envelopes are marked "canceled" rather than the ballots inside the envelopes. Which is what the Polling Place Procedure Manual instructs the worker to do in this situation. It's a big problem because the live ballots inside the envelopes have not been cancelled as the statute requires, which opens the possibility to erroneously count the ballots that should have been cancelled.



## BREVARD REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Therefore, I'm asking that the Polling Place Procedure Manual be updated to ensure this situation does not continue in future elections. A process must be enacted where the actual ballot is to be spoiled.

A couple of suggestions that would remedy the situation are perhaps to cut a corner off or punch a hole through the ballot/envelope combination, or maybe have a paper shredder available on the voter's side of the check-in counter and if the voter wishes... they can shred the ballot/envelope combination on the spot.

This issue has an easy resolution. No change to the statutes is necessary, just an update to the procedure manual the poll workers follow will resolve this issue.

### References:

Polling Place Procedure Manual from the Florida Division of Elections DS-DE 11 Eff. 04/2020 (R1S-2.034, F.A.C) Chapter V - Voting Process, Section D - Voter who requested Vote-by-Mail Ballot goes to vote at polls...indicates "If the vote-by-mail ballot is returned, first mark the returned vote-by-mail ballot "Canceled" on the certificate side of the ballot envelope and secure the ballot for return to the supervisor of elections after the polls close".

FL Statute 101.69 Voting in person; return of vote-by-mail ballot.

"An elector who has received a vote-by-mail ballot and has not returned the voted ballot to the supervisor, but desires to vote in person, shall return the ballot, whether voted or not, to the election board in the elector's precinct or to an early voting site. The returned ballot shall be marked "canceled" by the board and placed with other canceled ballots".

*Wayne Twiddy*

*Committeeman Precinct 305*

*Brevard Republican Executive Committee (BREC)*

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## Early Voting Should Be Reduced

Distinguished Panel,

For starters, early voting was promoted as a way to increase voter turnout. It started with Texas 30 years ago and now exists in 37 states and DC. Studies from American University and Professors from the U of Wisconsin and others show that states with early voting have lower turnouts than states without it. In fact, studies show it lowers turnout by 3-4 percent.



## BREVARD REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In addition, our own Florida Senate Committee on Ethics & Elections published in The Florida Senate in October of 2010 an updated study on early voting and voter turnout. Their conclusion on page 6 after much data review was that early voting has NOT had an impact on voter turnout in Florida.

Right now early voting in Florida counties are determined by the Supervisors of Election within a timeframe of 8-13 days by law. Brevard County chose a 13 day time frame for early voting in the general election. A pie chart in your handout shows that 39% vote on Election Day, 34% vote by mail, and 27% vote early. Of those who vote early 62% of those vote in the week before Election Day.

So much early voting has got to be costly to operate and certainly is tiresome for the poll workers and watchers. I would like to suggest that maybe the legislature could firstly make early voting consistent throughout the state by setting the time to no more than one week. I am sure this would save a lot of money and a lot of time for our volunteers.

Diana Schommer  
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Election Integrity Committee (EIC) Member  
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### **Uniform Procedures for Signature Matching of VBM Ballots**

Good evening and thank you for your service and taking time to engage with your constituents. We appreciate all you do for us.

My name is Dan Heim and I have been a Brevard County resident for nearly 6 years. I am a committee member of the Brevard Republican Executive Committee and serve on the Election Integrity Committee. Our team supports making it easy to vote but we also insist upon integrity, transparency, and trust in our elections.

I think we can agree that vote-by-mail has been the source of significant controversy. Tonight, I'm asking for two things that you can do to improve the vote-by-mail process.

First, with early voting and voting at the polls, an elector must provide a photo id and their signature. There is no photo id requirement when submitting a VBM ballot. This makes signature match the only method by which to verify that a vote is legitimate – and the reason these votes require additional scrutiny.



## BREVARD REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In the Florida 2022 Elections we had 67 different rules and procedures for signature matching. This resulted in confusion, frustration, suspicion and even animosity in some of our counties. The state needs uniformity to achieve the kind of results we experienced here in Brevard County where our team reviewed 58% of all vote-by-mail signatures. Our team was designated by local candidates to do signature matching for them. We used the same training that the Supervisors of Elections use for their staff.

The Supervisor set up workstations for us to compare the scanned VBM signature to signatures on file. We noted any discrepancies and the Supervisor's staff would either agree and send notice to voter to cure their signature; or if they disagreed the certificate was sent to the canvassing board for another set of eyes. I'm asking that you consider amending SB 524 to follow Brevard's lead. Details are in the handout provided.

Secondly, on February 1st the Department of State is required to submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House draft legislation for statutory changes needed to implement a plan for providing an ID when voting by mail. Do you know that all 47 European countries plus Canada and Mexico require a "hard id" to cast any vote? Unfortunately, for vote-by-mail, we here in Florida do not! I'm asking that you take time to review the draft legislation and require voting by mail be consistent with existing Florida Statute 101.043; that is, an elector must present a current and valid picture id with their signature when casting their vote by mail ballot.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dan Heim

Election Integrity Committee (EIC) Member  
Committeeman Precinct 515  
Brevard Republican executive Committee (BREC)  
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### **Vote By Mail and Voter Roll Maintenance**

BREVARD COUNTY LEGISLATIVE MEETING - January 11,2023

I'm Judy Trandel and I live in Palm Bay. I want to start by saying thank you for your rapid response in creating and passing SB90 and 524. These two Bills have come a long way in improving Florida's voting system and process.

Like everything else we do in life, there's always room for improvement. I'd like to touch on just two 2 issues. It's apparent from all the investigations, audits, research and reporting, Vote By Mail and Voter Roll Maintenance are top contenders for opportunities for voter fraud.



## BREVARD REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

With passing of SB90 & 524, Vote By Mail ballots must be requested each year now. I suggest those ballots be printed on Watermark or Counterfeit proof paper along with tabulators that reject fraudulent ballots. Another issue is when the voter decides to vote in person rather than by mail, instead of turning that live ballot over to the poll worker to be stored in a box, provide shredders on the VOTER SIDE of the check-in table and have the VOTER shred that ballot so there is no question about what can happen to it later. Another benefit is not having to account for and store all those ballots saving time, space and money.

The second issue is Voter Roll Maintenance. I'd like to suggest when a property is sold and title transferred, and when a Death Certificate is recorded, the Clerks of Courts include the Supervisors of Elections Offices at the same time the Property Appraisers and Tax Collectors receive notice. This will flag that a change of address and deceased voter inquiry is in order for that voter and/or that address

It's my understanding of Florida Statute 98.075 paragraph 6, "Other basis for Ineligibility" if the Supervisor receives information from non-governmental organizations named in subsections 2 thru 5 (such as a volunteer task force or organization), the Supervisor MUST adhere to the same procedures of mailing inquiries as set forth for governmental sources. This means to me that copies of Obituaries or In Memoriam would be acceptable to initiate an inquiry. In my precinct (314) alone, I found 6 deceased persons in "over 100 age" still on the voter rolls as ACTIVE VOTERS. Their dates of death ranged 6 to 12 years ago. This information could save valuable time and money for SOE staff in research.

Hundreds of Volunteers in Florida and across the Country have formed to research and assist the Supervisors. We're here to help, not blame. Please continue to provide us an avenue to do so.

In closing, I want to thank you again for all the hard decisions you have made and must continue to make to protect the people of Florida.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Trandel

Election Integrity Committee (EIC) Member

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## BREVARD REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **Voter registration and legal residence**

Hello. My name is Peter Anselmo and I am a member of BREC and the Election Integrity Committee.

Where possible we are trying to bring clarity and transparency to the election process. The right to vote for American citizens is the hallmark of our Representative Republic. Transparent and honest elections were, for the most part, taken for granted until the Presidential election of 2020. Following the installation of the Biden regime the membership in BREC exploded going from perhaps 80 – 100 people to over 300 currently. There was no Election Integrity Committee. The ‘grassroots’ in Brevard County and throughout the country are angry and we have gotten active. We are your constituents, ‘the voters’, the door knockers, the people manning the phone banks and the flag wavers and we want action from our elected officials.

Significant laws were passed (SB 90- 2021 and SB 524 - 2022) improving many areas in our election law such that Florida finds itself among the states with the best election process. We laud our representatives for their outstanding work in this area. Tonight, BREC EIC hopes to suggest some other areas for possible improvement.

We would like to bring your attention to Florida Statute ( FS 97.053 5(a) 2 ) regarding voter registration and legal residence.

Paragraph (2) states: “The applicant’s address of legal residence, including a distinguishing apartment, suite, lot, room, or dormitory room number or other identifier, if appropriate.”

Clear enough, but this sentence is immediately followed by the following sentence:

“Failure to include a distinguishing apartment, suite, lot, room, or dormitory room number or other identifier on a voter registration application DOES NOT IMPACT (my emphasis) a voters eligibility to register to vote or cast a ballot and such an omission may not serve as the basis for a challenge to a voter’s eligibility or reason not to count a ballot.”

Florida law should require all voters to provide an address of legal residence. This address must meet the delivery standards of the postal service and be a residence not a post office box at



## BREVARD **REPUBLICAN** EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mailman Joe's store. Failure to provide distinguishing numbers or other inadequacies leads to failed deliveries and Vote by Mail (VBM) ballots falling into the hands of harvesters. The registration process precedes adding a name to the voter rolls. Strict adherence to established standards at this juncture is critical to preventing the corruption of the voter rolls. We need to tighten standards and not be afraid to turn people away until they provide the necessary documentation! Our vote is being diluted and frittered away by lax administrative policies.

Peter Anselmo

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Committeeman Precinct 427

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