

PUBLIC INTEREST

— LEGAL FOUNDATION —



**HOW MANY POTENTIAL ELECTION  
CRIMES LANGUISH IN FLORIDA  
PROSECUTORS' OFFICES?**

**NOVEMBER 2021**

MOST COMMON POTENTIAL ELECTION CRIME REFERRED

VIOLATION	CLASS	PRISON	FINE
DOUBLE VOTING MAIL/IN PERSON	FELONY	UP TO 5 YEARS	\$5,000
DOUBLE VOTING GENERALLY	FELONY	UP TO 5 YEARS	\$5,000
ASSUMING ANOTHER VOTER'S NAME	FELONY	UP TO 5 YEARS	\$5,000
INELIGIBLE VOTER (NON-CITIZEN)	FELONY	UP TO 5 YEARS	\$5,000
FALSE SWEARING IN VOTER REGISTRATION	FELONY	UP TO 5 YEARS	\$5,000
PETITION: MULTIPLE OR FAKE NAMES	MISDEMEANOR	UP TO 1 YEAR	\$1,000
PETITION: SIGNATURE QUOTAS FOR PAY	MISDEMEANOR	UP TO 1 YEAR	\$1,000
PETITION: UNREGISTERED CIRCULATOR	MISDEMEANOR	UP TO 60 DAYS	\$500

REFERRALS TO PROSECUTORS BY COUNTY

HILLSBOROUGH	???	BROWARD	78
MIAMI-DADE	42	PALM BEACH	12
ORANGE	11	PINELLAS	5
DUVAL	3	POLK	3
ALACHUA	1	ST. LUCIE	1

HIGHLIGHTS

- A petition circulator for Floridians for a Fair Democracy (supporting felon voting rights) was referred to Pinellas County prosecutors for allegedly impersonating a voter while trying to change their address.
- The Florida Rights Restoration Coalition was referred to law enforcement in one county for potential criminal voter registration activity.
- Keep Our Constitution Clean petition circulators were flagged for potential election law violations in Broward and Pinellas Counties.
- According to their legal counsel, it is policy in Hillsborough County to not submit potential election law violations to prosecutors.
- Miami-area public corruption detectives requested voter registration records belonging to the former acting mayor of Miami in 2019.
- Miami-area public corruption detectives requested voter registration records belonging to a sitting city councilman from Palmetto Bay.
- Some counties are detecting interstate double voting, and then nothing happens.

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# Can You Get Away with Voter Fraud in Florida?

The short answer: it depends on who catches you. The Sunshine State has a straightforward set of rules for its elections. Florida empowers county officials to investigate when they believe the rules are broken. Their findings are then transferred to law enforcement. *Safe Harbor* details where the system appears to stop.

In 2021, the Public Interest Legal Foundation (PILF) asked large Florida counties for information regarding referrals to prosecutors before and around the 2020 Election. PILF received documents detailing 156 referrals from nine county supervisors of elections (SOE) about potential criminal election law violations. A tenth county, Hillsborough, informed PILF of its policy to not alert prosecutors to potential violations.

The counties showing the most referrals to law enforcement are Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach. The most common types of potential or alleged crimes discovered by officials were noncitizen registration and/or voting, double voting, and vote-by-mail violations.

**Why does this research matter?** Critics of the election integrity movement argue that not enough voter fraud and related crimes occur to justify modern protections like voter ID at the polling place or with absentee ballots. But such critics do not acknowledge that election officials are regularly making discoveries they feel are worth their local prosecutors' attention. PILF followed these referrals through Florida criminal databases and court records where available and found little follow-through from prosecuting authorities. It is unknown why law enforcement did not pursue these matters. Justice does not prevail when prosecutors never receive referrals, or receive them and allow them to gather dust. And there is no deterrence in a system where potential election criminals know there is no chance of being prosecuted, even after getting caught.

**Can Florida election officials do more?** By nearly all accounts, county officials are doing the work to detect and refer potential election crimes in real time. As this report explains, these discoveries took serious sleuthing and due diligence to develop the facts for prosecutors. Florida lawmakers should examine how they can help supplement the good work already being done – especially since the majority of referrals related to *felony* matters.

*All persons are considered innocent until proven guilty. Any potential violations of the law are only alleged unless and until a court finds otherwise.*

**Does George Soros' financing of prosecutor races play a role?** It's no secret that left-wing financier George Soros has put his money behind various prosecutor candidates in recent years who are willing to enforce laws in a way that align to his politics. Soros certainly supports groups critical of the election integrity movement. But, his track record of supporting winning candidates in Florida State Attorney (SAO) races is mixed. Of the counties studied here, only Hillsborough and Orange have Soros-backed SAOs. His picks in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties lost their contests.

In order to have safe, fair elections, election crimes have to be prosecuted. But prosecution is a two-step process: election officials report the crimes, and the Florida State Attorney prosecutes. Sporadic (and in some counties, nonexistent) reporting and prosecution does not fair well for election integrity. But a word of warning for any who wish to commit voter fraud: officials have many tools to catch you, and their investigative conclusions are public record under the Florida Sunshine Law.



**“The supervisor of elections is authorized to investigate fraudulent registrations and illegal voting and to report his or her findings to the local state attorney and the Florida Elections Commission. The board of county commissioners in any county may appropriate funds to the supervisor of elections for the purpose of investigating fraudulent registrations and illegal voting.” – *Florida Statutes Title IX Ch. 104.42***



# Hillsborough County

Hillsborough County is the only surveyed jurisdiction to deny access to records because they refuse to maintain a system where such records could be generated.<sup>i</sup> This means election criminals in one of the largest cities of Florida have little to fear.

*"Please be advised that the Supervisor's Office has no responsive records as we do not refer cases to the State's Attorney's office."*

– Mary Helen Farris  
Deputy County Attorney/General Counsel

This response requires more unpacking. While it is normal for a government entity to not have documents responsive to an open record request simply due to non-existence, it is a separate matter altogether to hold a policy which ensures no scenario could occur to allow the documents to be generated.

Hillsborough County demonstrates a perfect microcosm for how the left maintains their narrative that voter fraud is “nonexistent” or a “phantom” problem.

Hillsborough Supervisor of Elections Craig Latimer has held the elected job since 2013 and works to maintain a public persona of being low-drama in a region of the state that makes Florida a perennial political battleground. He is the immediate past president of the Florida Supervisors of Elections association and acts as a spokesman about election matters to regional and national news organizations.<sup>ii</sup> Before his time in the

## QUICK TAKES

- Total Referrals to Prosecutors: N/A
- State's Attorney: Andrew Warren
- Soros Involvement: Warren was backed by Soros dollars<sup>vii</sup>
- SOE: Craig Latimer
- Registered Voters: 908K

elections office, Latimer served more than three decades in the Hillsborough County Sherriff's Department, retiring at the rank of major.

Supervisor Latimer does not have potential election crimes in his county, he repeatedly says. Days before the 2016 General Election when the Obama Administration was warning states about foreign cyber intrusions into voting systems,<sup>iii</sup> Latimer reassured that “people do not need to be concerned.”<sup>iv</sup> In a 2017 YouTube video<sup>v</sup> published by his office, Latimer assured, “we know that there's not really a connection between voter rolls and voter fraud.” During the same clip, he adds “We know that we have people that are registered in multiple states – they're not voting in multiple states.”

Days after the 2020 Election, Latimer bluffed, “all allegations of criminal misconduct warrant attention, (but) we have not been presented with any evidence of widespread fraud.”<sup>vi</sup>

Latimer's absolutist language is insured by his policy to not refer potential election law violations to prosecutors. Even if his office catches you voting twice, lying on an application, or seeking to manipulate a neighbor's voter registration record (like reportedly seen elsewhere in Florida), you will likely find safe harbor in Hillsborough County.



Andrew Warren  
State Attorney for Hillsborough County



Craig Latimer  
S.O.E. for Hillsborough County

# Hillsborough County

## Your Request - Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections

Farris, Mary Helen <[REDACTED]>

Fri 5/21/2021 3:54 PM

To Logan Churchwell <[REDACTED]>;

Cc Britney Bridgman <[REDACTED]>;

Please be advised that the Supervisor's Office has no responsive records as we do not refer cases to the State Attorney's office.

**Mary Helen Farris**  
Deputy County Attorney/General Counsel  
Florida Bar Board Certified  
City, County and Local Government Law  
Hillsborough County Attorney's Office



Tampa, Florida



## QUICK TAKES

- TOTAL REFERRALS TO PROSECUTORS: 78
- VOTED TWICE: 23
- VBM SIGNATURE MISMATCH 2020G: 20
- NON-CITIZEN: 30
- FELON: 4
- PETITION VIOLATION: 1
- STATE'S ATTORNEY: HAROLD F. PRYOR
- SOROS INVOLVEMENT: PRYOR DEFEATED SOROS-BACKED JOE KIMOK<sup>xix</sup>
- SOE: JOE SCOTT
- REGISTERED VOTERS: 1.2M

The Broward County Supervisor of Elections was the first office in the Florida survey to disclose documents summarizing referrals to local prosecutors. The single document<sup>viii</sup> dated on or after January 25, 2021, lists the full voter names, reasons for their referrals, and dates of letters to law enforcement numbering 78 in total.

According to county records, the earliest referral occurred on April 3, 2019. The documents show that law enforcement personnel were alerted to 20 individuals who reportedly “voted twice” in an undisclosed election. One additional person was listed as a “non-citizen” voter. On June 20, 2019, five individuals were referred to prosecutors as non-citizens. On July 17, 2019, a person identified in county records as a “felon” was handed over to prosecutors. The record does not state whether a vote or a stand-alone registration record triggered the matter. On August 6, August 14, September 6, September 17, October 10, and October 16, a total of six more alleged non-citizens were referred to prosecutors. On November 8, 2019, Broward County broke its pattern of referring individual registrants and raised concerns about Keep Our Constitution Clean, Inc. over an alleged “petition collectors’ violation.” From November 8 to March 2, 2020, five more non-citizens were found. Days before the election on November 4, 2020, three cases of alleged felon voting violations were referred.

In the immediate aftermath of the 2020 Election, county officials raised alarm over 20 individuals “regarding [vote by mail] signature mismatch.” The paper trail ends in Broward County on January 25, 2021, with three individuals who allegedly “voted twice in the 2020 General Election.”

The Broward County summary document provides the broadest array of potential Florida election law violations involving individuals, as opposed to political entities or government employees. The largest subset—non-citizen referrals—can implicate one or two violations of Florida election law (as well as federal criminal laws), depending on whether and to what degree said individuals voted. On one hand, it is a third-degree felony to willfully swear false information on a voter registration application, such as when a foreign national indicates they are a U.S. citizen and are therefore eligible to vote.<sup>ix</sup> The list of potential crimes grows long for the non-citizen when voting history in past elections is examined. It is a separate third-degree felony<sup>x</sup> for anyone who “knowing he or she is not a qualified elector, willfully votes at any election.” Each violation risks a maximum five years in prison and a fine limited to \$5,000.

“Voted twice” is the second category of election activity reflected in Broward’s official records. There is more than one way to vote twice and the disclosed documents do not elaborate on which methods are implicated. Florida statutes outline two distinct violations which can apply here. It is a separate election crime for a person to submit an absentee mail ballot and subsequently vote in person during a single election.<sup>xi</sup> In such a scenario, a voter faces a third-degree felony and five years in prison or \$5,000 fine. The law also lays out a more generalized third-degree felony for a person voting twice by any other means.<sup>xii</sup> Perhaps one of the most straightforward examples would be a person holding duplicate registrations and casting two ballots, one for each registration record. PILF

has previously detailed how easily someone can obtain multiple active voter registrations in Florida when they use variations in name spelling on subsequent registration forms.<sup>xiii</sup> If John Public (date of birth: July 4, 1976) at 123 Main Street shows up to an early voting site, that will not necessarily preclude John Q. Public (date of birth: July 4, 1976) at 123 Main Street from voting on Election Day. After all, the inclusion of a middle initial has shown to trick Florida’s statewide voter registration database into issuing a second voter ID card which is unique from the first.

The third large category of referrals was officially described as “VBM Signature Mismatch – 2020 General Election.” Although the description does not help to discern which specific potential statute is implicated, it is reasonable to assume the third-degree felony of “assuming [another voter’s] name” would be implicated in this circumstance. “A person may not, in connection with any part of the election process, fraudulently call himself or herself, or fraudulently pass by, any other name than the name by which the person is registered or fraudulently use the name of another in voting,” according to Florida Code.<sup>xiv</sup>

Broward County itemized four instances where purported “felons” were handed over to prosecutors for review. On July 17, 2019, and November 4, 2020, a total of four potential crimes were submitted to county prosecutors for further investigation. Those dates are pertinent because “[a] person may not be charged or convicted ... for affirming that he or she has not been convicted of a felony or that, if convicted, he or she has had voting rights restored, if such violation is alleged to have occurred on or after January 8, 2019, but before July 1, 2019.”<sup>xv</sup>

Finally, Broward County disclosed a complaint involving the group Keep Our Constitution Clean, Inc. for a “petition collectors’ violation.” The description does not help to pinpoint which statute could apply. There are, however, at least three possibilities. First, it is a first-degree misdemeanor to knowingly sign a registered petition more than once or with a fictitious name.<sup>xvi</sup> It is also unlawful to compensate a petition circulator “based on the number of petition forms gathered” unless there is an employment relationship in play.<sup>xvii</sup> Last, any person or entity caught operating in a circulator capacity who is not duly registered with the Florida Secretary of State can face a second-degree misdemeanor.<sup>xviii</sup>



**Harold Pryor**  
State Attorney for Broward County



**Joe Scott**  
S.O.E. for Broward County

# Broward County

## Cases Submitted

ATTACHMENT C		
<div><div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div><b>BROWARD</b></div></div><div><div><span></span></div><div><b>JOE SCOTT</b></div></div><div><div><span></span></div><div><b>SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS</b></div></div></div></div><div>Joe Scott, Supervisor of Elections 115 S. Andrews Ave. Rm. 102 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 (954) 357-7050 • <a href="http://www.browardsoe.org">www.browardsoe.org</a></div></div>		
CASES SUBMITTED TO STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE		
Name	Letter Dated	Reason
	1/25/2021	Voters Voted Twice in the 2020 General Election
	11/17/2020	VBM Signature Mismatch - 2020 General Election
	11-4-2020	Felons
	3-02-2020	Non-citizen
	1-23-2020	Non-citizen
	12/10/19	Non-citizen
	11/21/19	Non-citizen
	11/08/19	Non-citizen



Fort Lauderdale, Florida

# Broward County

## Cases Submitted

	11/08/19	Re: petition collectors' violation
	10/16/19	Non-citizen
	10/10/19	Non-citizen
	9/17/19	Non-citizen
	9/06/19	Non-citizen
	8/14/19	Non-citizen
	8/06/19	Non-citizen
	7/17/19	Felon
	6/20/19	Non-citizen Non-citizen
	6/20/19	Non-citizen Non-citizen Non-citizen
	4/03/19	Voted Twice
	4/03/19	Non-citizen



# Miami-Dade County

## QUICK TAKES

- Total Referrals to Prosecutors: 42
- State’s Attorney: Katherine Fernández Rundle
- Soros Involvement: Fernández Rundle defeated Soros-backed Melba Pearson<sup>xxviii</sup>
- SOE: Christina White
- Registered Voters: 1.5M<sup>xxx</sup>

Miami-Dade also had dozens of potential election crimes. Rather than listing voter names and types of alleged election law violations, Miami-Dade typically listed the documents given to prosecutors for each referral.<sup>xx</sup> This obscured the specific Florida law and alleged violation at issue. For example, one incident file dated February 12, 2019, reportedly contained “Vote History, Registration, [vote-by-mail] request, [mail ballot materials], [early voting], [Election Day]” records.

Based on the described document types given to prosecutors, the cases referred to prosecutors may involve potential violations for double voting, candidate financial disclosure issues, vote-by-mail-related problems, polling place complaints, and third-party voter registration illegalities. Two referrals made in April and May of 2021 are less mysterious. One references a “double voter investigation” in cooperation with the North Carolina State Board of Elections. Another describes a person “voting twice from Division of Elections.”

The potential criminal referrals occurred throughout the 2020 Election cycle with 20 in 2019, 19 in 2020, and 3 in 2021.

Miami-Dade County is the only county among the surveyed jurisdictions to volunteer additional records about its cooperation with local police agencies in their own investigations into potential election crimes. These points of contact and cooperation occurred between May 2019 and May 2021, according to the public records.<sup>xxi</sup>

According to county records, on May 17, 2019, two detectives from the Miami-Dade Police Department (“MDPD” is used in the records to identify them) contacted the supervisor of elections office to obtain a variety of vote-by-mail records concerning the May 28 City of Sweetwater mayoral runoff. The MDPD requested a list of all voters who were designated to receive an absentee ballot and when such mailings would occur. The records do not reveal the particular number of registrants about which detectives may have been concerned. Incumbent Mayor Orlando Lopez “handily won,” earning 1,345 of the 2,499 total votes cast.<sup>xxii</sup>

On June 3, 2019, two detectives from a City of Miami Beach special crimes task force contacted election officials to obtain

the voter history records for “five voters,” according to the disclosure. Unlike the aforementioned Sweetwater mayoral contest, Miami Beach’s race would not occur until September of that year, when incumbent Mayor Dan Gelber would run unopposed.<sup>xxiii</sup> It is unclear from the disclosed records which election contests were under police scrutiny.

On July 30, 2019, at least one detective with the Miami Public Corruption Task Force contacted the elections office for voter registration documents, financial disclosures, and outside employment records dated between 2015 and 2019 for Wilfredo Gort. Gort held elected office on the City of Miami Commission from 1993 to 2001. He also served as acting mayor in 1996 after Stephen P. Clark died. He returned to the Commission from 2010 to January 2020. Almost immediately after leaving the city council, he was appointed to lead the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust.<sup>xxiv</sup> No publicly available records show any further inquiries or actions taken as a result of the June 30 request.

On December 3, 2020, the same detectives who made the Gort request sought “voter registration” records from election officials for Stephen Michael Cody. One month before that request, Cody was elected to serve in the Village District 2 seat for Palmetto Bay in the southern Miami metro.<sup>xxv</sup> Council Member Cody’s official bio credits himself as the “Godfather” of Palmetto Bay because his Voting Rights Act case “changed the method of electing members of the Miami-Dade County Commission and the Miami-Dade County School Board,” eventually “lead[ing] to the creation of Palmetto Bay.”<sup>xxvi</sup> Prior to public office, according to public records, Cody was suspended for one year by the Florida Bar pertaining to a dispute with a client.<sup>xxvii</sup> No publicly available records show any further inquiries or actions taken as a result of the December 3 request.

On April 16, 2021, Miami detectives sought information about absentee ballots mailed to an apartment complex in Sweetwater. A month later on May 11, 2020, the MDPD detectives served a search warrant for “official vote by mail balloting material” for 11 voters. The disclosed records do not offer further details for either case.

DATE	Requestor	NOTES
5/17/2019	on behalf of Detective	Requesting a list of voters that are getting absentee ballots for the Sweetwater Mayoral Election runoff 6/2019 Request for Who is on the Sweetwater Runoff Ballot Request for when VBM will be mailed out for the Sweetwater Runoff
6/3/2019	DET City of Miami Beach PD MDSAOPC Task Force	Requesting Voter History for 5 voters
7/30/2019	Detective MDPD Public Corruption Unit PCB	a copy of voter registration documents submitted by Wilfredo Gort for 2015-2019 Financial Disclosure documents for 2015-2019. Outside Employment disclosure documents 2015-2019
12/3/2020	Detective MDPD Public Corruption Unit PCB Detective Delgado	Voter Registration- Stephen Michael Cody
4/16/2021	Detective mdpd	VBM Ballots mailed in Sweetwater (for a specific address Los Robles Apartments)
5/11/2021	Detective Badge	Search Warrant Issued for Official Vote By Mail Balloting Material First Class Mail" 11 voters/vbm

Date	Entity	Notes and Requestors
2/12/2019	SAO	Vote History, Registration, VBM request, VBM, EV, ED ) 19-02-012
2/14/2019	SAO	Vote History, Registration, VBM request, VBM, EV, ED ) 19-02-014
3/3/2019	SAO	Vote History, Registration, VBM request VBM, EV, ED ) 19-03-003
6/3/2019	SAO	Vote History, Voter Application, Signature Card, Change of Address ) 19-06-002
6/4/2019	SAO	Vote History and Registration Records
7/12/2019	SAO	Vote History and Registration Records
7/30/2019	SAO	Vote History and Registration Records Financial Disclosure Outside Employment
8/26/2019	SAO	Signature Card, Voter Registration ) 19-08-012
8/27/2019	SAO	Suspicious Petition Circulator
10/4/2019	SAO	Suspicious Petition Circulator ) 19-10-004
10/16/2019	SAO	Suspicious Petition Circulator
10/23/2019	SAO	Vote History and Registration Records
11/5/2019	SAO	Vote History
11/6/2019	SAO	Suspicious 3rd Party Applications (Deceased)
11/6/2019	SAO	Precinct Polling Places (Miami and Hialeah) ) Run Off
11/6/2019	SAO	VBM Ballot Requests City of Miami District 1 and Hialeah
11/12/2019	SAO	Campaigner Complaint Reneir Diaz de la Portilla
11/12/2019	SAO	Voters who voted report Miami District 1 and Hialeah
11/15/2019	SAO	Campaigners at Polling Place complaint
11/15/2019	SAO	Suspicious Circulator
1/29/2020	SAO	3rd Party Applications (Deceased)
1/29/2020	SAO	Suspicious Petition Circulator
3/3/2020	SAO	Suspicious 3rd Party Application
3/10/2020	SAO	Voter Application, Vote History (3P drop off data)
6/19/2020	SAO	3rd Party Applications
6/30/2020	SAO	3rd Party Applications
7/2/2020	SAO	3rd Party Applications
8/6/2020	SAO	Sweetwater Candidate Docs ) Lacayo questions
8/10/2020	SAO	Precinct and Polling Places List )der)
9/14/2020	SAO	VBM- Vote History - Address ) RE: Drop Box Early Voting
9/15/2020	SAO	VBM Cast - RE:Info
9/15/2020	SAO	VBM Ballot -
10/20/2020	SAO	VBM - History (date mailed and received)
10/21/2020	SAO	Campaigner Complaint
10/27/2020	SAO	Campaigner Complaint in Miami Gardens District 3
11/2/2020	SAO	Complaint - JFK Library
11/4/2020	SAO	Vote History
11/7/2020 - 11/18/2020	SAO	Candidates - State Senate Seat 37 & 39 Voter Registration History, VBM, EVID ) 20-11-007
11/20/2020	SAO	Candidate Vote History and Registration Records ) 20-11-001
3/11/2021	SAO	Voter Registration History
4/28/2021	SAO	Double Voter Investigation North Carolina Board of Elections/Miami-Dade County
5/4/2021	SAO	Potentially voted twice from Division of Elections 2020 General Election (excel spreadsheet)



Katherine Rundle  
State Attorney for Miami-Dade County



Christina White  
S.O.E. for Miami-Dade County

QUICK TAKES

- Total Referrals to Prosecutors: 12
- State’s Attorney: Dave Aronberg
- Soros Involvement: Aronberg ran unopposed in 2020, 2016
- SOE: Wendy S. Link
- Registered Voters: 963K

In the aftermath of the 2020 General Election, Palm Beach County officials appear to have collected enough evidence to refer 12 incidents to prosecutors in the Spring of 2021. Compared to Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, the disclosed summary of cases is far less detailed.<sup>xxx</sup>

Ten of the 12 referrals were made on April 1, 2021. One of those carried a checkbox indication that the case involved a “Non-Citizen” individual. Another within the subset is denoted as a “duplicate record” and involves two unique voter identification numbers attached to the same individual. As the disclosed record indicates, two more cases were passed on to prosecutors at an unlisted date.

It is not a crime to unwittingly be registered to vote in duplicate at the same address in Florida. Duplications can happen when officials simply err in the data entry process. They can also happen when a registrant updates a record with additional or conflicting name information than what was already on file. The user manual<sup>[xxx]</sup> for the system even describes protocols for a county election staffer to merge duplicate records into a unified file. For a still unknown reason, Palm Beach County officials felt at least one allegedly duplicate registrant required review for a possible election law violation.



Dave Aronberg  
State Attorney for Palm Beach County



Wendy Link  
S.O.E. for Palm Beach County

State Attorney Referrals					
Primary	Date Referred	Name	Non-Citizen	Notice Type	Duplicate Record
1	04/01/21		<input type="checkbox"/>	SOE Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	04/01/21		<input type="checkbox"/>	SOE Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	04/01/21		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SOE Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	04/01/21		<input type="checkbox"/>	SOE Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	04/01/21		<input type="checkbox"/>	SOE Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	04/01/21		<input type="checkbox"/>	SOE Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	04/01/21		<input type="checkbox"/>	SOE Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	04/01/21		<input type="checkbox"/>	SOE Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	04/01/21		<input type="checkbox"/>	SOE Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	04/01/21		<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
11			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
12			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

Exported on July 26, 2021 5:22:02 PM EDT

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Palm Beach, Florida



# Orange County

During the period of study, Orange County has documented referrals from 2019 to 2021.<sup>xxxii</sup> The document disclosed to PILF closely resembles what Palm Beach County offered, yet with more detail and a work-flow for each case. Orange is one of the few counties to include the most recent status updates for each referral.

The referrals began on November 1, 2019, where one individual is identified for a potential vote by mail violation during the Orlando mayoral election in 2019. Days later, Mayor Buddy Dyer won re-election with 72 percent of the vote.<sup>xxxiii</sup>

On September 24, 2020, the only referral related to the 2020 primaries involved an individual with a potential vote by mail violation. The 2020 general election-related referrals began on October 2, when six individuals were also listed for potential vote by mail violations. Five of those have the same surname. At this point in the study period, the county document notes that all referrals are listed under “unknown” status with regard to state’s attorney actions.

On May 12, 2021, Orange County lists its latest referrals. Three individuals are shown under “ongoing” review from the state’s attorney for allegedly “vot[ing] twice” during the 2020 General Election.

## QUICK TAKES

- Total Referrals to Prosecutors: 11
- Vote-By-Mail Violations (8)
- Voted Twice (3)
- State’s Attorney: Monique Worrell
- Soros Involvement: Worrell was Soros-backed in 2020<sup>xxxiv</sup>
- SOE: Bill Cowles
- Registered Voters: 854K



*Monique Worrell*  
*State Attorney for Orange County*



*Bill Cowles*  
*S.O.E. for Orange County*

## Referred State Attorney File

Name	Reason	Election	State Attorney Contacted	SOE Investigation Complete	State Attorney Investigation Status
[REDACTED]	VBM Violation	City of Orlando 2019	11/01/19	✓	Unknown
[REDACTED]	VBM Violation	Primary 2020	09/24/20	✓	Unknown
[REDACTED]	VBM Violation	General 2020	10/02/20	✓	Unknown
	VBM Violation	General 2020	10/02/20	✓	Unknown
	VBM Violation	General 2020	10/02/20	✓	Unknown
	VBM Violation	General 2020	10/02/20	✓	Unknown
	VBM Violation	General 2020	10/02/20	✓	Unknown
	VBM Violation	General 2020	10/02/20	✓	Unknown
[REDACTED]	Voted Twice	General 2020	05/12/21	✓	Open Ongoing
[REDACTED]	Voted Twice	General 2020	05/12/21	✓	Open Ongoing
[REDACTED]	Voted Twice	General 2020	05/12/21	✓	Open Ongoing

# Duval County

## Quick Takes

- Total Referrals to Prosecutors: 3 (2015 to Present)
- State’s Attorney: Melissa W. Nelson
- Soros Involvement: Nelson is a Republican
- SOE: Mike Hogan
- Registered Voters: 640K

Duval County’s referrals to law enforcement contain few details. Supervisor of Elections Mike Hogan told PILF in an email that his office did not have a uniform report (like seen in some other counties), but in his time as supervisor he referred three cases for “potential elections violations” since 2015. Two of those referrals concerned the 2016 Election and one more was sent in 2021.<sup>xxxv</sup>



*Melissa Nelson*  
*State Attorney for Duval County*



*Mike Hogan*  
*S.O.E. for Duval County*

## RE: FL Sunshine Request – State’s Attorney Submissions

Hogan, Mike <[REDACTED]>

Fri 6/11/2021 11:26 AM

To Logan Churchwell <[REDACTED]>;

Dear Mr. Churchwell:

My apologies for not responding sooner. We do not have any reports outlining how many cases we have referred to the State Attorney’s office regarding cases of potential elections violations. I can tell you since 2015 when I became the Supervisor of Elections, we have sent 3 such cases to our State Attorney’s office – 2 in 2016 and 1 in 2021.



*Mike Hogan*

Duval County Supervisor of Elections  
105 E. Monroe St. Jacksonville, FL 32202



# Alachua County

## QUICK TAKES

- Total Referrals to Prosecutors: 1
- State's Attorney: Brian S. Kramer
- Soros Involvement: N/A
- SOE: Kim A. Barton
- Registered Voters: 193K

Alachua County election officials had one criminal referral. Officials summarized in an email to PILF that one case of potential double voting was referred to law enforcement.<sup>xxxvi</sup> The suspect voter allegedly "voted in Florida and in New York in the 2020 General Election," according to the county.

The elections office did not elaborate on how it detected or was alerted to the suspected interstate votes. Although the Sunshine State was a member of a 30-state collaborative that shares voting records, New York is not party to the system.<sup>xxxvii</sup> No publicly available records show any further inquiries or actions taken as a result of Alachua County's referral to authorities.

PILF's own Integrity Database, a national collection of voter registration and voting records, currently shows the individual still registered to vote in Florida and New York in 2021.<sup>xxxviii</sup>



University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

# Alachua County

## RE: FL Sunshine Request – State's Attorney Submissions

Alexis White <[REDACTED]>

Tue 5/18/2021 2:29 PM

To Logan Churchwell <[REDACTED]>;

Cc Kim A. Barton <[REDACTED]>;

Hello Logan,

Our office has submitted one case to the State's Attorney's Office.

Name: [REDACTED]

Date: 05/03/2020

Reason: Voter voted in Florida and in New York in the 2020 General Election.

As always, if you wish to request other records or have our office prepare additional reports we will be happy to assist you. Please contact us by email at [REDACTED] or call [REDACTED] and ask to speak with Alexis.

Regards,

Alexis White

Elections Information Specialist



Brian Kramer  
State Attorney for Alachua County



Kim Barton  
S.O.E. for Alachua County



# Pinellas County

Despite the handful of referrals, Pinellas County provided the most detailed disclosures—exceeding 100 pages in evidence.<sup>xxxix</sup> The County also provided copies of referrals pre-dating PILF’s requested period. The documents give the clearest picture of the level of detail and insights given to prosecutors. In these instances, it could be said, the county essentially gift-wrapped the evidence for action by prosecutors.

The timeline begins on March 21, 2017, when the Pinellas County Canvassing Board alerted law enforcement to a local registrant credited for voting with an “over-the-counter” absentee ballot in the 2016 federal election in Stonington, Connecticut, on October 14, 2016, who also allegedly voted early in-person in Florida on October 28. When charged, voting twice is a third-degree felony in Florida. Federal law also prohibits voting twice for the same office.<sup>xl</sup>

On March 30, 2018, the Florida Department of State alerted prosecutors in Pinellas County to the results of its investigation into a petition circulator working for Floridians for a Fair Democracy, Inc. (FFD).<sup>xli</sup> The committee backed a ballot measure to grant voting rights to felons<sup>xlii</sup>, which would eventually become Amendment 4 in the 2018 General Election. State investigators summarized the sister complaints against the organization and an employee by explaining that a registered voter in Largo appeared to sign a petition and change their voter registration address on the same form to a neighborhood in Saint Petersburg, roughly 20 miles away. State investigators confirmed with the presumed victim that he never signed the petition or requested that the address be updated out of Largo. The Tallahassee officials closed their referral by suggesting charges ranging from first-degree misdemeanor for signing someone else’s name to a petition to third-degree felony for submitting false voter registration information/updates.

On September 11, 2019, the county alerted prosecutors to a registered petition circulator working on behalf of Florida Citizen Voters, a now closed Jacksonville entity that advocated for a constitutional referendum included on the 2020 ballot regarding citizenship requirements for voter registration.<sup>xliii</sup> Local officials were specifically alerted to at least 12 signatures belonging to persons they knew to be dead before the signing dates. The referral letter explains that a petition circulator

QUICK TAKES

- Total Referrals to Prosecutors: 5
- Organized Petition Violations
- Voting Twice in Two States
- Voting Twice Locally
- Duplicate Voter Registrations
- State’s Attorney: Bruce Bartlett
- Soros Involvement: Bartlett Mocks “Soros types”<sup>xlv</sup>
- SOE: Julie Marcus
- Registered Voters: 688K

verifies and declares under penalty of perjury that the signatures were legitimately gathered.<sup>xlv</sup> The letter closes by explaining how the organization’s principal was alerted to the referral.

On January 8, 2020, a separate petition circulator active in the 2020 cycle drew the attention of county officials. A registered circulator for Keep Our Constitution Clean (previously referenced in this report in Broward County) was suspected of submitting a false signature. During official review of signatures gathered, one entry drew a “signature differs” flag and then triggered a letter to the signer, asking him to formally update the mark of record. The person in question replied to the County, stating he never signed the petition in question. Before local officials alerted law enforcement, they informed Keep Our Constitution Clean principals about their plans to refer the matter to law enforcement.


Finally, on November 2, 2020, the Clearwater branch office for the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections documented an incident where a duly registered individual requested a provisional ballot. His registration was deemed valid. The issue, however, was the fact that on October 10, 2020, the person had already cast a ballot for the same election, according to the county. The county employee handling the matter recalled, “he said he just changed his mind and would like to vote again. I asked him if he was aware that it is a felony to vote twice, he answered that he knew about it and still insisted to vote again.” The disclosed provisional ballot paperwork shows the second vote was stamped “rejected as illegal.”



Bruce Bartlett  
State Attorney fo Pinellas County



Julie Marcus  
S.O.E. Pinellas County

DEBORAH CLARK  
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS  
PINELLAS COUNTY

THE HONORABLE BERNIE MCCABE  
State Attorney, Sixth Judicial Circuit  
14250 49th St. N  
Clearwater, FL 33762

Dear Mr. McCabe:

On behalf of the Pinellas County Canvassing Board, I am respectfully requesting an investigation into the following matter that took place during the November 8, 2016 General Election. Based upon information received, we have reason to believe this voter may have voted twice in the General Election, casting ballots in both Connecticut and Florida.

- [REDACTED] (Voter Registration Number – [REDACTED], date of birth – [REDACTED]) is a registered voter in Pinellas County.
- [REDACTED] registered to vote in Florida on [REDACTED]
- On January 12, 2017, Peggy Cawley, Registrar of Voters in Stonington, Connecticut, spoke with Pinellas County Election Administrator Martin Munro. Their conversation consisted of the following:
  - According to Ms. Cawley, On October 14, 2016, [REDACTED] cast an over-the-counter absentee ballot in the 2016 General Election at the Municipal Clerk’s office in Stonington, Conn.
  - Mr. Munro confirmed to Ms. Cawley that on October 28, 2016, [REDACTED] cast an early voting ballot in Pinellas County in the same 2016 General Election.

Additional information provided by Ms. Cawley:

- [REDACTED] has been a registered voter in Connecticut since 7/24/96
- The Stonington Town Clerk informed [REDACTED] it is illegal to cast ballots in two different states in the same election, and that if he wanted to cancel his absentee ballot in Connecticut, he would need to send written notification to the Stonington Registrar of Voters.
- The Stonington Registrar of Voters did not receive such a notice from [REDACTED] requesting that

# Pinellas County

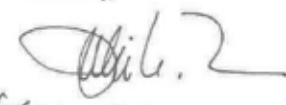
Enclosed is the following documentation:

- [REDACTED]
  - Voter Maintenance Information – Pinellas Co.
  - Voter Audit Log – Pinellas Co.
  - Voter History – Pinellas Co.
  - Voted Ballot Information Log – Pinellas Co. (showing [REDACTED] voted at an early voting location)
  - Voter History Maintenance – Pinellas Co. (showing [REDACTED] signature at the time he checked in at an early voting location)
  - Copy of absentee ballot request form – Stonington, Conn.
  - Copy of absentee ballot envelope – Stonington, Conn.
  - Stonington, Conn. Voter History Report (According to Ms. Cawley, A = voted absentee ballot)

As you know, protecting the integrity of the election process is of the utmost importance. I appreciate your assistance in this regard and the assistance your office has provided in the past.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. You may also contact Julie Marcus, Deputy Supervisor of Elections at [REDACTED] or Jason Latimer, Communications Director at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

  
for Deborah Clark  
Supervisor of Elections  
Pinellas County



March 21, 2017

The Honorable Bernie McCabe  
State Attorney, Sixth Judicial Circuit  
14250 49<sup>th</sup> St. N  
Clearwater, FL 33762

Dear Mr. McCabe:

On behalf of the Pinellas County Canvassing Board, I am respectfully requesting an investigation into the following matter that took place during the November 8, 2016 General Election. Based upon information received, we have reason to believe this voter may have voted twice in the General Election, casting ballots in both Connecticut and Florida.

- [REDACTED] (Voter Registration Number – [REDACTED], date of birth – [REDACTED]) is a registered voter in Pinellas County.
  - [REDACTED] registered to vote in Florida on [REDACTED]
- On January 12, 2017, Peggy Cawley, Registrar of Voters in Stonington, Connecticut, spoke with Pinellas County Election Administrator Martin Munro. Their conversation consisted of the following:
  - According to Ms. Cawley, On October 14, 2016, [REDACTED] cast an over-the-counter absentee ballot in the 2016 General Election at the Municipal Clerk's office in Stonington, Conn.
  - Mr. Munro confirmed to Ms. Cawley that on October 28, 2016, [REDACTED] cast an early voting ballot in Pinellas County in the same 2016 General Election.

Additional information provided by Ms. Cawley:

- [REDACTED] has been a registered voter in Connecticut since 7/24/96
- The Stonington Town Clerk informed [REDACTED] it is illegal to cast ballots in two different states in the same election, and that if he wanted to cancel his absentee ballot in Connecticut, he would need to send written notification to the Stonington Registrar of Voters.
- The Stonington Registrar of Voters did not receive such a notice from [REDACTED] requesting that his ballot be canceled.

# Pinellas County

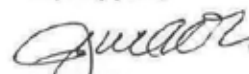
Enclosed for your reference are the following documents:

1. A chart showing each voter for whom [REDACTED] submitted a Constitutional Amendment Petition Form, which includes the following information:
  - a. Voter's name;
  - b. Last known address;
  - c. Date deceased;
  - d. Date removed from the voter rolls; and
  - e. Date of signature on petition.
2. Copies of the petitions submitted as allegedly completed by the voter.
3. Each voter's audit log, as maintained by the Pinellas SOE.

Staff with the Pinellas SOE contacted John Loudon, Chair of Florida Citizen Voters, on July 19, 2019, to notify him of the potential fraud. Additionally, Mr. Loudon was informed that this matter would be referred to your office.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

  
Jewel White  
County Attorney

MJW:sme  
Attachment  
cc: Deborah Clark, Pinellas County Supervisor of  
PCAO 236061



## PINELLAS COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY ATTORNEY

PHONE (727) 464-3354 • FAX (727) 464-4147 • 315 COURT STREET • CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756

January 8, 2020

The Honorable Bernie McCabe  
State Attorney  
Pinellas County Justice Center  
14250 49<sup>th</sup> Street North  
Clearwater, FL 33762

RE: Potential Violation of Florida Election Law

Dear Mr. McCabe:

On behalf of Deborah Clark, Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections (Pinellas SOE), I am forwarding the enclosed information for your review and consideration for further investigation. Based upon the information set forth herein, staff there has reason to believe that there is potential fraud with an initiative petition submitted to the Pinellas SOE on behalf of the political committee, Keep Our Constitution Clean.

In 2019, the Florida Legislature adopted new laws related to citizen initiatives. See, Ch. 2019-64, Law of Florida. Petition circulators must register with the Florida Secretary of State and provide certain required information (Fla. Stat., Sec. 100.371 (3) and (4)). All petitions submitted by a registered petition circulator must also contain certain required information (Fla. Stat., Sec. 100.371(5)). Petition circulators must also sign any petition submitted, following this statement:

By my signature below, as petition circulator, I verify that the petition was signed in my presence. Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing Petition Circulator's Affidavit and the facts stated in it are true.

[REDACTED] (Registration Number [REDACTED]) is a paid petition circulator with Keep Our Constitution Clean PC. [REDACTED] submitted a petition purportedly signed by [REDACTED] to the Pinellas SOE, who has reason to believe that there is potential fraud with the petition. The petition received a disposition of "Signature Differs" and, therefore, a signature update letter was mailed to the voter. [REDACTED] contacted the Pinellas SOE after receiving the letter and stated that he did not sign a petition. He then came to the Election Service Center on December 3, 2019, to view the petition. [REDACTED] stated that he did not sign the petition and that the signature on the petition is not his.



# Pinellas County

The Honorable Bernie McCabe  
Page 2  
January 8, 2020

Enclosed for your reference are the following documents:

1. A copy of the petition submitted as allegedly completed by [REDACTED];
2. The voter's audit log, as maintained by the Pinellas SOE; [REDACTED]
3. Contact information for [REDACTED]

Staff with the Pinellas SOE contacted Jason Haber, Chair of Keep Our Constitution C  
PC, and Jason Blank, Treasurer, to notify them of the potential fraud.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to con  
me.

Very truly yours,

  
Jewel White  
County Attorney

MJW:sme  
Attachments (3)  
cc: Deborah Clark, Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections  
PCAO 251706

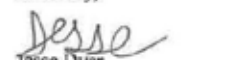
Hon. Bernie McCabe  
Page 2  
March 30, 2018

Section 104.185(2), Florida Statutes, provides that "[a] person who signs another person's name . . . to any petition to secure ballot position for . . . an issue commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083." "[Issue] means any proposition which is required by the State Constitution, by law or resolution of the Legislature . . . to be submitted to the electors for their approval or rejection at an election, or any proposition for which a petition is circulated in order to have such proposition placed on the ballot at any election." § 106.011(13), Fla. Stat. Also, "[a] person who willfully submits any false voter registration information commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083," § 104.011(2), Fla. Stat.

Assuming that the complainant's allegations are true for purposes of our review for legal sufficiency, it is possible that FFD and/or [REDACTED] violated section 104.011(2) by willfully submitting a false address on the forged petition. Also, it is possible FFD and/or [REDACTED] violated 104.185(2) by signing [REDACTED]'s name on a petition to secure ballot position for a constitutional amendment.

Please find enclosed the elections fraud complaint and a copy of the petition. I can be reached at (850) 245-6531.

Sincerely,

  
Jesse Dyer  
Assistant General Counsel

Mr. Richardson, [REDACTED]

Came to our Clearwater Office and asked for provisional ballot.  
He already cast his ballot on October 10, 2020.  
He said he just changed his mind and would like to vote again.  
I asked him if he was aware that is a felony to vote twice, he answered that he knew about it and he still insisted to vote again.  
He also included a note in Provisional ballot envelope.

11/02/2020 - Clearwater Office



# Pinellas County



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RICK SCOTT  
Governor

RECEIVED  
2018 JUN -8 PM 12:47  
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS  
ELECTION SERVICE CENTER

KEN DETZNER  
Secretary of State

March 30, 2018

Honorable Bernie McCabe  
State Attorney, 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
Pinellas County Justice Center  
14250 49<sup>th</sup> St. N.  
Clearwater, FL 33762

Re: Elections Fraud Complaint No. 17-50, 51

Dear Mr. McCabe:

I am referring the attached elections fraud complaint to you pursuant to section 97.012(15), Florida Statutes, which charges the Department of State with conducting preliminary investigations of elections fraud and reporting the findings to the appropriate state attorney's office.

Both complaints were filed by [REDACTED]. One complaint is against Floridians for a Fair Democracy, Inc. ("FFD"), and one complaint is against [REDACTED], a petition circulator employed by FFD. The underlying facts of each complaint are the same. Essentially, the complaints allege that FFD and/or [REDACTED] fraudulently signed [REDACTED]'s name to a petition for an amendment to the Florida Constitution. [REDACTED] resides at [REDACTED], Largo, FL 33774.<sup>1</sup> The complaints allege that FFD and/or [REDACTED] on that same petition, requested that the supervisor of elections change [REDACTED]'s address to [REDACTED], St. Petersburg, FL 33701. The complaint alleges that this is not [REDACTED]'s true address. Attached to one of the complaints is a copy of the forged petition, which bears a stamp of [REDACTED] and FFD's information. The Department searched the Florida Voter Registration System and determined that, consistent with the allegations, [REDACTED]'s address was changed and that [REDACTED] is currently registered at [REDACTED], Largo, FL 33774. I spoke with [REDACTED] by telephone, [REDACTED], and he confirmed [REDACTED]'s story. [REDACTED] stated that he never signed or otherwise filled out petition that is attached to this letter.

<sup>1</sup> The complaint alleges that [REDACTED] lives at [REDACTED] and our voter registration records in the Florida Voter Registration system reflect that [REDACTED] is registered at [REDACTED]. There was likely a mistake made in the allegations of the complaint.

Office of the General Counsel  
R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250  
850.245.6536 • 850.245.6127 (Fax) DOS.MyFlorida.com

# Polk County

## QUICK TAKES

- Total Referrals to Prosecutors: 3
- State's Attorney: Brian Haas<sup>xlvi</sup>
- Soros Involvement: Haas is a Republican<sup>xlvii</sup>
- SOE: Lori Edwards
- Registered Voters: 464K

Highlands Office  
411 South Euclid Street  
Sebring, Florida 33870 • (863) 402-6549

Hardee Office  
124 South 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue #100  
Wauchula, Florida 33873 • (863) 773-6613

**State Attorney Brian Haas**  
Office of the State Attorney, Tenth Judicial Circuit  
255 North Broadway Avenue • Drawer SA, P.O. Box 9000 • Bartow, Florida 33831-9000  
(863) 534-4800 • www.sao10.com

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

**Defendant:** Case #: 53-2020-SA-000030-A000-XX  
**Agency:** OFFICE OF STATE ATTORNEY 10TH CIRCUIT  
**Investigator:** BEVERLY CONE

**Co-Defendant:** ASA: Agency Case #:  
**Date:** January 13, 2021  
**Original**

**Subjects**

DOE [REDACTED] DI [REDACTED]

**Investigation:**

On 12/23/20 I received information from the Supervisor of Elections Office that there was potentially voter fraud concerning a Polk County voter during the general election held on 11/3/20. The voter, [REDACTED] (voter # [REDACTED]) went to his polling place at the [REDACTED]. He was issued ballot [REDACTED]. It is unknown if he cast the ballot as there is no way to track the ballot once it is handed to the voter. There are no identification marks on the ballots once they are torn from the book and there is no way to trace whether a ballot was scanned. The voter then proceeded to a new precinct [REDACTED] where he changed his address and signed the electronic poll book. There were no stubs (where the ballot was separated from the book) at the second location. The assumption is he was not given a second ballot at the new location as there were no stubs to indicate this. I did verify that [REDACTED] did change his address on his Florida Driver's license to a Winter Haven address on 12/28/19, thus confirming the need for a precinct change.

Date Completed: 1/13/2021

Inv. Beverly B. Cone  
SAO # 2  
STATE ATTORNEY INVESTIGATOR

Sworn to and Subscribed before me,  
The undersigned authority, this 13th day of January, 2021.

S. Dady  
SAO # 10  
Law Enforcement Officer

\*\* Image Type: DISCOVERY, Sub-type: REPORTS \*\*



Brian Haas  
State Attorney for Polk County



Lori Edwards  
S.O.E. for Polk County

Highlands Office  
411 South Euclid Street  
Sebring, Florida 33870 • (863) 402-6549

Hardee Office  
124 South 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue #100  
Wauchula, Florida 33873 • (863) 773-6613

**State Attorney Brian Haas**  
Office of the State Attorney, Tenth Judicial Circuit  
255 North Broadway Avenue • Drawer SA, P.O. Box 9000 • Bartow, Florida 33831-9000  
(863) 534-4800 • www.sao10.com

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

**Defendant:** Case #: 53-2020-SA-000031-A000-XX  
**Agency:** OFFICE OF STATE ATTORNEY 10TH CIRCUIT  
**Investigator:** BEVERLY CONE

**Co-Defendant:** ASA: Agency Case #:  
**Date:** January 13, 2021  
**Original**

**Subjects**

[REDACTED] R/F DOE [REDACTED] DI [REDACTED]

**Investigation:**

On 12/23/20 I received information from the Supervisor of Elections Office that vote, [REDACTED] (voter # [REDACTED]) may have been given a ballot at two different precincts on the day of the general election on 11/3/20.

[REDACTED] went to [REDACTED] which was her assigned precinct. The poll worker wrote stub number [REDACTED] in the book and [REDACTED] signed next to her name. She then got a transfer ticket due to an address change. [REDACTED] then went to [REDACTED] her new precinct, and was processed on the electronic poll book. She was given ballot [REDACTED]. The Supervisor of Elections Office is unable to verify that both ballots were cast at their respective precincts due to the fact there are no identifying marks on the ballot once they are separated from the book. There is no way to tell whether a ballot was scanned and counted. It is possible the poll worker made an error by not canceling or voiding the torn ballot at the first precinct once the address change was initiated.

Due to the fact there is no way to prove or disprove whether the [REDACTED] voted twice, I am unable to establish a crime occurred. This case is being closed with no findings.

Date Completed: 1/13/2021

Inv. Beverly B. Cone  
SAO # 2  
STATE ATTORNEY INVESTIGATOR

Sworn to and Subscribed before me,  
The undersigned authority, this 13th day of January, 2021.

S. Dady  
SAO #  
Law Enforcement Officer

\*\* Image Type: DISCOVERY, Sub-type: REPORTS \*\*



# Polk County

Polk County election officials shared three referral case files from the 2020 election cycle, all of which involved questions of potential double voting violations under Florida law. This county is the only surveyed jurisdiction to provide copies of the actual documents given to prosecutors and the findings of the investigating authorities.

Two cases originated in the 2020 general election.<sup>xlviii</sup> The cases followed similar patterns. The separate individuals each visited their respective assigned polling places on Election Day and were properly checked in to vote in person, according to poll books and related documentation generated at the polling sites. The voters then went to second voting locations, updated their addresses, and appeared to be issued ballots again, according to county records. Criminal investigators hit matching roadblocks after reviewing the poll book files from the four polling places involved. Available documents can capture when a voter is checked in to cast a regular ballot, but, according to investigators, there is no way to definitively know if each person cast two ballots. Because the prosecutors had “no way to prove or disprove” second votes were cast, the cases were closed.

The third and final case referral provides the deepest insight into the local investigative process.<sup>xlix</sup> Shortly after the 2020 primary elections, prosecutors were alerted to an alleged

double voter involving mail and in-person ballots. The county believed the person in question opted to complete an absentee ballot and mail it prior to the return deadline. Days later, the person allegedly appeared at their designated polling place, wishing to vote. In a letter disclosed to PILF, prosecutors concluded that “due to a mistake by the poll worker, [he] was allowed to vote even though the voter sign in sheet clearly indicated he had already voted by mail.”


Polk election officials disclosed copies of the poll book check-in paperwork that the person had signed. As a standard practice, these books are updated shortly before in-person voting begins with decals over signature blocks, clearly indicating which entries have mail ballots already accounted for. The disclosed records show this system was, by all appearances, working in this case—yet the poll worker still issued a second ballot, according to the county.

When the prosecuting office interviewed the voter, he told investigators that despite knowing that voting twice was “wrong,” seeing election signs throughout the community confused him on election day and he thought it was simply time to vote “for the President.” Officials felt the person “seemed confused about who and what he was voting for.”

“Based on the totality of circumstances,” prosecutors declined to file charges.



Highlands Office  
411 South Escalypus Street  
Sebring, Florida 33870 • (863) 402-6549



Hardee Office  
124 South 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue #100  
Wauchula, Florida 33873 • (863) 773-6618

State Attorney Brian Haas  
Office of the State Attorney, Tenth Judicial Circuit  
255 North Broadway Avenue • Drawer SA, P.O. Box 9000 • Bartow, Florida 33831-9000  
(863) 334-4800 • www.sao10.com

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Defendant:  
Case #: 53-2020-SA-000015-A000-XX  
Agency: OFFICE OF STATE ATTORNEY 10TH CIRCUIT  
SA20000015XX  
Investigator: BEVERLY CONE

ASA:  
Agency Case #:  
Date: September 15, 2020  
Original

Subjects

Investigation:

The Supervisor of Elections Office (SOE) referred a potential voter fraud case to the State Attorney's Office for investigation. On September 4, 2020 I obtained documents from the SOE that showed voter [REDACTED] voted twice in the 2020 Primary Election held on August 18<sup>th</sup>. According to documents received, [REDACTED] requested a mail in ballot on August 4<sup>th</sup> and returned it via mail on August 11<sup>th</sup>. The mail in ballot was received in the SOE's office on August 14<sup>th</sup>. On primary day, [REDACTED] voted in person at his precinct. Due to a mistake by the poll worker, [REDACTED] was allowed to vote even though the voter sign in sheet clearly indicated he had voted by mail.

I interviewed the poll worker and he did not have any recollection of this incident. He said he knew to refer the voter to the supervisor on scene if a voter already voted by mail. He said he must have made a mistake by giving the voter a ballot.

On September 15<sup>th</sup> I interviewed voter [REDACTED]. He said he always votes in person at the Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Bartow. He said this year his wife requested a mail in ballot for him. He and his wife filled out their ballots and returned them via mail. [REDACTED] was confused about which election he was voting in. On primary day, he drove by the church and saw all of the election signs. He stopped in because he thought he would be voting for the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] seemed confused about who and what he was voting for. He said he knows it is wrong to try to vote twice and he would never intentionally try to do so.

The SOE has an effective system in place to identify voters who have voted by mail. The voter sign in sheet was clearly marked, however the poll worker mistakenly allowed [REDACTED] to vote.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, we will not be filing criminal charges and will be closing this case.

Date Completed: 9/15/2020

Inv. Beverly B. Cone

SAO # 2

STATE ATTORNEY INVESTIGATOR

Sworn to and Subscribed before me,  
The undersigned authority, this 15th day of September, 2020.

Inv. Laura B. Johnson

SAO # 6

Law Enforcement Officer

\*\* Image Type: DISCOVERY, Sub-type: REPORTS \*\*



# St. Lucie County

QUICK TAKES

- Total Referrals to Prosecutors: 1
- State’s Attorney: Tom Bakkedahl
- Soros Involvement: Bakkedahl is a Republican<sup>liii</sup>
- SOE: Gertrude Walker
- Registered Voters: 224K

St. Lucie County election officials referred one case of an activist group potentially violating Florida voter registration laws before the 2020 general election. Although the office did not disclose the identity of any particular employee or agent, the email summary does state that the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition was referred to law enforcement on October 20, 2020.

The subject matter for the official referral was summarized as “1 potential fraudulent application submitted by third party voter registration organization.”<sup>li</sup> As discussed earlier in this report, such a charge is a third-degree felony under local law.

The Florida Rights Restoration Coalition<sup>li</sup> is a California-based organization with a registered agent address in Orlando.<sup>liii</sup> The Florida Department of State maintains an active database of third-party groups lawfully permitted to perform voter registration drives, officially known as “3PVRs.” The organization also holds a chapter registration in Jacksonville. No publicly available records show any further inquiries or actions taken as a result of St. Lucie County’s alert. It is unclear if the organization’s principals were notified of the referral, as seen in other counties.

Sarasota County confirmed to PILF that it had zero referrals to law enforcement during the 2020 Election cycle.<sup>liv</sup>



Tom Bakkedahl  
State Attorney for St. Lucie County



Gertrude Walker  
S.O.E. for St. Lucie County

# St. Lucie County

RE: FL Sunshine Request – State’s Attorney Submissions

Judith Durogene <[redacted]>  
Wed 6/16/2021 3:21 PM  
To Logan Churchwell <[redacted]>;  
Cc legal <[redacted]>; Sherrie Williams <[redacted]>; John Spradlin <[redacted]>;

Mr. Churchwell,  
  
In response to your public records request, after a thorough search of our records we were able to find the following information. Thank you and have a good day.

Name	Date	Subject Matter
Florida Rights Restoration Coalition	Letter sent via email on 10/20/20 to local State Attorney's Office	1 Potential Fraudulent Application submitted by Third Party Voter Registration Organization

Judith Durogene  
Administrative Assistant for  
Gertrude Walker, Supervisor of Elections  
4132 Okeechobee Rd.  
Fort Pierce, FL 34947  
Telephone: [redacted]  
Fax: 772-462-1439  
email: [redacted]







# Conclusions and Recommendations

- Prosecutors fail to prosecute election crimes for a number of reasons. Among them are ideological opposition to enforcing the law. Prosecutors who adopt this approach should not be prosecutors.
- Other reasons why prosecutors fail to prosecute election crimes include unfamiliarity with trying an election crimes case and a general lack of experience. This can be remedied if state officials conduct systematic training and provide county prosecutors the benefits of continuing education from experienced lawyers who have successfully conducted election crimes prosecutions, before there are no more to train them.
- Another reason election crimes are not prosecuted is that the media's steady drumbeat that voter fraud does not exist makes prosecutors skittish about enforcing the law. They are afraid of becoming the story.
- Florida would benefit from a standardized reporting system that accounts for the number of referrals generated by supervisors of elections, the particular elections in question, and whether cases are open or closed by prosecutors. Such a system would greatly sustain overall voter confidence and hedge against post-election misinformation.
- The Florida Legislature could amend existing election law to require that supervisors of elections refer potential violations of election law to prosecuting authorities. Wisconsin offers a similar framework, particularly as it relates to reporting.<sup>lv</sup>
- Election workers must be carefully trained to read and understand all entries in poll books to prevent double voting, whether intentional or unintentional.
- Florida officials would be wise to regularly remind the public about laws governing petition collection and identity protection.
- Florida officials must remind the general public that foreign nationals are not eligible to register and vote under any circumstance.
- Florida officials should remind the general public that they have the tools to detect voters casting ballots from their primary and vacation homes. To do otherwise risks real prison time.

# End Notes

i Exhibit Hillsborough

ii Hillsborough County SOE Craig Latimer Biography (accessed 2021), <https://www.votehillsborough.gov/About-Your-Elections-Office/A-Message-from-Supervisor-Latimer>

iii The New York Times; Obama White House Knew of Russian Election Hacking but Delayed Telling (June 21, 2017), <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/21/us/politics/jeh-johnson-testimony-russian-election-hacking.html>

iv Spectrum Bay News 9; Hillsborough Supervisor of Elections: ‘People don’t need to be concerned’ (October 19, 2016), [https://www.baynews9.com/fl/tampa/news/2016/10/19/hillsborough\\_supervi](https://www.baynews9.com/fl/tampa/news/2016/10/19/hillsborough_supervi)

v HCSOE YouTube Channel; Voter Rolls and Voter Fraud (August 4, 2017), <https://youtu.be/6dug3Gtqbxl>

vi Tampa Bay Times; Tampa Bay election supervisors push back on baseless voting fraud claims (November 14, 2020), <https://www.tampabay.com/news/florida-politics/elections/2020/11/14/tampa-bay-election-supervisors-push-back-on-baseless-voting-fraud-claims/>

vii The New York Times; 5 Prosecutors with a Fresh Approach (March 30, 2017), <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/30/us/change-minded-prosecutors.html> SEE ALSO: Tampa Bay Times; How did Andrew Warren become the face of criminal justice in Tampa? (November 10, 2020), <https://www.tampabay.com/news/hillsborough/2020/11/08/how-did-andrew-warren-become-the-face-of-criminal-justice-in-tampa/>

viii See Exhibit Broward

ix FL Statutes Title IX Chapter 104.011

x FL Statutes Title IX Chapter 104.15

xi FL Statutes Title IX Chapter 104.17

xii FL Statutes Title IX Chapter 104.18

xiii Critical Condition (September 2020), <https://publicinterestlegal.org/reports/critical-condition-american-voter-rolls-filled-with-errors-dead-voters-and-duplicate-registrations/> and Is Florida Ready for the 2020 Elections? (July 2020), <https://publicinterestlegal.org/reports/is-florida-ready-for-the-2020-elections/> and Calm Before the Storm (November 2019), <https://publicinterestlegal.org/reports/calm-before-the-storm-are-palm-beach-countys-elections-protected-against-emerging-threats/>

xiv FL Statutes Title IX Chapter 104.24

xv FL Statutes Title IX Chapter 104.011(3)

xvi FL Statutes Title IX Chapter 104.185

xvii FL Statutes Title IX Chapter 104.186

xviii FL Statutes Title IX Chapter 104.187

xix Sun-Sentinel; Two billionaires got involved in Broward County elections. Why did one win and the other lose? (August 21, 2020), <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/politics/elections/fl-ne-billionaires-involved-broward-primaries-20200821-wmam2uwh5ve4jp4rpzinmc32de-story.html>

xx See Exhibit Miami-Dade-A

xxi See Exhibit Miami Dade-B

xxii Miami Herald; Sweetwater residents have spoken. The incumbent mayor will keep his seat. (May 28, 2019), <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/west-miami-dade/article230915853.html>

xxiii Miami Beach Times; Miami Beach Mayor Gelber Unopposed, and Reelected on September 6th (September 9, 2019), <https://miami-beach-times.com/politics/miami-beach-mayor-gelber-unopposed-and-reelected-on-september-6th/>

xxiv Islander Media Group; New Leadership Appointed at Miami-Dade Ethics Commission (January 8, 2020), [https://www.islandernews.com/news/new-leadership-appointed-at-miami-dade-ethics-commission/article\\_42f5f096-3209-11ea-b8e6-4f5d97c36f95.html](https://www.islandernews.com/news/new-leadership-appointed-at-miami-dade-ethics-commission/article_42f5f096-3209-11ea-b8e6-4f5d97c36f95.html)

xxv Miami’s Community News; Time to Get to Work for Palmetto Bay, Mr. Cody (November 3, 2020), <https://communitynewspapers.com/featured/time-to-get-to-work-for-palmetto-bay-mr-cody/>

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xxvii <https://www.votersopinion.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Cody-Guilty-Plea-06-07-12.pdf>

xxviii <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/crime/article243788987.html>

xxix FLSOS active registered voter totals as of May 31, 2021, <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/data-statistics/voter-registration-statistics/voter-registration-reportsxlsx/voter-registration-by-county-and-party/>

xxx Exhibit Palm Beach

xxxi A copy of the manual was provided to PILF in 2019.

xxxii Exhibit Orange

xxxiii Spectrum News 13; Dyer Stays Orlando Mayor, Sladek Wins Oviedo Race (November 5, 2019), <https://www.mynews13.com/fl/orlando/decision-2019/2019/11/05/decision-2019-elections-in-central-florida>

xxxiv Florida Politics; George Soros; Interest in Orlando State’s Attorney Race Opens Crossfire (July 15, 2020), <https://floridapolitics.com/archives/349392-george-soros-interest-in-orlandos-state-attorney-race-opens-crossfire/>

xxxv Exhibit Duval

xxxvi Exhibit Alachua

xxxvii Electronic Registration Information Center; Who We Are (Accessed July 2021), <https://ericstates.org/who-we-are/>

xxxviii See item ix for more details about the Integrity Database.

xxxix Exhibit Pinellas - This is exhibit was excerpted to protect personal details about those alleged to have violated election laws, plus information relating to purported victims in some cases.

xl 52 U.S.C. § 10307(e)

xli FL Department of State Committee Tracking System; Floridians for a Fair Democracy, Inc. (Accessed July 2021), <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/committees/ComDetail.asp?account=64388>

xl ii Open Philanthropy Grant Award – Floridians for a Fair Democracy (Accessed July 2021), <https://www.openphilanthropy.org/focus/us-policy/criminal-justice-reform/floridians-for-a-fair-democracy-ballot-committee-contribution>

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xl iv FL. Stat. Sec. 100. 371(5)

xl v The Tampa Bay Times; Will Voters Finally Get a Choice in the Pinellas-Pasco Prosecutor Race? (April 2, 2021), <https://money.yahoo.com/pinellas-pasco-prosecutor-seat-extraordinary-110000454.html?guccounter=1>

xl vi The Ledger; Brian Haas new state attorney-elect after running unopposed (May 6, 2016), <https://www.theledger.com/article/LK/20160506/news/608083520/LL>

xl vii Polk GOP; Re-Elect Brian Haas, <https://polk.gop/brian-haas/>

xl viii Exhibit Polk 2

xl ix Exhibit Polk 1

l Exhibit St. Lucie

li <https://floridarrc.com/>

li i 3PVRO Database (Accessed July 2021), <https://tpvr.elections.myflorida.com/>

li ii TCPalm; Tom Bakkedahl sworn in Tuesday as the Treasure Coast’s new State Attorney (January 5, 2021), <https://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/local/2021/01/05/tom-bakkedahl-tuesday-takes-oath-office-state-attorney/4086610001/>

li v Exhibit Sarasota

lv Wis. Stat. Ann. § 6.56(3)



The background of the entire page is a photograph of a city skyline, likely Indianapolis, with several tall buildings. In the foreground, a speedboat is moving across the water, leaving a white wake. The sky is filled with white clouds. The entire image is framed by a dark blue border.

# PUBLIC INTEREST

LEGAL FOUNDATION

The Public Interest Legal Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, relies on contributions to conduct the research and develop findings like those contained in this report. PILF is the only organization performing this level of work with respect to voter registration system integrity in America. Time, travel, and technology help deliver new insights into our election systems to better educate citizens and policymakers alike. We also bring litigation to pry this public information from government officials when necessary. None of this would be possible without your support. Please help us expand our efforts by visiting

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