

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 25, 2013

Governor Rick Scott
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

We write you today to urge you to act immediately to prevent Secretary of State Kent Deztner from restarting a voter purge that in 2012 was proven to be riddled with errors and totally lacking in accountability. News reports suggest that the Florida Division of Elections may indeed be resuming the same highly controversial process by using a deeply-flawed list of 180,000 names that improperly included thousands of legally registered voters, including World War II veterans, small business owners, and a disproportionate percentage of Hispanic surnames. We request that you immediately inform the public as to whether your Administration is again operating off that error-ridden list and what measures are being taken to ensure that no legitimate Florida voter is included on it.

Floridians deserve to feel confident in our State's ability to maintain accurate and updated voting rolls, and that requires meeting the highest standards of accuracy, accountability, and transparency. The purge undertaken by your Administration in 2012 failed to meet such standards. Rather than resume a deeply-flawed process, we urge you to meet with and consult local elections supervisors, voter protection groups, state legislators, and other stakeholders to review Florida's voter registration and voter roll maintenance practices. Such a review must answer several questions, including:

- 1) How precisely the Secretary of State can identify voters that could be purged from the rolls, and what steps can be taken to ensure legitimate voters are not targeted.
- 2) What methods of communication should be used to inform voters about their status, and what recourse is available to legitimate voters wrongly scrubbed from the rolls.
- 3) What types of voter fraud are occurring in the state of Florida, including but not limited to fraudulent practices by organizations contracted to conduct voter registration by political parties.
- 4) How many cases were found in 2012 and an evaluation of the ability for such fraud to alter the outcome of our elections.

- 5) How the Secretary of State can identify potentially invalid voters without profiling Hispanic surnames or unfairly targeting minority communities based on their geographic location.
- 6) What kind of reforms the State of Florida can pursue to register eligible voters and maintain updated and more accurate records of registered voters.

Floridians have a legitimate interest in the State's ability to maintain accurate voting rolls. Rather than move forward with a flawed voter purge and make up the law as you go along, it is time to work with leaders throughout Florida to chart out a rational, legal, and accountable process for voter registration and voter roll maintenance in our state.

Governor Scott, in 2012 you justified rushing forward with deeply flawed process by asserting that occurrences of voter fraud, no matter how rare, could somehow "dilute" November's election results. With the 2014 elections over a year away, we respectfully point out to you that we now have the time to actually get this right. We again ask that you suspend the resumption of your Administration's flawed voter purge and begin the hard work of creating a process that respects our most essential and basic right as citizens of this great democracy: the right to vote.

Sincerely,



Ted Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Alcee L. Hastings
MEMBER OF CONGRESS