

THEODORE E. DEUTCH
19TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON THE
JUDICIARY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1024 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3001
WWW.DEUTCH.HOUSE.GOV

DISTRICT OFFICES:
2500 NORTH MILITARY TRAIL
BOCA RATON, FL 33431
(561) 988-6302

MARGATE CITY HALL
5790 MARGATE BLVD.
MARGATE, FL 33063
(954) 972-6454

TAMARAC CITY HALL
7525 NW 88TH AVENUE
TAMARAC, FL 33321
(954) 597-3990

December 20, 2012

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

Dear Governor Scott,

I was pleasantly surprised and heartened to hear you acknowledge the need for additional early voting hours in Florida while being interviewed this Wednesday on CNN's Starting Point. Your statements stood in direct contrast to your previous comments reaffirming the legislation you signed into law in 2011 that reduced the number of early voting days in Florida.

I welcome this change of heart, though I do wish you would have arrived at this conclusion sooner. Your refusal to use the same constitutional authority utilized by your predecessor, Governor Charlie Crist, to extend early voting in 2008 had a detrimental impact on the ability of Floridians to exercise their voting rights in 2012. That some Floridians had to stand in line during early voting for as much as nine hours in order to cast their ballots is absolutely unacceptable. This only contributed to even longer lines on Election Day, where in Miami-Dade County for example, Floridians waited in lines for up to six hours and voting did not conclude until 1:30 in the morning.

I stand ready to support your efforts in the coming session of the Legislature to relieve the burdensome restrictions placed on early voting during your tenure as Governor and hope that your newfound regret over this decision extends to other ill-conceived provisions of HB 1355. I would also like to invite you to support efforts I am pursuing with my colleagues at the federal level to ensure equal access to the polls for all voters, help register the millions of eligible, unregistered voters across America, and protect voters nationwide from failed, restrictive voting measures like HB 1355 that only make participation in our democracy more difficult.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Deutch".

Ted Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS