

MIAMI-DADE ELECTION REFORM COALITION

September 20, 2002

Via Hand Delivery

David Leahy
Supervisor of Elections
Miami-Dade Elections Department
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 NW First Street, Suite 1910
Miami, Florida 33129-1906

Re: Protecting the Vote and Reforming Miami-Dade County's Electoral Process

Dear Supervisor Leahy:

I am writing this letter on behalf of all the individuals and organizations whose names are listed below.

We are a group of representatives of broad spectrum of community organizations and citizens who have joined together because we are concerned that too many people were disenfranchised in the elections that took place on September 10th. The conduct of that election was another embarrassment for Miami-Dade County and Florida.

Because we love this community and we value the right to vote as the most sacred right of our democracy, we have come together to call for and demand basic reforms to our County's voting system. Those demands are outlined in the attached document.

We have also put together a new campaign to empower voters to stand up for their rights at the polls. That campaign includes the following, all of which we intend to implement before the November general election:

- The community groups and leaders will assist in training volunteer poll watchers to monitor the events on Election Day.
- We will be working through church groups, civic clubs, senior citizen centers, labor unions, and schools and colleges to provide basic information designed to empower voters, including the distribution of a "Know Your Rights as a Florida Voter" pamphlet in English, Spanish and Creole; and assisting in providing hands-on demonstrations of the use of the iVotronic Voting Machines.
- We will be working to identify special needs residents and to provide them with instructions on how to use the Voting Machines.
- We will be organizing town hall meetings and television and radio programs on the voting process.

- We will be assisting in publicizing complaint procedures.
- We will be monitoring the polling places.

We are prepared to do our part as community leaders and citizens. We ask that you do your part as head of this County's election oversight.

We eager to discuss the electoral reform items we have outlined in this communication. I will be Calling your office early in the week to arrange an appointment.

Very truly yours,

Lida Rodriguez-Taseff
President, American Civil Liberties Union
Miami Chapter

cc: Mayor Alex Penelas
County Manager Steve Shiver
Board of County Commissioners