

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis:

As part of the *CARES Act* (P.L. 116-136), signed into law on March 27, 2020, Congress appropriated \$400 million to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to distribute to U.S. states and territories in order to protect the 2020 federal election cycle from the effects of COVID-19. The EAC will distribute \$20.2 million to the State of Florida, contingent on the state providing a 25 percent match of \$4.0 million, for a total of \$24.2 million.^[1]

As of this writing, Florida has not submitted a letter to the EAC formally requesting these federal funds and outlining the ways in which it intends to use them to ensure a safe, secure, and successful election. We urge you to formally request the funds as soon as possible, so funding can be used to prepare for the state's August 18, 2020 primary election—which is only about 100 days away—and the November 3, 2020 general election.

On April 7, 2020, the Florida Supervisors of Elections—composed of the senior election officials in the state's 67 counties—sent you a letter. The letter observes that, during the March 17, 2020 presidential preference primary in Florida, county election officials “encountered significant challenges with polling places becoming unavailable, difficulty in acquiring hand sanitizer and other supplies, and substantial numbers of poll workers deciding not to work, many at the last minute.” It is clear from the letter that Supervisors of Elections throughout Florida will face increased administrative costs in order to prepare for and execute a free and fair election process. The funds from the *CARES Act* will help offset these costs and prepare election departments for what is expected to be a challenging elections cycle.

In light of the foregoing, we respectfully ask you or your designee to provide written responses to the following three questions:

1. When will the State formally request the \$20.2 million in federal funding from EAC?
2. How does the State intend to meet its \$4 million state match?
3. How, precisely, do you intend to use this \$24.2 million in federal and state funding?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to your written responses to our questions and to working with you to meet our shared goal of free, fair, and safe elections in Florida.

^[1] See <https://www.eac.gov/payments-and-grants/2020-cares-act-grants>.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



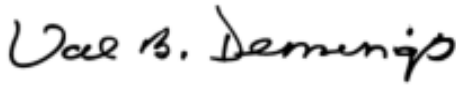
Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Val Demings
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



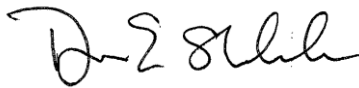
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Al Lawson
Member of Congress



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



Donna E. Shalala
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Laurel Lee, Secretary of State, Florida Department of State
The Honorable Tammy Jones, President, Florida Supervisors of Elections