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July 30, 2018

Judy Genshaft
President
University of South Florida
4202 E. Fowler Ave, CGS 401
Tampa, Florida 33620

RE: Early Voting Site at the University of South Florida to Promote Active and Engaged
Citizens and Convenience for USF Community

Dear President Genshaft,

Judy

I trust you saw the good news last week that the U.S. District Court ruled that the State of Florida's ban on colleges and universities being used as early voting sites was unconstitutional and that such ban showed "a stark pattern of discrimination." The ruling opens the door to allow 830,000 students attending Florida colleges and universities, faculty and staff and others to more easily participate in elections this fall. The University of South Florida (USF), as a recently recognized preeminent university, should take the lead in working with local supervisors of elections to establish early voting sites on its campuses.

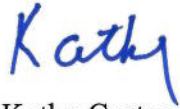
An early voting site on the USF main campus would be particularly convenient for the over 35,000 undergraduate and graduate students, and the faculty and staff. Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Craig Latimer has expressed an interest in opening an early voting site on campus and I have encouraged him to do so for many years after working with students to expand voting opportunities.

Opening an early voting site on the USF main campus is particularly important this year because the ballot is quite long and contains many races, constitutional amendments and a likely local initiative. Voters need time to properly consider the entire ballot.

The judge wrote in his ruling, "Throwing up roadblocks in front of younger voters does not remotely serve the public. Abridging voter rights never does." I encourage you to take the Court's admonition to heart and work to empower the USF community. Give USF students, faculty and staff a greater voice and more convenient way to participate in our great democracy.

I look forward to hearing from you. If I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me at 813-871-2817 or my Legislative Director, Elizabeth Brown, at 202-225-3376.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Castor
United States Representative
Florida- District 14