

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIRCUIT CIVIL**

CHRISTOPHER GLEASON,
A Florida citizen, Elector, and
Candidate for Supervisor of
Elections, Pinellas County

Plaintiff,

vs.

**CASE NO.: 24-003717-CI
IMMEDIATE HEARING
REQUESTED**

JULIE MARCUS, in her official
capacity as Supervisor of Elections of
Pinellas County, Florida, **DUSTIN
CHASE,** in his official capacity as
Deputy Supervisor of Elections of
Pinellas County Florida, **MATT
SMITH,** in his official capacity as
General Counsel for Pinellas County
Supervisor of Elections, 99 John Does,
Individually; 99 Jane Does,
Individually

Defendants.

NOTICE OF PRIORITY STATUS

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, Christopher Gleason (“Plaintiff”), pursuant to Rule
2.545(c)(1), Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, and submits this Notice of

Priority Status, stating Plaintiff's belief that the instant matter should be assigned priority status by this Court, and further states:

Nature of the Case

This is an action for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief pursuant to Chapter 119 and Chapter 101, Florida Statutes, seeking a declaration that Defendants Julie Marcus, Dustin Chase, and Matt Smith, in their official capacities, have engaged in unlawful actions related to the ordering and distribution of vote-by-mail ballots for the upcoming August 20, 2024, election in Pinellas County, Florida. The Plaintiff further seeks an injunction to prevent the Defendants from counting unlawfully obtained and distributed vote-by-mail ballots, which threatens to undermine the integrity of the election process.

Source of Priority Status

Rule 2.215(h), Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, provides:

Duty to Expedite Priority Cases. Every judge has a duty to expedite priority cases to the extent reasonably possible. Priority cases are those cases that have been assigned a priority status or assigned an expedited disposition schedule by statute, rule of procedure, case law, or otherwise. Particular attention shall be given to all juvenile dependency and termination of parental rights cases, cases involving families and children in need of services, challenges involving elections and

proposed constitutional amendments, and capital post conviction cases. (Emphasis added.)

Additionally, Section 119 and Section 101, Florida Statutes, permits this Court to “order a speedy hearing of an action for a declaratory judgment and may advance it on the calendar.”

Deadlines Imposed by Law on Any Aspect of Case

Section 101.62, Florida Statutes, sets strict deadlines for the distribution and handling of vote-by-mail ballots, which are essential to the integrity of the election process. The Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections must adhere to these statutory requirements, and any deviation from these procedures could result in irreparable harm to the election’s integrity.

With the election scheduled for August 20, 2024, the Plaintiff asserts that immediate action is necessary to address the issues raised in this case. The time-sensitive nature of the election process requires that this matter be given priority status to prevent the counting of unlawful ballots and to ensure that the election is conducted in accordance with Florida law.

Unusual Factors That May Bear on Meeting Imposed Deadlines

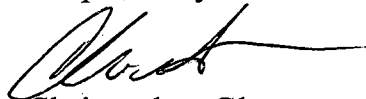
This case involves significant issues of compliance with Florida election laws, particularly concerning the integrity and legality of the vote-by-mail process. The upcoming election imposes strict deadlines for printing, mailing, and counting

ballots. The potential for unlawfully obtained ballots to be counted in the election presents an urgent need for expedited judicial review. Additionally, the possibility of a contested election outcome due to the inclusion of unlawful ballots further underscores the need for this matter to be resolved swiftly.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests that this Court assign the instant matter priority status pursuant to Rule 2.545(c)(1), Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, and consistent with this request, schedule a case management conference to establish a motion submission and hearing schedule that aligns with the critical deadlines imposed by Florida election law. Plaintiff also requests that this Court require the Defendants to delay printing and mailing of any disputed ballots until the last possible date, and/or prioritize the printing of ballots affected by this matter last, and to affirm Plaintiff's position overriding mootness if claimed by any party based on the election results.

DATED: August 22, 2024

Respectfully submitted,



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ProSe