



miami-dade election reform coalition

SOURCE: Miami-Dade Election Reform Coalition

For Immediate Release:
July 8, 2004

Media Contact:
Sandy Wayland, Legislative Chair, Miami-Dade Election Reform
Coalition, 305-297-9921

Undaunted by Governor's Initial Refusal to Order Statewide Audits of the State's Voting System, Miami Election Reform Group Launches Citizen Action Campaign to Change the Governor's Mind

MIAMI - Undaunted by the Governor's initial refusal to order that the state's voting systems be audited prior to the upcoming August and November elections, the Miami-Dade Election Reform Coalition has launched a citizen action campaign to convince the Governor that the audits are crucial to restoring voter confidence in the state's voting systems.

"The Governor and Secretary of State Glenda Hood keep telling us that we don't need the audits because 'Florida has the most rigorous certification process in the country,' but they conveniently forget to mention that certification has failed us at least twice," said Sandy Wayland, Legislative Chair of the coalition. "The Governor needs to hear from the every citizens of Florida because he needs to know that they are not fooled by the rhetoric. Obviously, this is the only way to get him to change his mind about the importance of the audits."

Wayland also noted that the coalition has stepped up pressure on the Governor by sending him a formal written request outlining the demand for the audits and the reasons behind the request. This letter (which is pasted below and attached in .pdf format) follows the press conference, which was held last Wednesday June 30th in Tallahassee where the coalition requested the Governor audit the Florida voting systems.

In their letter, coalition members state that it is the absence of consistent and thorough auditing of voting systems in Florida that has increased cynicism in the elections process- not the alerting public



miami-dade election reform coalition

officials to the need for such audits. The coalition requested that Governor Bush respond in writing to them by no later than Monday, July 12, 2004, as time is of the essence.

"We are distressed that in responding to our public call for audits, instead of dealing with the request head on, the Governor's office chose to attack us personally by saying that our 'goal' was 'to undermine voter confidence,'" said Martha Mahoney, Law Professor at the University of Miami and a member of the coalition.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," added Mahoney. "Our goal is to increase voter confidence but to do it the right way: by verifying that our system works, not by hiding the problems and playing politics."

"Our Citizen Action Campaign is 'no frills,'" said Wayland. "We are simply asking the voters of Florida to let the Governor hear from them if they want him to order an audit of the system. This is not about partisanship. To the contrary; This is simply about mobilizing all voters across that state, without regard to political affiliation, and asking them to let the Governor know that they want audits now because they want to make sure that the voting machines work the way they are supposed to in the upcoming elections."

The coalition is calling for community groups and individuals throughout the state to contact Governor Bush to call for a statewide audit of the voting system and to distribute the coalition's letter to the Governor to their local newspapers and other media outlets in the hopes that they will print it or write about the subject.

"Unlike voting machine vendors who spend millions of dollars wining and dining our elected officials to get what they want, every day voters don't have fancy lobbyists on their payroll," said Wayland. "But they can still make a difference just by making one phone call."

The letter to Gov. Bush is attached in .pdf format.