



miami-dade election reform coalition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MIAMI-DADE ELECTION REFORM COALITION CALLS ON ATTORNEY
GENERAL CHARLIE CRIST TO INVESTIGATE VOTING SYSTEM VENDORS
IN FLORIDA**

Expressing its concern over the fact that the three state certified vendors of voting machines in Florida have been unwilling to sell disability-accessible voting machines to Leon County's Supervisor of Elections Ion Sancho, the Miami-Dade Election Reform Coalition has filed a complaint asking State Attorney General Charlie Crist to investigate the circumstances surrounding the vendors' refusal to do business with Leon County and to determine whether any anti-trust laws have been broken.

"By virtue of their being the only vendors to be certified to sell voting machines in Florida, ES&S, Diebold and Sequoia essentially operate in a state-created, state-sanctioned monopoly," stated Sandy Wayland, President of the coalition. "Because the monopoly was created by the state, it is incumbent on the state to investigate possible misconduct by these vendors and to protect the consumers of Florida from possible anti-competitive behaviors," continued Wayland.

The group has also called on other concerned citizens in the state to file written complaints with the Attorney General, asking him to investigate. Stated Wayland, "the complaint procedure is a formal procedure created so that Florida consumers can speak directly to their Attorney General and ask him to act on their behalf. The state has put the complaint form on the internet precisely because it wants to be responsive to the concerns of all Floridians. We are hopeful that Attorney General Crist will take these complaints seriously and protect Florida's consumers from corporate interests who abuse the privilege of doing business in our state."

The Miami-Dade Election Reform Coalition (MDERC) is a non-partisan grass-roots organization dedicated to election reform. Our mission is to protect the rights of every eligible voter to cast a ballot and to have that ballot accurately recorded and counted. We are neither liberal nor conservative, Republican or Democrat.