



BILL COWLES
ORANGE COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
(407) 836-2070
119 W. Kaley Street
Orlando, FL 32806

STATEMENT ON ELECTION SECURITY

AUGUST 8, 2018

We are unaware of, and have received no confirmation of, any unauthorized intrusion into our election systems. We continue to work with Federal and State resources to secure our systems and have full confidence in the integrity of our elections.

At any time you may verify the status of your registration at www.ocfelections.com.

Safeguards are in place to ensure that every eligible voter is able to cast a ballot and every ballot cast is counted.



Bill Cowles, Orange County Supervisor of Elections

Your Vote...

- ★ Florida is a paper ballot state, meaning your vote is permanent and can't be changed remotely.
- ★ In conjunction with the paper ballots, Florida uses optical scanners called tabulators to count and accumulate votes. These tabulators are not connected to the internet.
- ★ As a further safeguard, Florida's paper ballots can be used to verify the results of any election or contest.

Our mission is to:

Ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

Enhance public confidence.

Encourage citizen participation.



Bill Cowles, Orange County, Supervisor of Elections

Your Voter Registration Status...

- ★ Anytime at your convenience, check your voter registration at www.ocfelections.com.
- ★ At check-in when voting if your name can't be found, staff will contact the office to research the issue further. Additionally, a back-up, precinct-specific, paper print-out of the voter roll is delivered to each polling place election morning.
- ★ If your name still can't be found, you believe you are properly registered to vote, and you are in the correct precinct, then you will be issued a provisional ballot. All provisional ballots are researched and then reviewed by the canvassing board, so eligible voters' ballots will be counted.

**We want all eligible voters to be able to vote
and have their ballots counted.**



Bill Cowles, Orange County, Supervisor of Elections



Ken Detzner, Florida **Secretary of State**

R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

850.245.6500

The following statement was provided by the Florida Department of State:

“The Florida Department of State has received zero information from Senator Nelson or his staff that support his claims. Additionally, the Department has received no information from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Florida Department of Law Enforcement that corroborates Senator Nelson’s statement and we have no evidence to support these claims. If Senator Nelson has specific information about threats to our elections, he should share it with election officials in Florida.”



FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS

PO Box 350 | Tallahassee, FL 323021 Telephone: (850) 599-9120

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Ron Labasky

Executive Director, Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections
(850) 599-9120

Every Supervisor of Elections in the State of Florida is taking the security of our elections very seriously. No supervisor has had contact with Senator Nelson since they received a joint letter from Senator Nelson and Senator Rubio in early July. In neither that letter, nor in the referenced Senate Intelligence Report, were there any details of specific counties having Russians "in Florida's election records."

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2018-2019

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Since being declared critical infrastructure, Florida's supervisors have worked with the Department of Homeland Security, the Center for Internet Security, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Agency for State Technology, our vendors, and other partners to assess our risks, identify vulnerabilities, and better-secure our elections.

Money provided by the Department of State, along with the new federal money from the recent HAVA Cybersecurity Grant, is currently being used to fund important upgrades and education efforts with the common goal of securing our elections.

General Counsel

Ronald Labasky, Esq.

Much of what the new HAVA money will allow us to do must now be done while we are in the middle of conducting a statewide election-hardly the most opportune time to make sweeping changes to our operations. All we can do, with the limited resources and compressed schedule that we now find ourselves working within, is measure our security posture against established standards and take the actions our resources allow to reduce or mitigate known risks.



August 20, 2018

Dear Secretary Detzner,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding election security in the State of Florida and for the continued strong partnership between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), your office, and other election officials in Florida. We appreciate sharing an open line of communication and your willingness to engage with DHS and the FBI in our shared efforts to secure election infrastructure.

This is a critically important partnership, as all 50 states and every local jurisdiction could be a potential target this election season, whether through malicious cyber operations or influence operations. Although we have not seen new or ongoing compromises of state or local election infrastructure in Florida, Russian government actors have previously demonstrated both the intent and capability to conduct malicious cyber operations. DHS and the FBI will continue to notify any victim of a successful cyber intrusion into their election network in any jurisdiction nationwide.

While states are responsible for administering elections, DHS, in coordination with DOJ, the FBI, the Election Assistance Commission, and the Intelligence Community, leads federal efforts to improve the security of election infrastructure. Working with members of the election community, we will continue to prioritize conducting assessments of cybersecurity risk; addressing vulnerabilities that could be exploited by malicious actors; hardening systems for future elections; and planning for incident response.

DHS and Florida officials have partnered on a number of initiatives to secure election systems, and DHS officials are providing training and technical assistance to Florida counties – just as we are with other jurisdictions across the country. In fact, our partnership has been so successful; all Florida counties are now members of the Election Infrastructure and Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC). In addition, two Florida Supervisors of Elections serve on the Election Infrastructure Government Coordinating Council and played a critical role in defining the Government Coordinating Council Communications Protocols, which set expectations for when and how the Federal Government and election officials share cybersecurity incident information. Florida has also spent the past several months deploying more Albert intrusion detection sensors to state and local election systems than any other state.

The Honorable Ken Detzner

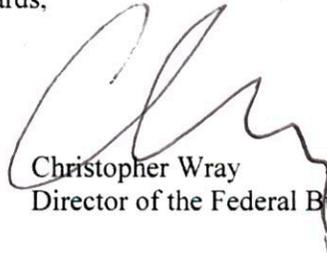
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Thank you again for again for your continued partnership. We are focused on assisting election officials with securing their systems for the 2018 midterms and ensuring Floridians can have confidence that when they visit the polls, their vote will be counted, and counted correctly.



Kirstjen Nielsen
Secretary of Homeland Security

Best Regards,



Christopher Wray
Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation