




# JULIE MARCUS

## PINELLAS COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

TO: The Honorable Dave Eggers, Chair  
The Honorable Members of the Board of County Commission

FROM: Julie Marcus, Supervisor of Elections 

DATE: March 2, 2021

RE: FY21 Special Appropriation

As of January 1, 2021, Florida law [F.S. 102.141(7)(a)] states if ballots are processed using automatic tabulating equipment, which is not a part of the voting system, the Canvassing Board is not required to reprocess those ballots for a recount.

I am respectfully requesting a FY21 special appropriation of \$372,000 to procure a system authorized under Florida Statutes 101.591(2)(b) and 102.141(7)(a) to conduct post-election audits and recounts.

This system will allow us to conduct automated audits and will not require us to reprocess ballots for recounts, which reduces personnel and operational costs.

We are requesting these funds in FY21, so we can implement the system for 2021 fall elections. Note, beginning 2022, we will be conducting re-precincting (as part of redistricting) and preparing for the 2022 Gubernatorial Election cycle.

Florida law requires a post-election manual audit to be conducted after each election if no manual recount is required. A machine recount must be conducted prior to the Canvassing Board conducting a manual recount. Given current law and Florida's and Pinellas' history of close elections, the cost of conducting audits and recounts will continue.