



DEBORAH CLARK
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
PINELLAS COUNTY

TO: The Honorable Janet Long, Chairwoman, Board of County Commissioner
The Honorable Members of the Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Deborah Clark, Supervisor of Elections *dc*

DATE: May 19, 2017

RE: FY17 Special Appropriation Request
Bilingual Language Compliance – Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act

As you are aware, on December 20, 2016, we received a letter from the United States Department of Justice, informing us that Pinellas County is a jurisdiction covered by Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, which means we must provide Spanish language assistance, and all election materials must be printed in English and Spanish.

Compliance is required for all elections conducted in Pinellas County - County, Municipal and Special Districts – and became effective December 5, 2016, when notice was published in the Federal Register.

Compliance requires the Supervisor of Elections to provide voter registration information and election materials in both English and Spanish, including language assistance at election offices and polling places. Some examples of materials are: voter registration applications, ballots, voting instructions, polling place directional signs, procedures and information posted at polling places, legal notices, and website information.

With this being a new federal mandate, costs associated with compliance were not budgeted. Therefore, it is necessary to request a special appropriation for FY17 in the amount of \$245,000.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Cc: Mark Woodard, County Administrator
Bill Berger, Director, Office of Management and Budget

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