

TO: The Honorable Pat Gerard, Chair, Board of County Commissioners

The Honorable Members of the Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Julie Marcus, Supervisor of Elections

DATE: May 21, 2020

RE: FY20 Special Appropriation Request

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Election Response

This is a request for a special budget appropriation to cover costs in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. My office will be spending these funds on the following:

- Pursuant to Florida Statutes 101.71(2), when a polling place changes, we are required to mail notices to voters. To date, 12 polling places are unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19.
- Mailing a postcard to every voter who does not have a mail ballot request on file to inform them
 voting by mail is an option to stay safe and vote at home. Voters can use this option to return
 the postcard, which includes prepaid postage.
- Paying for return postage on mail ballots to eliminate any barriers for voters who wish to vote by mail during the Primary Election. Return postage for mail ballots for the General Election is already included in my proposed FY21 budget.

Therefore, it is necessary to request a special appropriation for FY20 in the amount of \$596,922.

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was signed into law. This law provides grant funds to help administrators with COVID-19 related election costs. Pinellas County anticipates receiving grant funds. To the extent possible, any grant funds received will be used to reimburse the County.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Cc: Barry A. Burton, County Administrator

Bill Berger, Director, Office of Management and Budget

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