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# Press Release

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**CONTACTS:**

Dan McCrea, President, Florida Voters Coalition, Cell: 305-984-2900

Pam Haengel, Co-Founder, Florida Voters Coalition, Cell: 727-244-9064

## **Victory for Voters!**

**Election Supervisors Association Attorney Advises  
Okay to Take Voter ID At the Polls;  
Breaks with Secretary Browning's advice;  
FVC Calls on Sec. Browning to Suspend or Concur**

**FLORIDA:** A victory for voters happened today, when legal counsel for the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE), Ron Labasky, issued a memo to the FSASE advising all Florida supervisors of elections that they could accept identification at the polls, without requiring voters to make an additional trip to the elections office. [See legal opinion at: [http://www.floridavoters.org/downloads/FVC\\_10\\_21\\_083.pdf](http://www.floridavoters.org/downloads/FVC_10_21_083.pdf)]

Florida Voters Coalition wrote to all 67 supervisors last week urging them to do just that. Mr. Labasky refers to the Florida Voters Coalition letter specifically in his memo and says there has also been significant discussion and opinions from various campaigns and city and county attorneys providing comment and opinion to supervisors on the subject. [See FVC letter at: [http://www.floridavoters.org/downloads/FVC\\_2008\\_10\\_13.pdf](http://www.floridavoters.org/downloads/FVC_2008_10_13.pdf)]

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On accepting ID at the polls Mr. Labasky writes, “Therefore, the verification could be accomplished at the polling place, thereby obviating any need for the voter to take any further actions.”

The opinion also advises supervisors that they do not need to operate in absolute uniformity. On that he wrote, “There is no specification in the statute that establishes a single methodology for that to be accomplished. You have authority to establish reasonable procedures to allow verification of the applicant, providing documentation for the canvassing board and allowing the voter to cast his or her vote.”

“This is a big victory for voters,” said Dan McCrea, President of Florida Voters Coalition. “We applaud supervisors, FSASE, and Mr. Labasky for putting voters first and making a reasonable read of the statute. We now call on Secretary Browning to join them in this position.”

“We’d still like to see this law suspended until after the election,” said FVC Co-Founder Pamela Haengel, “but short of that, Secretary Browning can support Florida’s voters, Supervisors of Elections, and his own call for uniformity, by amending his previous position to come in line with this opinion—and be more accommodating to voters. We hope he will,” Haengel said.

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