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# Media Advisory

**WHAT: PRESS TELE-CONFERENCE**

**Dial-in Number: (616) 347-8000**

**Access Code: 503969#**

**WHEN: 12:30 PM, Wednesday, 10 September 2007**

**WHY: To answer questions regarding today's joint Press Release, attached, where Republican and Democratic Leadership stood together with non-partisan Florida Voters Coalition and The League of Woman Voters to call for immediate State action to secure the upcoming November general election, following the latest election failure in Palm Beach where 3,400 ballots remain missing from the Primary election two weeks ago. This in no less a county than Palm Beach, Florida – home of the butterfly ballot in 2000 and where Governor Crist signed Florida's paper ballot bill in May 2007.**

**WHO: Florida Voters Coalition**

**League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County**

**Democratic Party of Palm Beach County**

**Republican Party of Palm Beach County**

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# Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Wednesday, 10 September 2008**

**CONTACTS:**

Wahid Mahmood, Chairman, or Mark Alan Siegel, Parliamentarian, Democratic Executive Committee of Palm Beach County, 561-433-1112 or 561-212-8035

Sid Dinerstein, Chairman, Republican Party of Palm Beach County, 561-625-0129

Pamela Goodman, President, League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County, 561-843-1233

Dan McCrea, President, Florida Voters Coalition, 305-984-2900, or Pam Haengel, VP and Co-Founder, Florida Voters Coalition, 727-244-9064

## **FLORIDA REPUBLICANS, DEMOCRATS AND NON-PARTISANS JOIN FORCES, CALL FOR STATE ACTION TO SECURE NOVEMBER'S GENERAL ELECTION**

PALM BEACH, FLORIDA: Democratic and Republican Leaders stand together today, with the non-partisan Florida Voters Coalition and The League of Women Voters, to call on the State of Florida to take emergency action to secure November's General Election. This follows the latest election calamity in Palm Beach where 3,400 ballots remain lost from the County's Primary election two weeks ago

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The four groups, seeking to elevate the security of elections above partisanship, call on the State of Florida to take responsibility to ensure Palm Beach County elections are safe, secure, and reliable in the Presidential election just eight weeks away. Secretary of State Browning has authority to take action as Florida's Chief Elections Officer. The Governor has additional authority if needed. The election is forecast to be a record turnout across Florida – five or more times the turnout of the Primary.

"The clock is ticking. There is no chance this Elections office can be ready for November 4th without outside help." said Sid Dinerstein, Chairman of the Republican Party of Palm Beach.

"Election integrity is at the heart of the democratic process," the officers of the Democratic Party's Executive Committee said in a statement. "We ask for state action in light of a discrepancy of over 2,500 votes between the vote totals for a judicial race posted on the night of the election and after subsequent recounts. We join across party lines and with the good government community in calling on the Secretary of State to do whatever is necessary -- assistance, training and oversight -- to assure the proper conduct of the 2008 Palm Beach County elections and the accuracy of the results."

"This is about election integrity and accuracy for November for the 800,000 registered voters in Palm Beach County. The State has a right and responsibility to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the November election. We have lost confidence in our local election office." said Pamela Goodman, President League of Women Voters Palm Beach County.

“Enough is enough. Florida’s embarrassing record of failed elections must come to an end. The integrity of elections has to be above partisan politics.” said Dan McCrea, President of the Florida Voters Coalition. “We congratulate the Republicans and Democrats in Palm Beach for standing together to deliver that message to State officials. We’re pleased to stand with them, and the League of Woman Voters, on behalf of all Florida voters.”

Palm Beach County, the site of this most recent failure, could not be more significant. It is home of the butterfly ballots, which came to symbolized the 2000 Presidential election debacle, and where Governor Crist signed Florida’s paper ballot bill into law in May 2007. For the past two weeks, elections staff have worked unsuccessfully trying to find thousands of missing ballots from the 26 August Primary election. The State had to leave one very close judicial race out of its certified results because of the missing ballots.

**PRESS TELE-CONFERENCE CALL:** All four organizations will conduct a Press Tele-conference to answer additional questions at 12:30 PM ET on Wednesday. The dial in number is: (616) 347-8000 and the access codes is 503969#

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