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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

All Florida Counties required to transition to bilingual (English & Spanish) ballots, precinct supplies, voting materials and voter education materials

In 2018 Hernando County was involved in a lawsuit with 32 other counties in Florida regarding voters from Puerto Rico who evacuated to Florida as a result of Hurricane Maria. They are US Citizens, educated in American schools, but, English is not their primary language.

Hernando, along with 31 other counties was required to provide Spanish sample ballots for the November 6, 2018, General Election in all forms made available such as on our website, mailed, or advertised and at all voting locations.

Spanish language election materials were also required to be provided, so a number of our publications were translated and made available on our website in English and in Spanish.

Additional measures such as hiring additional bilingual election workers, and being able to provide bilingual language assistance, as needed, were also required.

Judge Walker has ordered ballots and all voting materials be in English and in Spanish for the March 17, 2020, Presidential Preference Primary Election and all future elections. At the judge's direction this ruling was transitioned into State Directive 2019-02 by the Secretary of State's Office.

Also, in a policy decision, Governor DeSantis is mandating by Florida Administrative Rule making process, all Florida counties must provide ballots and voting materials in English and in Spanish for all future elections. All counties must also be able to provide voting materials in Spanish and language assistance at the polls by additional bilingual poll workers and by use of a Spanish language assistance hotline

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