



Secretary of State Laurel Lee
Florida Department of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

February 3, 2022

Dear Secretary Lee:

I am writing to express grave concern regarding a recent report¹ that senior citizens in a Miami-Dade public housing complex, Haley Sofge Towers, unknowingly had their party registration changed after “updating” their voter registration with “people with clipboards and Republican Party of Florida hats.” The report cites instances of voters who did not intend to register with the Republican Party of Florida and only found out they had registered as Republicans *after* receiving their voter registration cards. Notably, the report states that several residents at the public housing complex experienced the same unwitting change in their party affiliation.

This comes after a December 2021 report² finding that an 84-year-old resident of Little Havana, who had been a lifelong Democrat, had her voter registration unknowingly changed to Republican after being approached by a third-party voter registration agent working on behalf of the Republican Party of Florida. While the elderly resident signed the form, she allegedly did not intend or provide authority for her party affiliation to be changed.

Given that there have been multiple reports of voters having their party affiliation unwittingly changed after interacting with third-party voter registration agents working on behalf of the Republican Party of Florida, I call on you to exercise your authority under Section 97.102(15), Florida Statutes to “[c]onduct preliminary investigations into any irregularities or fraud involving voter registration...and report [your] findings to the statewide prosecutor or the state attorney for the judicial circuit in which the alleged violation occurred for prosecution, if warranted.”

¹ Glenna Milburg, *South Florida Seniors Alarmed After Political Party Was Unknowingly Changed to Republican*, LOCAL 10 NEWS, (February 2, 2022, 6:21 PM), <https://www.local10.com/news/local/2022/02/02/south-florida-seniors-alarmed-after-political-party-was-unknowingly-changed-to-republican/>

² Glenna Milburg, *Was a Little Havana 84-year-old lifelong Democrat duped into registering as a Republican?*, LOCAL 10 NEWS, (December 3, 2021, 6:20 PM), <https://www.local10.com/news/politics/2021/12/03/was-a-little-havana-84-year-old-lifelong-democrat-duped-into-registering-as-a-republican/>.



I trust that you are as alarmed as I am by these reports and will uphold your duty as Chief Elections Officer of the State of Florida by ensuring that Florida seniors are not duped or taken advantage of by third party voter registration organizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Manuel A. Diaz'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Manuel A. Diaz
Chair, Florida Democratic Party

CC:

Governor Ron DeSantis
Mayor Daniella Levine-Cava
Supervisor of Elections Christina White
State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle