2008

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to elections; amending s. 97.012, F.S.;
3	revising provisions relating to investigative duties of
4	the Secretary of State; amending s. 97.041, F.S.; revising
5	requirements for voter preregistration of minors; amending
6	s. 97.053, F.S.; revising provisions relating to
7	verification of certain information on voter registration
8	applications; amending s. 97.0535, F.S.; deleting certain
9	forms of identification for voter registration applicants;
10	amending s. 97.055, F.S.; providing for change of party
11	affiliation after the closing of the registration books;
12	amending s. 97.1031, F.S.; authorizing certain
13	modifications to party affiliation registration; amending
14	s. 98.065, F.S.; revising registration list maintenance
15	provisions; creating s. 98.0655, F.S.; requiring the
16	Department of State to prescribe registration list
17	maintenance forms; providing criteria; amending s. 98.075,
18	F.S.; authorizing removal of deceased persons' names from
19	registration records upon receipt of death certificates;
20	amending s. 99.012, F.S.; revising restrictions against
21	candidates qualifying for multiple public offices;
22	amending s. 99.021, F.S.; deleting a resignation statement
23	from the qualifying oath for candidates for federal
24	office; amending s. 99.063, F.S.; revising deadline for
25	gubernatorial candidates to designate running mates;
26	revising deadline for Lieutenant Governor candidates to
27	file certain information with the Department of State;
28	amending s. 99.097, F.S.; prohibiting the counting of
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petitions listing an address other than the legal address 29 30 of registration; requiring the mailing of a new voter registration application for an address update; amending 31 s. 100.221, F.S.; providing circumstances under which 32 early voting is not required; amending s. 100.361, F.S.; 33 revising provisions relating to the recall of municipal or 34 35 charter county officers, recall committees, recall petitions, recall defense, and offenses related thereto; 36 37 amending s. 100.371, F.S.; deleting requirement that petition-revocation forms be adopted by rule; providing a 38 process for submitting standard petition-revocation forms 39 in lieu of petition-revocation forms for a particular 40 petition that have not been submitted and approved; 41 deleting requirements that certain information be recorded 42 in the statewide voter registration system; amending s. 43 44 101.041, F.S.; deleting a requirement for the printing and distribution of official ballots; amending s. 101.045, 45 F.S.; providing a method for changing party affiliation 46 47 registration; amending s. 101.111, F.S.; revising methods 48 by which a person's right to vote may be challenged; amending s. 101.51, F.S.; deleting provisions specifying 49 certain responsibilities of election officials prior to 50 allowing electors to enter a booth or compartment to vote; 51 amending s. 101.56075, F.S.; authorizing persons to vote 52 53 on a voter interface device upon request; authorizing, 54 rather than requiring, persons with disabilities to vote on a voter interface device by 2012 that meets certain 55 requirements; amending s. 101.5608, F.S.; revising certain 56 Page 2 of 54

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57 procedures relating to deposit of ballots; amending s. 58 101.5614, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 59 101.6102, F.S.; providing an exception for conducting elections by mail ballot; amending s. 101.733, F.S.; 60 authorizing the Governor to call for mail ballot elections 61 under certain emergency circumstances; requiring the 62 63 department to adopt rules for such mail ballot elections; 64 revising notice requirements for elections rescheduled due 65 to an emergency; amending s. 102.014, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the training of poll workers; 66 amending s. 102.031, F.S.; providing that exit polling is 67 not a form of solicitation; amending s. 102.112, F.S.; 68 revising duties of county canvassing boards; revising the 69 deadline for submitting county returns to the Department 70 of State; amending s. 102.141, F.S.; providing procedures 71 72 for canvassing boards to use when conducting recounts; deleting certain canvassing board requirements for 73 reporting results; amending s. 102.166, F.S.; permitting 74 75 candidates, certain political committees, and certain political parties to request manual recounts by a 76 specified time; requiring manual recounts of votes cast 77 upon timely receipt of requests by appropriate parties; 78 deleting certain provisions relating to recount of 79 overvotes, undervotes, and provisional ballots; providing 80 circumstances under which canvassing boards are not 81 82 required to conduct manual audits; requiring canvassing boards to track ballots under certain circumstances; 83 providing criteria for determining when ballots are deemed 84 Page 3 of 54

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85	not properly completed; providing for canvassing boards to
86	use certain information for statutory reports; amending s.
87	103.101, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to requests
88	for placement of candidates' names on presidential
89	preference primary ballots; amending s. 190.006, F.S.;
90	deleting certain fee requirements for candidates seeking
91	election to the board of supervisors of community
92	development districts; providing effective dates.
93	
94	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
95	
96	Section 1. Subsection (15) of section 97.012, Florida
97	Statutes, is amended to read:
98	97.012 Secretary of State as chief election officerThe
99	Secretary of State is the chief election officer of the state,
100	and it is his or her responsibility to:
101	(15) Conduct preliminary investigations into any
102	irregularities or fraud involving voter registration, voting, or
103	candidate petition, or issue petition activities and report his
104	or her findings to the statewide prosecutor or the state
105	attorney for the judicial circuit in which the alleged violation
106	occurred for prosecution, if warranted. The Department of State
107	may prescribe by rule requirements for filing an elections-fraud
108	complaint and for investigating any such complaint.
109	Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
110	97.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
111	97.041 Qualifications to register or vote
112	(1)
I	Page 4 of 54

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(b) A person who is otherwise qualified may preregister on or after that person's <u>16th</u> 17th birthday or receipt of a valid Florida driver's license, whichever occurs earlier, and may vote in any election occurring on or after that person's 18th birthday.

Section 3. Subsection (6) of section 97.053, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

120

97.053 Acceptance of voter registration applications.--

121 (6) A voter registration application may be accepted as valid only after the department has verified the authenticity or 122 nonexistence of the driver's license number, the Florida 123 identification card number, or the last four digits of the 124 social security number provided by the applicant. If a completed 125 126 voter registration application has been received by the book-127 closing deadline but the driver's license number, the Florida 128 identification card number, or the last four digits of the social security number provided by the applicant cannot be 129 verified, the applicant shall be notified that the number cannot 130 131 be verified application is incomplete and that the applicant voter must provide evidence to the supervisor sufficient to 132 133 verify the authenticity of the number provided on the application. If the applicant voter provides the necessary 134 evidence, the supervisor shall place the applicant's voter's 135 name on the registration rolls as an active voter. If the 136 applicant voter has not provided the necessary evidence or the 137 number has not otherwise been verified prior to the applicant 138 presenting himself or herself to vote, the applicant shall be 139 provided a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot shall be 140 Page 5 of 54

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141	counted only if the driver's license number, Florida
142	identification card number, or last four digits of the social
143	security number provided on the application are is verified by
144	the end of the canvassing period or if the applicant presents
145	evidence to the supervisor of elections sufficient to verify the
146	authenticity of the driver's license number, Florida
147	identification card number, or last four digits of the social
148	security number provided on the application no later than 5 p.m.
149	of the second day following the election.
150	Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
151	97.0535, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
152	97.0535 Special requirements for certain applicants
153	(3)(a) The following forms of identification shall be
154	considered current and valid if they contain the name and
155	photograph of the applicant and have not expired:
156	1. United States passport.
157	2. Employee badge or identification.
158	3. Buyer's club identification.
159	2.4. Debit or credit card.
160	<u>3.</u> 5. Military identification.
161	<u>4.</u> 6. Student identification.
162	5.7. Retirement center identification.
163	6.8. Neighborhood association identification.
164	7.9. Public assistance identification.
165	Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 97.055, Florida
166	Statutes, is amended to read:
167	97.055 Registration books; when closed for an election
I	

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(1) (a) The registration books must be closed on the 29th
day before each election and must remain closed until after that
election. If an election is called and there are fewer than 29
days before that election, the registration books must be closed
immediately.

(b) When the registration books are closed for an election, updates to a voter's name, address, and signature, and party affiliation made pursuant to ss. 97.1031, 98.077, and 101.045 shall be the only changes permitted for purposes of the upcoming election. <u>New</u> voter registration applications and <u>other</u> party changes must be accepted but only for the purpose of subsequent elections.

180 Section 6. Section 97.1031, Florida Statutes, is amended 181 to read:

182 97.1031 Notice of change of residence, change of name, or183 change of party affiliation.--

184 When an elector moves from the address named on that (1)185 person's voter registration record to another address within the 186 same county, the elector must provide notification of such move 187 to the supervisor of elections of that county. The elector may 188 provide the supervisor a signed, written notice or may notify 189 the supervisor by telephone or electronic means. However, 190 notification of such move other than by signed, written notice must include the elector's date of birth. An elector may also 191 provide notification to other voter registration officials as 192 provided in subsection (2). A voter information card reflecting 193 the new information shall be issued to the elector as provided 194 195 in subsection (4) (3).

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196 (2) When an elector moves from the address named on that 197 person's voter registration record to another address in a different county but within the state, the elector seeks to 198 199 change party affiliation, or the name of an elector is changed 200 by marriage or other legal process, the elector shall provide 201 notice of such change to a voter registration official using a 202 voter registration application signed by the elector. A voter 203 information card reflecting the new information shall be issued 204 to the elector as provided in subsection (4) (3).

205 (3) An elector may submit a change or update to his or her 206 party affiliation on record in the statewide voter registration system at any time using a voter registration application. When 207 the registration books are closed for an upcoming election other 208 209 than a general election, a change or update to a party 210 affiliation on record shall be accepted, but only for the 211 purpose of subsequent elections. For purposes of an upcoming 212 general election, a change or update to a voter's party 213 affiliation may still be made after the registration books are 214 closed for that election.

215 <u>(4)(3)</u> The voter registration official shall make the 216 necessary changes in the elector's records as soon as practical 217 upon receipt of such notice of a change of address of legal 218 residence, name, or party affiliation. The supervisor of 219 elections shall issue the new voter information card.

220 Section 7. Subsection (4) of section 98.065, Florida 221 Statutes, is amended to read:

222

98.065 Registration list maintenance programs.--

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223 (4) (a) If the supervisor receives change-of-address 224 information pursuant to the activities conducted in subsection (2), from jury notices signed by the voter and returned to the 225 226 courts, from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor 227 Vehicles, or from other sources, which information indicates 228 that the legal address of a registered voter's legal residence 229 voter might have changed to another location within the state, 230 the supervisor shall change the registration records to show the 231 new address and shall send by forwardable return if 232 undeliverable mail an address change confirmation notice to the voter as provided in s. 98.0655(2) to the address at which the 233 voter was last registered. A supervisor may also send an address 234 235 confirmation notice to any voter who the supervisor has reason to believe has moved from his or her legal residence. 236 (b) 237 If the supervisor receives change-of-address 238 information pursuant to the activities conducted in subsection (2), from jury notices signed by the voter and returned to the 239 240 courts or from other sources, which indicates that a registered 241 voter's legal residence might have changed to a location outside the state, the supervisor shall send an address confirmation 242 243 final notice to the voter as provided in s. 98.0655(3). The

244 address confirmation notice shall contain a postage prepaid, 245 preaddressed return form on which:

1. If the voter has changed his or her address of legal residence to a location outside the state, the voter shall mark that the voter's legal residence has changed to a location outside the state. The form shall also include information on how to register in the new state in order to be eligible to Page 9 of 54

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251 vote. The form must be returned within 30 days after the date of 252 the notice. The completed form shall constitute a request to be 253 removed from the statewide voter registration system. 254 2. If the voter has changed his or her address of legal 255 residence to a location inside the state, the voter shall set 256 forth the updated or corrected address and submit the return 257 form within 30 days after the date of the notice. The completed 258 form shall constitute a request to update the statewide voter 259 registration system with the updated or corrected address information. 260 261 3. If the voter has not changed his or her address of legal residence as printed on the address confirmation notice, 262 263 the voter shall confirm that his or her address of legal 264 residence has not changed and submit the form within 30 days 265 after the date of the notice. 266 (C) The supervisor must designate as inactive all voters 267 who have been sent an address confirmation final notice and who have not returned the postage prepaid, preaddressed return form 268 269 within 30 days or for which the an address confirmation notice has been returned as undeliverable. Names on the inactive list 270 271 may not be used to calculate the number of signatures needed on 272 any petition. A voter on the inactive list may be restored to

272 any petition. A voter on the inactive fist may be restored to 273 the active list of voters upon the voter updating his or her 274 registration, requesting an absentee ballot, or appearing to 275 vote. However, if the voter does not update his or her voter 276 registration information, request an absentee ballot, or vote by 277 the second general election after being placed on the inactive 278 list, the voter's name shall be removed from the statewide voter 278 Page 10 of 54

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FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	F	LΟ	RΙ	D	A	Н	0	U	S	Е	0	F	R	Е	Ρ	R	Е	S	Е	Ν	Т	Α	Т		V	Е	S
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279	registration system and the voter shall be required to
280	reregister to have his or her name restored to the statewide
281	voter registration system.
282	Section 8. Section 98.0655, Florida Statutes, is created
283	to read:
284	98.0655 Registration list maintenance formsThe
285	department shall prescribe registration list maintenance forms
286	to be used by the supervisors which must include:
287	(1) An address confirmation request that includes:
288	(a) The voter's name and address of legal residence as
289	shown on the voter registration record.
290	(b) A request that the supervisor be informed if either
291	the name or address of legal residence of the voter is
292	incorrect.
293	(2) An address change notice, which must be sent by
294	forwardable mail and must include a postage prepaid,
295	preaddressed return form with which the voter may verify or
296	correct the voter's address information.
297	(3) An address confirmation final notice, which must be
298	sent by forwardable mail and must include a postage prepaid,
299	preaddressed return form and a statement that:
300	(a) If the voter has not changed legal residence or has
301	changed legal residence within the state, the voter should
302	return the return form with any necessary changes within 30 days
303	after the date of notice.
304	(b) If the voter has changed legal residence to a location
305	outside the state, the voter should return the return form,
306	which shall serve as a request to be removed from the

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307	registration books, and the voter will be provided with
308	information on how to register in the new jurisdiction in order
309	to be eligible to vote.
310	(c) If the return form is not returned, or if the voter
311	does not update his or her registration information, vote, or
312	request an absentee ballot by the second general election
313	thereafter, the voter's name will be removed from the statewide
314	voter registration system and the voter will be required to
315	reregister to have his or her name restored to the statewide
316	voter registration system.
317	Section 9. Subsection (3) of section 98.075, Florida
318	Statutes, is amended to read:
319	98.075 Registration records maintenance activities;
320	ineligibility determinations
321	(3) DECEASED PERSONSThe department shall identify those
322	registered voters who are deceased by comparing information on
323	the lists of deceased persons received from the Department of
324	Health as provided in s. 98.093. Upon receipt of such
325	information through the statewide voter registration system, the
326	supervisor shall remove the name of the registered voter.
327	Additionally, the supervisor shall remove the name of a deceased
328	registered voter from the statewide voter registration system
329	upon receipt of a copy of a death certificate issued by a
330	governmental agency authorized to issue death certificates.
331	Section 10. Section 99.012, Florida Statutes, is amended
332	to read:
333	99.012 Restrictions on individuals qualifying for public
334	office
1	

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335

(1) As used in this section:

"Officer" means a person, whether elected or 336 (a) appointed, who has the authority to exercise the sovereign power 337 338 of the state pertaining to an office recognized under the State 339 Constitution or laws of the state. With respect to a 340 municipality, the term "officer" means a person, whether elected 341 or appointed, who has the authority to exercise municipal power 342 as provided by the State Constitution, state laws, or municipal 343 charter.

(b) "Subordinate officer" means a person who has been
delegated the authority to exercise the sovereign power of the
state by an officer. With respect to a municipality, subordinate
officer means a person who has been delegated the authority to
exercise municipal power by an officer.

349 (2) No person may qualify as a candidate for more than one
350 public office, whether <u>federal</u>, state, district, county, or
351 municipal, if the terms or any part thereof run concurrently
352 with each other.

(3) (a) No officer may qualify as a candidate for another
 public office, whether state, district, county, or municipal
 public office, if the terms or any part thereof run concurrently
 with each other, without resigning from the office he or she
 presently holds.

358

(b) The resignation is irrevocable.

359 (c) The written resignation must be submitted at least 10
360 days prior to the first day of qualifying for the office he or
361 she intends to seek.

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362 (d) The resignation must be effective no later than the363 earlier of the following dates:

364

1. The date the officer would take office, if elected; or

365 2. The date the officer's successor is required to take366 office.

367 (e)1. An elected district, county, or municipal officer
368 must submit his or her resignation to the officer before whom he
369 or she qualified for the office he or she holds, with a copy to
370 the Governor and the Department of State.

2. An appointed district, county, or municipal officer
must submit his or her resignation to the officer or authority
which appointed him or her to the office he or she holds, with a
copy to the Governor and the Department of State.

375 3. All other officers must submit their resignations to376 the Governor with a copy to the Department of State.

(f)1. With regard to an elective office, the resignation
creates a vacancy in office to be filled by election. Persons
may qualify as candidates for nomination and election as if the
public officer's term were otherwise scheduled to expire.

2. With regard to an elective charter county office or elective municipal office, the vacancy created by the officer's resignation may be filled for that portion of the officer's unexpired term in a manner provided by the respective charter. The office is deemed vacant upon the effective date of the resignation submitted by the official in his or her letter of resignation.

388 (g) Any officer who submits his or her resignation,
 389 effective immediately or effective on a date prior to the date
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of his or her qualifying for office, may then qualify for office as a nonofficeholder, and the provisions of this subsection do not apply.

(4) A person who is a subordinate officer, deputy sheriff, or police officer must resign effective upon qualifying pursuant to this chapter if the person is seeking to qualify for a public office that is currently held by an officer who has authority to appoint, employ, promote, or otherwise supervise that person and who has qualified as a candidate for reelection to that office.

(5) The name of any person who does not comply with this
section may be removed from every ballot on which it appears
when ordered by a circuit court upon the petition of an elector
or the Department of State.

403

(6) This section does not apply to:

404

(a) Political party offices.

405 (b) Persons serving without salary as members of an406 appointive board or authority.

407

(c) Persons seeking any federal public office.

408 (7) Nothing contained in <u>subsection</u> subsections (3) and
 409 (4) relates to persons holding any federal office.

410 Section 11. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 411 99.021, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

412

99.021 Form of candidate oath.--

(1) (a) 1. Each candidate, whether a party candidate, a candidate with no party affiliation, or a write-in candidate, in order to qualify for nomination or election to any office other than a judicial office as defined in chapter 105 or a federal office, shall take and subscribe to an oath or affirmation in Page 15 of 54

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418 writing. A printed copy of the oath or affirmation shall be 419 furnished to the candidate by the officer before whom such 420 candidate seeks to qualify and shall be substantially in the 421 following form:

422

423 State of Florida

424 County of

Before me, an officer authorized to administer oaths, 425 426 personally appeared (please print name as you wish it to 427 appear on the ballot) , to me well known, who, being sworn, 428 says that he or she is a candidate for the office of ; that he or she is a qualified elector of County, Florida; that 429 he or she is qualified under the Constitution and the laws of 430 431 Florida to hold the office to which he or she desires to be 432 nominated or elected; that he or she has taken the oath required 433 by ss. 876.05-876.10, Florida Statutes; that he or she has qualified for no other public office in the state, the term of 434 which office or any part thereof runs concurrent with that of 435 436 the office he or she seeks; and that he or she has resigned from any office from which he or she is required to resign pursuant 437 to s. 99.012, Florida Statutes. 438 439 (Signature of candidate) (Address) 440

441

442 Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of ____,

443 (year) , at _____ County, Florida.

444 (Signature and title of officer administering oath)

445

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2. Each candidate for federal office, whether a party 446 447 candidate, a candidate with no party affiliation, or a write-in candidate, in order to qualify for nomination or election to 448 office shall take and subscribe to an oath or affirmation in 449 450 writing. A printed copy of the oath or affirmation shall be furnished to the candidate by the officer before whom such 451 452 candidate seeks to qualify and shall be substantially in the following form: 453 454 State of Florida 455 456 County of Before me, an officer authorized to administer oaths, 457 458 personally appeared (please print name as you wish it to appear on the ballot) , to me well known, who, being sworn, 459 says that he or she is a candidate for the office of ; that 460 461 he or she is qualified under the Constitution and laws of the United States to hold the office to which he or she desires to 462 be nominated or elected; and that he or she has qualified for no 463 464 other public office in the state, the term of which office or any part thereof runs concurrent with that of the office he or 465 466 she seeks; and that he or she has resigned from any office from 467 which he or she is required to resign pursuant to s. 99.012,

468 Florida Statutes.

469 (Signature of candidate)

470 (Address)

471

472 Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of ____,

473 (year) , at _____ County, Florida.

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474 (Signature and title of officer administering oath) 475 Section 12. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 99.063, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 476 477 99.063 Candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor .--478 No later than 5 p.m. of the 10th 9th day following the (1)primary election, each candidate for Governor shall designate a 479 480 Lieutenant Governor as a running mate. Such designation must be made in writing to the Department of State. 481 482 (2)No later than 5 p.m. of the 10th 9th day following the primary election, each designated candidate for Lieutenant 483 484 Governor shall file with the Department of State: The candidate's oath required by s. 99.021, which must 485 (a) contain the name of the candidate as it is to appear on the 486 487 ballot; the office sought; and the signature of the candidate, 488 duly acknowledged. 489 (b) The loyalty oath required by s. 876.05, signed by the 490 candidate and duly acknowledged. 491 If the office sought is partisan, the written (C) 492 statement of political party affiliation required by s. 493 99.021(1)(b). 494 The full and public disclosure of financial interests (d) 495 pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution. A public 496 officer who has filed the full and public disclosure with the 497 Commission on Ethics prior to qualifying for office may file a copy of that disclosure at the time of qualifying. 498 Section 13. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 499 99.097, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 500 501 99.097 Verification of signatures on petitions.--Page 18 of 54

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502 (3) 503 (b) If a voter signs a petition and lists an address other 504 than the legal residence where the voter is registered, the 505 petition shall not be counted. The supervisor shall mail to the 506 voter a new voter registration application on which the voter 507 may submit an address update, along with the reason the new 508 application is being sent treat the signature as if the voter 509 had listed the address where the voter is registered. 510 Section 14. Section 100.221, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 511 512 100.221 General election laws to govern bond referenda. -- The laws governing the holding of general elections 513 are applicable to bond referenda, except as provided in ss. 514 515 100.201-100.351. A county, district, or municipality is not required to offer early voting for a bond referendum not held in 516 517 conjunction with a county or state election. The places for 518 voting in a bond referendum shall be the same as the places for 519 voting in general elections, when a bond referendum is held in 520 the county or district; but when a bond referendum is held in a municipality, the polling places shall be the same as in other 521 522 municipal elections. 523 Section 15. Section 100.361, Florida Statutes, is amended 524 to read: 525 Municipal recall .--100.361 APPLICATION; DEFINITION RECALL PETITION. -- Any member 526 (1)of the governing body of a municipality or charter county, 527 hereinafter referred to in this section as "municipality," may 528

529 be removed from office by the electors of the municipality. When

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530 the official represents a district and is elected only by 531 electors residing in that district, only electors from that district are eligible to sign the petition to recall that 532 official and are entitled to vote in the recall election. When 533 534 the official represents a district and is elected at-large by 535 the electors of the municipality, all electors of the 536 municipality are eligible to sign the petition to recall that 537 official and are entitled to vote in the recall election. Where used in this section, the term "district" shall be construed to 538 mean the area or region of a municipality from which a member of 539 540 the governing body is elected by the electors from such area or region. Members may be removed from office pursuant to by the 541 procedures provided in this section. This method of removing 542 543 members of the governing body of a municipality is in addition 544 to such other methods now or hereafter provided by general law.

545

(2) RECALL PETITION. -- following procedure:

Petition content. -- A petition shall contain the name 546 (a) 547 of be prepared naming the person sought to be recalled and 548 containing a statement of grounds for recall. The statement of grounds may not exceed in not more than 200 words, and the 549 550 stated grounds are limited solely to those the grounds specified 551 in paragraph (d) (b). If more than one member of the governing 552 body is sought to be recalled, whether such member is elected by the electors of a district or by the electors of the 553 municipality at-large, a separate recall petition shall be 554 prepared for each member sought to be recalled. Upon request, 555 the content of a petition should be, but is not required to be, 556 557 provided by the proponent in alternative formats.

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558

(b) Requisite signatures.--

559 1. In a municipality or district of fewer than 500 560 electors, the petition shall be signed by at least 50 electors 561 or by 10 percent of the total number of registered electors of 562 the municipality or district as of the preceding municipal 563 election, whichever is greater.

2. In a municipality or district of 500 or more but fewer than 2,000 registered electors, the petition shall be signed by at least 100 electors or by 10 percent of the total number of registered electors of the municipality or district as of the preceding municipal election, whichever is greater.

3. In a municipality or district of 2,000 or more but fewer than 5,000 registered electors, the petition shall be signed by at least 250 electors or by 10 percent of the total number of registered electors of the municipality or district as of the preceding municipal election, whichever is greater.

4. In a municipality or district of 5,000 or more but fewer than 10,000 registered electors, the petition shall be signed by at least 500 electors or by 10 percent of the total number of registered electors of the municipality or district as of the preceding municipal election, whichever is greater.

579 5. In a municipality or district of 10,000 or more but 580 fewer than 25,000 registered electors, the petition shall be 581 signed by at least 1,000 electors or by 10 percent of the total 582 number of registered electors of the municipality or district as 583 of the preceding municipal election, whichever is greater.

584 6. In a municipality or district of 25,000 or more 585 registered electors, the petition shall be signed by at least Page 21 of 54

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586 1,000 electors or by 5 percent of the total number of registered 587 electors of the municipality or district as of the preceding 588 municipal election, whichever is greater.

589

590 Electors of the municipality or district making charges 591 contained in the statement of grounds for recall and those 592 signing the recall petition shall be designated as the 593 "committee." A specific person shall be designated in the 594 petition as chair of the committee to act for the committee. 595 Electors of the municipality or district are eligible to sign 596 the petition. Signatures and oaths of witnesses shall be 597 executed as provided in paragraph (c). All signatures shall be obtained, as provided in paragraph (e), within a period of 30 598 599 days, and all signed and dated the petition forms shall be filed at the same time no later than within 30 days after the date the 600 601 first signature is obtained on the petition. 602 Recall committee.--Electors of the municipality or (C)

603 district making charges contained in the statement of grounds 604 for recall and those signing the recall petition shall be 605 designated as the "committee." A specific person shall be 606 designated in the petition as chair of the committee to act for 607 the committee. The recall committee and the officer being 608 recalled are subject to chapter 106.

609 <u>(d) (b)</u> Grounds for recall.--The grounds for removal of 610 elected municipal officials shall, for the purposes of this 611 <u>section</u> act, be limited to the following and must be contained 612 in the petition:

613 1. Malfeasance;

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614	2. Misfeasance;
615	3. Neglect of duty;
616	4. Drunkenness;
617	5. Incompetence;
618	6. Permanent inability to perform official duties; and
619	7. Conviction of a felony involving moral turpitude.
620	(e) (c) Signature processOnly electors of the
621	municipality or district are eligible to sign the petition. Each
622	elector of the municipality signing a petition shall sign his or
623	her name in ink or indelible pencil as registered in the office
624	of the supervisor of elections and shall state on the petition
625	his or her place of residence and voting precinct. Each petition
626	shall contain appropriate lines for the signature, printed name,
627	and street address of the elector and an oath, to be executed by
628	a witness thereof, verifying the fact that the witness saw each
629	person sign the counterpart of the petition, that each signature
630	appearing thereon is the genuine signature of the person it
631	purports to be, and that the petition was signed in the presence
632	of the witness on the date indicated.
633	(f) (d) Filing of signed petitionsAll signed The
634	petition forms shall be filed at the same time no later than 30
635	days after the date the first signature is obtained on the
636	petition. with the auditor or clerk of the municipality or
637	charter county, or his or her equivalent, hereinafter referred
638	to as clerk, by The person designated as chair of the committee ,
639	shall file the signed petition forms with the auditor or clerk
640	of the municipality or charter county, or his or her equivalent,

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641 <u>hereinafter referred to as clerk. The petition cannot be amended</u>642 after it is filed with the clerk.

643

(g) Verification of signatures.--

1. Immediately after the filing of and, when the petition 644 645 forms is filed, the clerk shall submit such forms petition to 646 the county supervisor of elections. No more than 30 days after 647 the date all petition forms are submitted to the supervisor by the clerk, the supervisor who shall promptly verify the 648 signatures in accordance with s. 99.097 and, within a period of 649 650 not more than 30 days after the petition is filed with the 651 supervisor, determine whether the requisite number of valid 652 signatures was obtained for the petition contains the required valid signatures. The committee seeking verification of the 653 654 signatures shall pay in advance to the supervisor the sum of 10 cents for each signature checked or the actual cost of checking 655 656 such signature, whichever is less.

657 <u>2.</u> The petition cannot be amended after it is filed with 658 the clerk. The supervisor shall be paid by the persons or 659 committee seeking verification the sum of 10 cents for each name 660 checked. Upon filing with the clerk, the petition and all 661 subsequent papers or forms required or permitted to be filed 662 with the clerk in connection with this section must, upon 663 request, be made available in alternative formats by the clerk.

664 <u>3.(e)</u> If <u>the supervisor determines</u> it is determined that 665 the <u>requisite number of petition does not contain the required</u> 666 signatures <u>was not obtained</u>, the clerk shall, <u>upon receipt of</u> 667 <u>such determination in writing</u>, so certify to the governing body 668 of the municipality or charter county and file the petition Page 24 of 54

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without taking further action, and the matter shall be at an
end. No additional names may be added to the petition, and the
petition shall not be used in any other proceeding.

672 <u>4.(f)</u> If it is determined that the petition has the
673 requisite number of verified and valid required signatures, then
674 the process in subsection (3) shall be followed.

675

(3) RECALL PETITION AND DEFENSE. --

(a) Notice.--Upon receipt of a written determination that
the requisite number of signatures was obtained, the clerk shall
at once serve upon the person sought to be recalled a certified
copy of the petition. Within 5 days after service, the person
sought to be recalled may file with the clerk a defensive
statement of not more than 200 words.

Content and preparation.--Within 5 days after the date 682 (b) of receipt of the defensive statement or after the last day a 683 684 defensive statement could have been filed, the clerk shall_{au} 685 within 5 days, prepare a document entitled "Recall Petition and 686 Defense." The "Recall Petition and Defense" shall consist 687 sufficient number of typewritten, printed, or mimeographed 688 copies of the recall petition, including the names, addresses, 689 and oaths on the original petition form; the and defensive 690 statement, or if no defensive statement was filed, a statement 691 to that effect; lines and spaces for the registered electors' signatures, places of residence, election precinct numbers, and 692 dates of signing; and lines and spaces for signatures of 693 694 witnesses to oaths which conform to the provisions of paragraph (2)(e). The clerk shall make copies of the "Recall Petition and 695 696 Defense" sufficient to carry the signatures of 30 percent of the

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697 registered electors. Upon preparing and making sufficient copies 698 of the "Recall Petition and Defense," the clerk shall as well as 699 the names, addresses, and oaths on the original petition, and 700 deliver the copies them to the person who has been designated as 701 chair of the committee and take his or her receipt therefor. 702 Such prepared copies shall be entitled "Recall Petition and 703 Defense" and shall contain lines and spaces for signatures and 704 printed names of registered electors, place of residence, 705 election precinct number, and date of signing, together with 706 oaths to be executed by the witnesses which conform to the 707 provisions of paragraph (c). The clerk shall deliver forms 708 sufficient to carry the signatures of 30 percent of the 709 registered electors. 710 (c) (g) Requisite signatures.--Upon receipt of the "Recall 711 Petition and Defense," the committee may circulate them to 712 obtain the signatures of 15 percent of the electors. All signatures shall be obtained and all signed petition forms filed 713 714 with the clerk no later than 60 days after delivery of the "Recall Petition and Defense" to the chair of the committee. Any 715 716 elector who signs a recall petition shall have the right to 717 demand in writing that his or her name be stricken from the 718 petition. A written demand signed by the elector shall be filed 719 with the clerk and upon receipt of the demand the clerk shall 720 strike the name of the elector from the petition and place his 721 or her initials to the side of the signature stricken. However, no signature may be stricken after the clerk has delivered the 722 "Recall Petition and Defense" to the supervisor of elections for 723 724 verification.

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725 (d) (h) Signed petitions; request for striking 726 name. -- Within 60 days after delivery of the "Recall Petition and 727 Defense" to the chair, the chair shall file with the clerk the "Recall Petition and Defense" which bears the signatures of 728 729 electors. The clerk shall assemble all signed petitions, check 730 to see that each petition is properly verified by the oath of a 731 witness, and submit such petitions to the county supervisor of 732 elections. Any elector who signs a recall petition shall have 733 the right to demand in writing that his or her name be stricken 734 from the petition. A written demand signed by the elector shall be filed with the clerk, and, upon receipt of the demand, the 735 736 clerk shall strike the name of the elector from the petition and 737 place his or her initials to the side of the signature stricken. 738 However, no signature may be stricken after the clerk has delivered the "Recall Petition and Defense" to the supervisor 739 740 for verification of the signatures. 741 Verification of signatures. --Within 30 days of receipt (e) 742 of the signed "Recall Petition and Defense," the supervisor, who shall determine the number of valid signatures, purge the names 743 withdrawn, and certify within 30 days whether 15 percent of the 744 745 qualified electors of the municipality have signed the 746 petitions, and report his or her findings to the governing body. 747 The supervisor shall be paid by the persons or committee seeking verification the sum of 10 cents for each name checked. 748 (f) (i) Reporting.--If the supervisor determines that the 749 requisite number of petitions do not contain the required 750

751 signatures was not obtained, the clerk shall, upon receipt of

752 <u>such determination in writing, so certify</u> report such fact to

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753 the governing body and retain file the petitions. The proceedings shall be terminated, and the petitions shall not 754 755 again be used. If the supervisor determines that signatures do 756 amount to at least 15 percent of the qualified electors signed 757 the petition, the clerk shall, upon receipt of such 758 determination in writing, serve notice of that determination 759 fact upon the person sought to be recalled and deliver to the 760 governing body a certificate as to the percentage of qualified 761 electors voters who signed.

(4) (2) RECALL ELECTION. -- If the person designated in the 762 763 petition files with the clerk, within 5 days after the last-764 mentioned notice, his or her written resignation, the clerk shall at once notify the governing body of that fact, and the 765 766 resignation shall be irrevocable. The governing body shall then 767 proceed to fill the vacancy according to the provisions of the 768 appropriate law. In the absence of a resignation, the chief 769 judge of the judicial circuit in which the municipality is 770 located shall fix a day for holding a recall election for the 771 removal of those not resigning. Any such election shall be held not less than 30 days or more than 60 days after the expiration 772 773 of the 5-day period last-mentioned and at the same time as any 774 other general or special election held within the period; but if 775 no such election is to be held within that period, the judge 776 shall call a special recall election to be held within the period aforesaid. 777

778 (5)(3) BALLOTS.--The ballots at the recall election shall
 779 conform to the following: With respect to each person whose
 780 removal is sought, the question shall be submitted: "Shall _____

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(name of person)

781 be removed from the office of _____ by recall?" Immediately 782 following each question there shall be printed on the ballots 783 the two propositions in the order here set forth:

- 784
- 785 786

" (name of person) should not be removed from office."
(6)(4) FILLING OF VACANCIES; SPECIAL ELECTIONS.--

should be removed from office."

787 (a) If an election is held for the recall of members elected only at-large, candidates to succeed them for the 788 789 unexpired terms shall be voted upon at the same election and 790 shall be elected in the same manner as provided by the appropriate law for the election of candidates at general 791 792 elections. Candidates shall not be elected to succeed any particular member. If only one member is removed, the candidate 793 794 receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected 795 to fill the vacancy. If more than one member is removed, 796 candidates equal in number to the number of members removed 797 shall be declared elected to fill the vacancies; and, among the 798 successful candidates, those receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected for the longest terms. Cases of 799 800 ties, and all other matters not herein specially provided for, 801 shall be determined by the rules governing elections generally.

(b) If an election is held for the recall of members elected only from districts, candidates to succeed them for the unexpired terms shall be voted upon at a special election called by the chief judge of the judicial circuit in which the districts are located not less than 30 days or more than 60 days after the expiration of the recall election. The qualifying period, for purposes of this section, shall be established by

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809 the chief judge of the judicial circuit after consultation with 810 the clerk. Any candidate seeking election to fill the unexpired term of a recalled district municipal official shall reside in 811 the district represented by the recalled official and qualify 812 813 for office in the manner required by law. Each candidate 814 receiving the highest number of votes for each office in the 815 special district recall election shall be declared elected to fill the unexpired term of the recalled official. Candidates 816 817 seeking election to fill a vacancy created by the removal of a municipal official shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 818 106. 819

(c) When an election is held for the recall of members of the governing body composed of both members elected at-large and from districts, candidates to succeed them for the unexpired terms shall be voted upon at a special election as provided in paragraph (b).

(d) However, in any recall election held pursuant to
paragraph (b) or paragraph (c), if only one member is voted to
be removed from office, the vacancy created by the recall shall
be filled by the governing body according to the provisions of
the appropriate law for filling vacancies.

830 EFFECT OF RESIGNATIONS. -- If the member of the (7)(5) governing body being recalled resigns from office prior to the 831 recall election, the remaining members shall fill the vacancy 832 created according to the appropriate law for filling vacancies. 833 If all of the members of the governing body are sought to be 834 recalled and all of the members resign prior to the recall 835 election, the recall election shall be canceled, and a special 836 Page 30 of 54

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837 election shall be called to fill the unexpired terms of the 838 resigning members. If all of the members of the governing body 839 are sought to be recalled and any of the members resign prior to 840 the recall election, the proceedings for the recall of members 841 not resigning and the election of successors to fill the 842 unexpired terms shall continue and have the same effect as 843 though there had been no resignation.

844 <u>(8) (6)</u> WHEN PETITION MAY BE FILED.--No petition to recall 845 any member of the governing body of a municipality shall be 846 filed until the member has served one-fourth of his or her term 847 of office. No person removed by a recall, or resigning after a 848 petition has been filed against him or her, shall be eligible to 849 be appointed to the governing body within a period of 2 years 850 after the date of such recall or resignation.

851 (9) RETENTION OF PETITION.--The clerk shall preserve in 852 his or her office all papers comprising or connected with a 953 petition for recall for a period of 2 years after they were 854 filed. This method of removing members of the governing body of 855 a municipality is in addition to such other methods now or 856 hereafter provided by the general laws of this state.

857 (10) (7) OFFENSES RELATING TO PETITIONS.--No person shall 858 impersonate another, purposely write his or her name or 859 residence falsely in the signing of any petition for recall or forge any name thereto, or sign any paper with knowledge that he 860 or she is not a qualified elector of the municipality. No 861 expenditures for campaigning for or against an officer being 862 recalled shall be made until the date on which the recall 863 election is to be held is publicly announced. The committee and 864 Page 31 of 54

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865 the officer being recalled shall be subject to chapter 106. No
866 person shall employ or pay another to accept employment or
867 payment for circulating or witnessing a recall petition. Any
868 person violating any of the provisions of this section <u>commits</u>
869 shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree,
870 punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 and shall,
871 upon conviction, be punished as provided by law.

872 <u>(11) (8)</u> INTENT.--It is the intent of the Legislature that 873 the recall procedures provided in this <u>section</u> act shall be 874 uniform statewide. Therefore, all municipal charter and special 875 law provisions which are contrary to the provisions of this 876 <u>section</u> act are hereby repealed to the extent of this conflict.

877 (12)(9) PROVISIONS APPLICABLE.--The provisions of this
 878 section act shall apply to cities and charter counties whether
 879 or not they have adopted recall provisions.

880 Section 16. Subsections (3), (4), and (6) of section881 100.371, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

882

100.371 Initiatives; procedure for placement on ballot.--

883 (3) Each signature shall be dated when made and shall be valid for a period of 4 years following such date, provided all 884 885 other requirements of law are met. The sponsor shall submit 886 signed and dated forms to the appropriate supervisor of 887 elections for verification as to the number of registered electors whose valid signatures appear thereon. The supervisor 888 shall promptly verify the signatures within 30 days of receipt 889 of the petition forms and payment of the fee required by s. 890 99.097. The supervisor shall promptly record in the statewide 891 voter registration system, in the manner prescribed by the 892 Page 32 of 54

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893 Secretary of State, the date each form is received by the 894 supervisor, and the date the signature on the form is verified 895 as valid. The supervisor may verify that the signature on a form 896 is valid only if:

897 (a) The form contains the original signature of the898 purported elector.

(b) The purported elector has accurately recorded on theform the date on which he or she signed the form.

901 (c) The form accurately sets forth the purported elector's
902 name, street address, county, and voter registration number or
903 date of birth.

(d) The purported elector is, at the time he or she signs the form, a duly qualified and registered elector authorized to vote in the county in which his or her signature is submitted.

908 The supervisor shall retain the signature forms for at least 1 909 year following the election in which the issue appeared on the 910 ballot or until the Division of Elections notifies the 911 supervisors of elections that the committee <u>that</u> which 912 circulated the petition is no longer seeking to obtain ballot 913 position.

914 The Secretary of State shall determine from the (4)915 signatures verified by the supervisors of elections and recorded 916 in the statewide voter registration system the total number of verified valid signatures and the distribution of such 917 signatures by congressional districts. Upon a determination that 918 the requisite number and distribution of valid signatures have 919 been obtained, the secretary shall issue a certificate of ballot 920 Page 33 of 54

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921 position for that proposed amendment and shall assign a922 designating number pursuant to s. 101.161.

923 (6) (a) An elector's signature on a petition form may be 924 revoked within 150 days of the date on which he or she signed 925 the petition form by submitting to the appropriate supervisor of 926 elections a signed petition-revocation form adopted by rule for 927 this purpose by the division.

(b) The petition-revocation form and the manner in which
signatures are obtained, submitted, and verified shall be
subject to the same relevant requirements and timeframes as the
corresponding petition form and processes under this code and
shall be approved by the Secretary of State before any signature
on a petition-revocation form is obtained.

934 (c) In those circumstances in which a petition-revocation
 935 form for a corresponding initiative petition has not been
 936 submitted and approved, an elector may complete and submit a
 937 standard petition-revocation form directly to the supervisor of
 938 elections. All other requirements and processes apply for the
 939 submission and verification of the signatures as for initiative
 940 petitions.

941 <u>(d)(c)</u> Supervisors of elections shall provide petition-942 revocation forms to the public at all main and branch offices.

943 (e) (d) The petition-revocation form shall be filed with 944 the supervisor of elections by February 1 preceding the next 945 general election or, if the initiative amendment is not 946 certified for ballot position in that election, by February 1 947 preceding the next successive general election. The supervisor 948 of elections shall promptly verify the signature on the Page 34 of 54

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949 petition-revocation form and process such revocation upon 950 payment, in advance, of a fee of 10 cents or the actual cost of 951 verifying such signature, whichever is less. The supervisor 952 shall promptly record each valid and verified petition-953 revocation form in the statewide voter registration system in 954 the manner prescribed by the Secretary of State.

955 Section 17. Section 101.041, Florida Statutes, is amended 956 to read:

957 101.041 Secret voting.--In all elections held on any 958 subject that which may be submitted to a vote, and for all or 959 any state, county, district, or municipal officers, the voting 960 shall be by secret, official ballot printed and distributed as 961 provided by this code, and no vote shall be received or counted 962 in any election, except as prescribed by this code.

963 Section 18. Subsection (2) of section 101.045, Florida 964 Statutes, is amended to read:

965 101.045 Electors must be registered in precinct; 966 provisions for <u>change of</u> residence, or name, <u>or party</u> 967 affiliation change.--

968 (2)(a) An elector who moves from the precinct in which the 969 elector is registered may be permitted to vote in the precinct 970 to which he or she has moved his or her legal residence, 971 provided such elector completes an affirmation in substantially 972 the following form: 973

974 Change of Legal Residence of Registered

975 Voter

976

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Under penalties for false swearing, I, (Name of voter) 977 978 swear (or affirm) that the former address of my legal residence 979 (Address of legal residence) in the municipality of was , in County, Florida, and I was registered to vote in 980 the _____ precinct of _____ County, Florida; that I have not 981 voted in the precinct of my former registration in this 982 983 election; that I now reside at (Address of legal residence) in the Municipality of , in County, Florida, and am 984 985 therefore eligible to vote in the precinct of 986 County, Florida; and I further swear (or affirm) that I am 987 otherwise legally registered and entitled to vote. 988 (Signature of voter whose address of legal residence has 989 990 changed) 991 (b) An elector whose name changes because of marriage or 992 other legal process may be permitted to vote, provided such 993 elector completes an affirmation in substantially the following 994 form: 995 Change of Name of Registered 996 997 Voter 998 Under penalties for false swearing, I, (New name of voter) , 999 swear (or affirm) that my name has been changed because of 1000 marriage or other legal process. My former name and address of 1001 legal residence appear on the registration records of precinct 1002 as follows: 1003 1004 Name

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1005 Address

1006 Municipality

1007 County

1008 Florida, Zip

1009 My present name and address of legal residence are as follows: 1010 Name

1011 Address

1012 Municipality

1013 County

1014 Florida, Zip

1015 and I further swear (or affirm) that I am otherwise legally 1016 registered and entitled to vote.

1018 (Signature of voter whose name has changed)

1019

1017

1020 (c) An elector who wants to change his or her party 1021 affiliation on record prior to voting in a general election may 1022 do so in accordance with s. 97.1031 by completing a voter 1023 registration application and signing the oath on the

1024 application.

1025 (d) (c) Such affirmation or application, when completed and 1026 presented at the precinct in which such elector is entitled to 1027 vote, and upon verification of the elector's registration, shall entitle such elector to vote as provided in this subsection. If 1028 the elector's eligibility to vote cannot be determined, he or 1029 she shall be entitled to vote a provisional ballot, subject to 1030 the requirements and procedures in s. 101.048. Upon receipt of 1031 an affirmation or application certifying a change in address of 1032 Page 37 of 54

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1033 legal residence, or name, or party affiliation, the supervisor 1034 shall as soon as practicable make the necessary changes in the 1035 statewide voter registration system to indicate the change in 1036 address of legal residence or name of such elector.

1037 <u>(e) (d)</u> Instead of the affirmation contained in paragraph 1038 (a) or paragraph (b), an elector may complete a voter 1039 registration application that indicates the change of name or 1040 change of address of legal residence.

1041 Section 19. Section 101.111, Florida Statutes, is amended 1042 to read:

1043 101.111 Person desiring to vote may be challenged; 1044 challenger to execute oath; oath of person challenged; 1045 determination of challenge.--

1046 (1) (a) When the right to vote of any person who desires to 1047 vote is challenged by Any qualified, registered elector or poll 1048 watcher of a county may challenge the right of a person to vote in that county. $_{7}$ The challenge must be in shall be reduced to 1049 writing and contain the following with an oath as provided in 1050 1051 this section, giving reasons for the challenge, which shall be delivered to the clerk or inspector. Any elector or poll watcher 1052 1053 challenging the right of a person to vote shall execute the oath 1054 set forth below: 1055

- 1056 OATH OF PERSON ENTERING CHALLENGE
- 1058 State of Florida
- 1059 County of

1060

1057

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1061 I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that my name is ; that I am 1062 a member of the _____ Party; that I am a registered voter or 1063 pollwatcher; that my residence address is , in the 1064 municipality of ; and that I have reason to believe that 1065 is attempting to vote illegally and the reasons for my 1066 belief are set forth herein to wit: 1067 (Signature of person challenging voter) 1068 1069 Sworn and subscribed to before me this day of , 1070 (year) . (Clerk of election) 1071 1072 (b) (2) The clerk or inspector shall immediately deliver to 1073 the challenged person a copy of the oath of the person entering 1074 the challenge, and the challenged voter shall be allowed to cast a provisional ballot in accordance with s. 101.048. 1075 1076 (c) (3) Alternatively, a challenge in accordance with this section may be filed in advance with the supervisor of elections 1077 no Any elector or poll watcher may challenge the right of any 1078 1079 voter to vote not sooner than 30 days before an election. The supervisor shall promptly provide the election board in the 1080 1081 challenged voter's precinct with by filing a completed copy of 1082 the oath of the person entering the challenge contained in subsection (1) to the supervisor of election's office. The 1083 challenged voter shall be allowed permitted to cast a 1084 provisional ballot in accordance with s. 101.048. 1085 (2) (4) Any elector or poll watcher filing a frivolous 1086 challenge of any person's right to vote commits a misdemeanor of 1087 the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 1088

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FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	F	L	0	R		D	А	Н	0	U	S	Е	0	F	R	Е	Р	R	Е	S	Е	Ν	Т	Α	Т		V	Е	S
----------------------------------	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---

1089 775.083; however, electors or poll watchers shall not be subject 1090 to liability for any action taken in good faith and in 1091 furtherance of any activity or duty permitted of such electors 1092 or poll watchers by law. Each instance where any elector or poll 1093 watcher files a frivolous challenge of any person's right to 1094 vote constitutes a separate offense.

1095 Section 20. Subsection (1) of section 101.51, Florida 1096 Statutes, is amended to read:

1097

101.51 Electors to occupy booth alone.--

1098 When the elector presents himself or herself to vote, (1)1099 an the election official shall ascertain whether the elector's name is upon the register of electors, and, if the elector's 1100 1101 name appears and no challenge interposes, or, if interposed, be 1102 not sustained, one of the election officials stationed at the 1103 entrance shall announce the name of the elector and permit the 1104 elector him or her to enter the booth or compartment to cast his or her vote, allowing only one elector at a time to pass through 1105 1106 to vote. An elector, while casting his or her ballot, may not 1107 occupy a booth or compartment already occupied or speak with anyone, except as provided by s. 101.051. 1108

Section 21. Effective July 1, 2008, section 101.56075,Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1111

101.56075 Voting methods.--

(1) Except as provided in subsection (2), all voting shall
be by marksense ballot utilizing a marking device for the
purpose of designating ballot selections.

1115 (2) Persons with disabilities <u>or other persons upon</u> 1116 <u>request</u> may vote on a voter interface device that meets the Page 40 of 54

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1117 voting system accessibility requirements for individuals with 1118 disabilities pursuant to s. 301 of the federal Help America Vote 1119 Act of 2002 and s. 101.56062.

(3) By 2012, persons with disabilities <u>may</u> shall vote on a voter interface device that meets the voter accessibility requirements for individuals with disabilities under s. 301 of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 and s. 101.56062 which are consistent with subsection (1) of this section.

1125Section 22. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section1126101.5608, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1127 101.5608 Voting by electronic or electromechanical method;
1128 procedures.--

(2) When an electronic or electromechanical voting system
utilizes a ballot card or marksense ballot, the following
procedures shall be followed:

1132 (a) After receiving a ballot from an inspector, the elector shall, without leaving the polling place, retire to a 1133 1134 booth or compartment and mark the ballot. After preparing his or 1135 her ballot, the elector shall place the ballot in a secrecy 1136 envelope with the stub exposed or shall fold over that portion 1137 on which write-in votes may be cast, as instructed, so that the ballot will be deposited in the tabulator ballot box without 1138 exposing the voter's choices. Before the ballot is deposited in 1139 1140 the ballot box, the inspector shall detach the exposed stub and 1141 place it in a separate envelope for audit purposes; when a foldover ballot is used, the entire ballot shall be placed in the 1142 ballot box. 1143

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1144 Section 23. Subsection (5) of section 101.5614, Florida 1145 Statutes, is amended to read:

1146

101.5614 Canvass of returns.--

1147 If any absentee ballot is physically damaged so that (5) it cannot properly be counted by the automatic tabulating 1148 equipment, a true duplicate copy shall be made of the damaged 1149 1150 ballot in the presence of witnesses and substituted for the damaged ballot. Likewise, a duplicate ballot shall be made of an 1151 1152 absentee ballot containing an overvoted race or a marked 1153 absentee ballot in which every race is undervoted which shall 1154 include all valid votes as determined by the canvassing board based on rules adopted by the division pursuant to s. 1155 102.166(3) (4). All duplicate ballots shall be clearly labeled 1156 1157 "duplicate," bear a serial number which shall be recorded on the defective ballot, and be counted in lieu of the defective 1158 1159 ballot. After a ballot has been duplicated, the defective ballot shall be placed in an envelope provided for that purpose, and 1160 the duplicate ballot shall be tallied with the other ballots for 1161 1162 that precinct.

1163 Section 24. Subsection (2) of section 101.6102, Florida
1164 Statutes, is amended to read:

1165

101.6102 Mail ballot elections; limitations.--

1166 (2) Except as provided in s. 101.733(1), the following 1167 elections may not be conducted by mail ballot:

(a) An election at which any candidate is nominated,elected, retained, or recalled; or

(b) An election held on the same date as another election,other than a mail ballot election, in which the qualified

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1172 electors of that political subdivision are eligible to cast
1173 ballots.

Section 25. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 101.733,Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1176 Election emergency; purpose; elections emergency 101.733 1177 contingency plan. -- Because of the existing and continuing 1178 possibility of an emergency or common disaster occurring before or during a regularly scheduled or special election, and in 1179 1180 order to ensure maximum citizen participation in the electoral process and provide a safe and orderly procedure for persons 1181 seeking to exercise their right to vote, generally to minimize 1182 to whatever degree possible a person's exposure to danger during 1183 declared states of emergency, and to protect the integrity of 1184 the electoral process, it is hereby found and declared to be 1185 1186 necessary to designate a procedure for the emergency suspension 1187 or delay and rescheduling of elections.

(1) (a) The Governor may, upon issuance of an executive order declaring a state of emergency or impending emergency, suspend or delay any election. The Governor may take such action independently or at the request of the Secretary of State, a supervisor of elections from a county affected by the emergency circumstances, or a municipal clerk from a municipality affected by the emergency circumstances.

(b) The Governor may, in the event of a declared state of emergency or impending emergency, in lieu of suspending or delaying an election, call for a mail ballot election. The Department of State shall adopt, by rule, timelines and procedures for the mail ballot election.

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1200 (2)The Governor, upon consultation with the Secretary of 1201 State, shall reschedule any election suspended or delayed due to an emergency. The election shall be held within 10 days after 1202 1203 the date of the suspended or delayed election or as soon 1204 thereafter as is practicable. Notice of the election shall be 1205 provided in any reasonable manner, including, where practicable, 1206 publication published at least once in a newspaper of general 1207 circulation in the affected area and, where practicable, 1208 broadcast as a public service announcement on radio and 1209 television stations at least 1 week prior to the date the election is to be held. 1210

Section 26. Subsection (7) of section 102.014, FloridaStatutes, is amended to read:

1213

102.014 Poll worker recruitment and training.--

1214 The Department of State shall develop a mandatory, (7)1215 statewide, and uniform program for training poll workers on issues of etiquette and sensitivity with respect to voters 1216 having a disability. The program must consist of approximately 1 1217 1218 hour of the required number of hours set forth in paragraph (4) (a). The program must be conducted locally by each supervisor 1219 1220 of elections, who shall periodically certify to the Department of State whether each poll worker has completed the program 1221 prior to working during the election cycle. The supervisor of 1222 elections shall contract with a recognized disability-related 1223 organization, such as a center for independent living, family 1224 network on disabilities, deaf service bureau, or other such 1225 organization, to develop and assist with training the trainers 1226 in the disability sensitivity programs. The program must include 1227

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1228 actual demonstrations of obstacles confronted by disabled 1229 persons during the voting process, including obtaining access to 1230 the polling place, traveling through the polling area, and using 1231 the voting system.

1232 Section 27. Subsection (4) of section 102.031, Florida1233 Statutes, is amended to read:

1234 102.031 Maintenance of good order at polls; authorities; 1235 persons allowed in polling rooms and early voting areas; 1236 unlawful solicitation of voters.--

No person, political committee, committee of 1237 (4) (a) 1238 continuous existence, or other group or organization may solicit voters inside the polling place or within 100 feet of the 1239 1240 entrance to any polling place, or polling room where the polling 1241 place is also a polling room, or early voting site. Before the 1242 opening of the polling place or early voting site, the clerk or 1243 supervisor shall designate the no-solicitation zone and mark the 1244 boundaries.

For the purpose of this subsection, the term "solicit" 1245 (b) 1246 or "solicitation" shall include, but not be limited to, seeking or attempting to seek any vote, fact, opinion, or contribution; 1247 distributing or attempting to distribute any political or 1248 campaign material, leaflet, or handout; conducting a poll except 1249 as specified in this paragraph; seeking or attempting to seek a 1250 signature on any petition; and selling or attempting to sell any 1251 item. The term "solicit" or "solicitation" shall not be 1252 1253 construed to prohibit exit polling.

(c) Each supervisor of elections shall inform the clerk of the area within which soliciting is unlawful, based on the Page 45 of 54

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1256 particular characteristics of that polling place. The supervisor 1257 or the clerk may take any reasonable action necessary to ensure 1258 order at the polling places, including, but not limited to, 1259 having disruptive and unruly persons removed by law enforcement 1260 officers from the polling room or place or from the 100-foot 1261 zone surrounding the polling place.

Section 28. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 102.112,Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1264 102.112 Deadline for submission of county returns to the 1265 Department of State.--

1266 The county canvassing board or a majority thereof (1)shall file the county returns for the election of a federal or 1267 state officer with the Department of State immediately after 1268 1269 certification of the election results. The returns must contain 1270 a certification by the canvassing board that the board has 1271 compared reconciled the number of persons who voted with the 1272 number of ballots counted and that the certification includes 1273 all valid votes cast in the election.

(2) Returns must be filed by 5 p.m. on the <u>9th</u> 7th day following a primary election and by noon on the 12th day following the general election. However, the Department of State may correct typographical errors, including the transposition of numbers, in any returns submitted to the Department of State pursuant to s. 102.111(1).

1280Section 29. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (7) of1281section 102.141, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1282

102.141 County canvassing board; duties.--

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1283 (7)If the unofficial returns reflect that a candidate for 1284 any office was defeated or eliminated by one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast for such office, that a candidate for 1285 1286 retention to a judicial office was retained or not retained by 1287 one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast on the question of retention, or that a measure appearing on the ballot was 1288 1289 approved or rejected by one-half of a percent or less of the 1290 votes cast on such measure, the board responsible for certifying 1291 the results of the vote on such race or measure shall order a 1292 recount of the votes cast with respect to such office or 1293 measure. The Elections Canvassing Commission is the board 1294 responsible for ordering federal, state, and multicounty recounts. A recount need not be ordered with respect to the 1295 returns for any office, however, if the candidate or candidates 1296 1297 defeated or eliminated from contention for such office by one-1298 half of a percent or less of the votes cast for such office 1299 request in writing that a recount not be made.

1300 Each canvassing board responsible for conducting a (b) 1301 recount where touchscreen ballots were used shall re-collect the votes from examine the counters on the precinct tabulators to 1302 1303 ensure that the total of the returns on the precinct tabulators 1304 equals the overall election return. If there is a discrepancy, 1305 the canvassing board shall determine the cause and report the 1306 results between the overall election return and the counters of 1307 the precinct tabulators, the counters of the precinct tabulators 1308 shall be presumed correct and such votes shall be canvassed accordingly. 1309

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1310 The canvassing board shall submit on forms or in (C) 1311 formats provided by the division a second set of unofficial 1312 returns to the Department of State for each federal, statewide, 1313 state, or multicounty office or ballot measure no later than 3 p.m. on the fifth day after any primary election and no later 1314 than 3 p.m. on the ninth day after any general election in which 1315 1316 a recount was conducted pursuant to this subsection. If the canvassing board is unable to complete the recount prescribed in 1317 1318 this subsection by the deadline, the second set of unofficial 1319 returns submitted by the canvassing board shall be identical to the initial unofficial returns and the submission shall also 1320 include a detailed explanation of why it was unable to timely 1321 1322 complete the recount. However, the canvassing board shall 1323 complete the recount prescribed in this subsection, along with 1324 any manual recount prescribed in s. 102.166, and certify 1325 election returns in accordance with the requirements of this 1326 chapter.

1327 Section 30. Effective July 1, 2008, section 102.166,1328 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1329

102.166 Manual recounts.--

1330 If the second set of unofficial returns pursuant to s. (1)102.141 indicates that a candidate for any office was defeated 1331 or eliminated by one-quarter of a percent or less of the votes 1332 cast for such office, that a candidate for retention to a 1333 1334 judicial office was retained or not retained by one-quarter of a 1335 percent or less of the votes cast on the question of retention, or that a measure appearing on the ballot was approved or 1336 rejected by one-quarter of a percent or less of the votes cast 1337 Page 48 of 54

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1338 on such measure, any candidate in the affected race, any 1339 political committee that supports or opposes an issue that is affected, or any political party that had candidates appear on 1340 1341 the ballot in the affected race may request a manual recount. Such request must be filed no later than 5 p.m. on the 5th day 1342 1343 after a primary election and no later than 5 p.m. on the 9th day 1344 after a general election. Upon timely receipt of a request, the board responsible for certifying the results of the vote on such 1345 1346 race or measure shall order a manual recount of the votes 1347 overvotes and undervotes cast in such race or measure in the 1348 entire geographic jurisdiction of such race office or ballot measure. A manual recount may not be ordered, however, if the 1349 1350 number of overvotes, undervotes, and provisional ballots is 1351 fewer than the number of votes needed to change the outcome of 1352 the election. 1353 (2) (a) Any hardware or software used to identify and sort 1354 overvotes and undervotes for a given race or ballot measure must 1355 be certified by the Department of State as part of the voting

1356 system pursuant to s. 101.015. Any such hardware or software
1357 must be capable of simultaneously counting votes.

1358 (b) Overvotes and undervotes shall be identified and 1359 sorted while recounting ballots pursuant to s. 102.141, if the 1360 hardware or software for this purpose has been certified or the 1361 department's rules so provide.

1362(2) (3)Any manual recount shall be open to the public.1363(3) (4) (a) A vote for a candidate or ballot measure shall1364be counted if there is a clear indication on the ballot that the1365voter has made a definite choice.

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(b) The Department of State shall adopt specific rules for
each certified voting system prescribing what constitutes a
"clear indication on the ballot that the voter has made a
definite choice." The rules may not:

1370 1. Exclusively provide that the voter must properly mark
 1371 or designate his or her choice on the ballot; or

1372 2. Contain a catch-all provision that fails to identify 1373 specific standards, such as "any other mark or indication 1374 clearly indicating that the voter has made a definite choice."

1375 (4) (5) Procedures for a manual recount are as follows:
1376 (a) The county canvassing board shall appoint as many
1377 counting teams of at least two electors as is necessary to
1378 manually recount the ballots. A counting team must have, when
1379 possible, members of at least two political parties. A candidate
1380 involved in the race shall not be a member of the counting team.

(b) Each duplicate ballot prepared pursuant to s.
1382 101.5614(5) or s. 102.141(7) shall be compared with the original
1383 ballot to ensure the correctness of the duplicate.

(c) If a counting team is unable to determine whether the ballot contains a clear indication that the voter has made a definite choice, the ballot shall be presented to the county canvassing board for a determination.

(d) The Department of State shall adopt detailed rules
prescribing additional recount procedures for each certified
voting system which shall be uniform to the extent practicable.
The rules shall address, at a minimum, the following areas:

1392 1393 1. Security of ballots during the recount process;

2. Time and place of recounts;

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1394 3. Public observance of recounts; 1395 4. Objections to ballot determinations; Record of recount proceedings; and 1396 5. Procedures relating to candidate and petitioner 1397 6. 1398 representatives. (5) Notwithstanding s. 101.591, in any instance in which a 1399 manual recount was conducted on a countywide race, the 1400 canvassing board is not required to conduct a manual audit of 1401 the voting system. However, the canvassing board shall track the 1402 ballots that were not properly completed for the purpose of 1403 1404 determining whether the voting system accurately recorded the 1405 votes. For purposes of this subsection, a ballot that has not been properly completed is a ballot on which: 1406 1407 (a) Votes have been marked by the voter outside the vote 1408 targets; 1409 (b) Votes have been marked by the voter using a manual 1410 marking device that cannot be read by the voting system; or 1411 In the judgment of the canvassing board, the voter (C) 1412 marked the ballot in such a manner that the voting system may not have read the marks as votes cast. 1413 1414 1415 If a voting system audit is conducted pursuant to s. 101.591, 1416 the canvassing board shall include the information from the 1417 manual recount and from the ballots not properly completed as part of the report required by that section. 1418 Section 31. Subsection (2) of section 103.101, Florida 1419 Statutes, is amended to read: 1420 1421 103.101 Presidential preference primary.--Page 51 of 54

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(2) (a) There shall be a Presidential Candidate Selection
Committee composed of the Secretary of State, who shall be a
nonvoting chair; the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
the President of the Senate; the minority leader of each house
of the Legislature; and the chair of each political party
required to have a presidential preference primary under this
section.

(b) (a) By October 31 of the year preceding the 1429 1430 presidential preference primary, each political party shall submit to the Secretary of State a list of its presidential 1431 1432 candidates to be placed on the presidential preference primary ballot or candidates entitled to have delegates appear on the 1433 presidential preference primary ballot. The Secretary of State 1434 1435 shall prepare and publish a list of the names of the presidential candidates submitted. The Secretary of State shall 1436 1437 submit such list of names of presidential candidates to the selection committee on the first Tuesday after the first Monday 1438 in November of the year preceding the presidential preference 1439 1440 primary. Each person designated as a presidential candidate shall have his or her name appear, or have his or her delegates' 1441 1442 names appear, on the presidential preference primary ballot unless all committee members of the same political party as the 1443 candidate agree to delete such candidate's name from the ballot. 1444

1445 (c) The selection committee shall meet in Tallahassee on 1446 the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of the year 1447 preceding the presidential preference primary. The selection 1448 committee shall publicly announce and submit to the Department 1449 of State no later than 5 p.m. on the following day the names of Page 52 of 54

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1450 presidential candidates who shall have their names appear, or 1451 who are entitled to have their delegates' names appear, on the 1452 presidential preference primary ballot. The Department of State 1453 shall immediately notify each presidential candidate designated 1454 by the committee. Such notification shall be in writing, by 1455 registered mail, with return receipt requested.

(b) Any presidential candidate whose name does not appear
on the list submitted to the Secretary of State may request that
the selection committee place his or her name on the ballot.
Such request shall be made in writing to the Secretary of State
no later than the second Tuesday after the first Monday in
November of the year preceding the presidential preference
primary.

1463 (c) If a presidential candidate makes a request that the 1464 selection committee reconsider placing the candidate's name on 1465 the ballot, the selection committee will reconvene no later than the second Thursday after the first Monday in November of the 1466 year preceding the presidential preference primary to reconsider 1467 1468 placing the candidate's name on the ballot. The Department of State shall immediately notify such candidate of the selection 1469 1470 committee's decision.

1471 Section 32. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section1472 190.006, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1473 190.006 Board of supervisors; members and meetings.--1474 (3)

1475 (c) Candidates seeking election to office by qualified 1476 electors under this subsection shall conduct their campaigns in 1477 accordance with the provisions of chapter 106 and shall file Page 53 of 54

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1478	qualifying papers and qualify for individual seats in accordance
1479	with s. 99.061. Candidates shall pay a qualifying fee, which
1480	shall consist of a filing fee and an election assessment or, as
1481	an alternative, shall file a petition signed by not less than 1
1482	percent of the registered voters of the district, and take the
1483	oath required in s. 99.021, with the supervisor of elections in
1484	the county affected by such candidacy. The amount of the filing
1485	fee is 3 percent of \$4,800; however, if the electors have
1486	provided for compensation pursuant to subsection (8), the amount
1487	of the filing fee is 3 percent of the maximum annual
1488	compensation so provided. The amount of the election assessment
1489	is 1 percent of \$4,800; however, if the electors have provided
1490	for compensation pursuant to subsection (8), the amount of the
1491	election assessment is 1 percent of the maximum annual
1492	compensation so provided. The filing fee, which and election
1493	assessment shall be assessed and distributed as provided in s.
1494	105.031(3).
1495	Section 33. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this

1496 act, this act shall take effect January 1, 2009.

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