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October 23, 2008

James A. Greer, Chairman  
Republican Party of Florida  
420 E. Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Chairman Greer,

I am following up again on your letter from October 1, 2008, when you stated that the Republican Party of Florida is not only worried about protecting Floridians' votes, but that you wanted to work with the Florida Democratic Party in a bi-partisan effort to ensure the integrity of the vote is protected.

I was very encouraged by your letter and looked forward to discussing how we could work together to ensure that all eligible Florida's voters could cast their legal vote free of any harassment or intimidation and have it counted. I write to you today, for a second time, take you up on your offer to work together and to protect Florida's voters from being illegally disenfranchised.

As you may have seen, the *DeLand-Deltona Beacon*, which covers Western Volusia County, published an article on October 10, 2008, headlined: "**In Volusia County thousands are newly registered, but may be challenged at polls.**"

According to the newspaper, Volusia County Supervisor of Elections Ann McFall, a Republican, told the Chamber of Commerce on October 7: "One party that we know of is going to challenge every voter that's being foreclosed on." The Beacon reported that Supervisor McFall later noted that the party known to be focusing on foreclosure challenges was the Republican Party.

This ploy to challenge legitimate voters, at a time when they are facing very tough economic times, is disgusting and shameful. Hard-working people are losing their homes every day in Florida and now some in the Republican Party wants them to lose their votes, too?

When news emerged several weeks ago that Republicans in Michigan were preparing a similar foreclosure-based challenge plan, the Republican party there was forced to make a pledge to a federal court that they would not use foreclosure lists to challenge voters.

Now is the time for you to prove your Party's, Governor Charlie Crist's and Senator John McCain's commitment to protecting Florida voters by denouncing and ceasing any efforts to challenge voters who have lost their homes. Democrats were encouraged when Governor Crist recently denounced those in your party who develop these underhanded tactics, saying, "As we're coming into the closing days of any campaign, there are some who enjoy chaos."

I am confident, based on your letter to me and Governor Crist's recent comments, that you will act quickly to denounce this tactic in Volusia County and anywhere in the great state of Florida – without either of us having to go to court like our colleagues were forced to do in Michigan.

I urge you and the Governor to join me in demanding that your colleagues in the Republican Party and McCain-Palin campaign immediately cease any and all efforts to disenfranchise voters with frivolous and deceptive challenges. As you know, under Florida law it is a crime to frivolously challenge voters (Fla. Stat. 101.111(2)), so it should not be difficult for you to commit to this effort.

Foreclosures continue to rise in Florida. The Sarasota Herald-Tribune today reported that county foreclosures there during the month of September were up 39 percent. We should be doing all we can to help those who are losing their homes – not taking away their rights.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon, and I hope we can find ways to work together to protect voters from being frivolously challenged and unlawfully denied their constitutional right to vote.

Sincerely,



Congresswoman Karen L. Thurman  
Chair, Florida Democratic Party