



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

June 28, 2019

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

FILED
2019 JUN 28 PM 5:19
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Dear Secretary Lee:

I have signed into law Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 7066 - Election Administration.

Last November, Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment, known as Amendment 4, to automatically restore voting rights for some convicted felons; namely, felons who have been convicted of offenses other than murder or "felony sexual offenses" and who have completed all terms of their sentence. Senate Bill 7066 enumerates a uniform list of crimes that fall into the excluded categories and confirms that the amendment does not apply to a felon who has failed to complete all terms of his sentence.

Curiously, the amendment did not address the restoration of other civil rights, such as the right to hold public office and to serve on a jury. I am considering whether to seek restoration of all civil rights to some of those whose rights were restored by Amendment 4. However, I would only consider restoring rights to those convicted of non-violent offenses. Amendment 4 restores – without regard to the wishes of the victims – voting rights to violent felons, including felons convicted of attempted murder, armed robbery and kidnapping, so long as those felons completed all terms of their sentences. I think this was a mistake and would not want to compound that mistake by bestowing blanket benefits on violent offenders.

As I consider options for restoration of civil rights to non-violent offenders, my administration will execute this legislation to ensure the restoration of voting rights. I therefore direct the Department of State to lead this effort to ensure implementation of

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the law in coordination with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Department of Corrections and the Florida Commission on Offender Review.

Sincerely,

A large, bold, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ron DeSantis', written over a horizontal line.

Ron DeSantis
Governor

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA