

No. 1D2026-1559

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL
OF FLORIDA, FIRST DISTRICT

VONDA THOMPSON-WYNN, ET AL.,
Appellant,

v.

CORD BYRD, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS FLORIDA
SECRETARY OF STATE, ET AL.,
Appellees.

APPELLEES' APPENDIX

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Tab 1

RETRIEVED FROM DEMOCRACYDOCKET.COM

DECLARATION OF MARIA MATTHEWS

I, Maria Matthews, consistent with section 92.525, Florida Statutes (2026), hereby state:

1. I am over 18 years of age, am competent to testify, and declare the following facts based on my own personal knowledge.

2. This Declaration supplements my previous Declarations dated May 12, 2026, and May 15, 2026, to provide the current status of congressional qualifying for the 2026 election cycle. The information herein is as of 4:30 p.m., Friday May 29, 2026.

3. As Director of the Division of Elections of the Department of State, I am responsible for overseeing candidate qualifying with the Division of Elections pursuant to sections 99.061, Florida Statutes.

4. The Division began accepting qualifying items on **May 25, 2026** (even though that Monday was the Memorial Day Holiday) for the qualifying period beginning at noon on June 8 and ending at noon on June 12. § 99.061(9), Fla. Stat. (2026).

5. Over 200 candidates have indicated that they intend to qualify for congressional office for the 2026 election cycle—and identified the specific district. Of those, 19 have already “pre-qualified” for congressional office, such that they have submitted all required qualifying items and identified the district number. Those candidates will be qualified for ballot placement during the qualifying period. Another 20 of the over 200 intended congressional candidates are actively in the process of qualifying, such that they have submitted at least one required qualifying item (whether sufficient or not). You can find the list of all candidates (and browse their submissions) on the Division’s Candidate Listing for the 2026 Election available at: <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates/CanList.asp>.

6. Additionally, two local officeholders have resigned their current, respective offices in order to run for congressional office. Specifically, Greg “Tex” Bukowski has resigned from the

Sarasota Charter Review Board to run for CD 19, and Jim Norton has resigned as Gulf County Superintendent Schools to run for CD 2. Their resignations are irrevocable. *See* § 99.012(4)(b), Fla. Stat. More officeholders may resign to run for congressional office before tonight's deadline.

7. Since May 4, 2026, a memo has been posted to the Division's Qualifying Webpage informing candidates that the map and districts in HB 1D "are in effect and operative for qualifying for U.S. House of Representatives for the 2026 election." You can find it here: <https://files.florida-dos.gov/media/710588/memo-redistricting-2026.pdf>. The memo was also emailed the same day to all congressional candidates with an email address on file with the Division. Division staff have also been directing candidates to the map and districts in HB 1D (via the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) website) to the extent asked.

8. On May 4, 2024, the Supervisors and I received an email from the General Counsel of the Department notifying us that the Governor signed into law HB 1D and was in effect. We were emailed again on May 26, 2026, to continue to implement HB 1D.

9. Activity in the Florida Voter Registration System (FVRS) suggests that Supervisors of Elections have been implementing HB 1D since it went into effect by associating voters to the new districts. Once the Supervisors have completed this task, the publicly available voter extract file will reflect which voters are in each district under HB 1D. This file is used by candidates and committees to campaign in and interact with the relevant voters. The Division has already been asked when the voter extract file will be up-to-date with that districting information.

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing declaration and that the facts stated in it are true. Executed this 29th day of May, 2026.

/s/ Maria Matthews
Maria Matthews
Director of the Division of Elections, Florida
Department of State

Tab 2

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Declaration of Xavier Pichs (Miami-Dade Supervisor of Elections Office)

I, Xavier Pichs, consistent with section 92.525, Florida Statutes (2026), hereby state:

1. My name is Xavier Pichs. I have been employed by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Supervisor of Elections for seventeen (17) years. I currently serve as the GIS Development Manager and have held that position for four (4) years.
2. As GIS Development Manager, I supervise a team of GIS Specialists. Our team's primary responsibilities include reviewing district boundaries and modifying our precinct boundaries to accurately define all eligible districts, assigning voters to precincts, implementing redistricting plans, verifying residential addresses, and administering election-related processes.
3. Following the enactment of the new congressional districts, my team worked diligently to prepare, program, and quality-control the new district boundaries within the Redistricting database of our voting system.
4. After the trial court declined to enjoin implementation of Florida's new congressional districts, my team deployed the new boundary data from the Redistricting database to the live systems used to administer elections. That process was completed on May 30, 2026.
5. After the new congressional districts became active in our systems, we published the updated maps on our website, updated voter records, updated statistical information on our website, provided the new precinct boundaries to the State, and began allocating resources for polling places. We are also programming ballot shells for the various ballot styles that will be used in the Primary Election, preparing tabulation equipment for the upcoming elections, and conducting quality assurance reviews of all precinct and district assignments within our systems, including our tabulation database.
6. Although all qualified candidates for the Primary Election have not yet been identified, our process for preparing at least 2,300 ballot styles needed in Miami-Dade County begins well before the candidate qualification period is complete. This advance preparation is necessary to successfully conduct an election in a large county such as Miami-Dade County.
7. It is now past the point at which we would need to begin the implementation process for any new congressional district plan—or even revert to the previous congressional districts—while still adequately preparing for the Primary Election.
8. We are scheduled to mail more than 160,000 voter information cards reflecting the new congressional districts on June 5, 2026.
9. At least one Miami-Dade County elected official has already resigned from a current office in order to run for election in a newly drawn congressional district.

10. Because the new congressional districts have been widely publicized, incorporated into our website and election systems, and will soon be communicated directly to Miami-Dade County voters, any change to those districts at this stage would not only create operational challenges for our office but would also cause voter confusion in the upcoming elections.

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing declaration and that the facts stated in it are true.

Executed on June 2, 2026 by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Xavier Pichs', written over a horizontal line.

Xavier Pichs