



**Florida Fair Elections Coalition**  
**Deland, FL**  
[www.ffc.org](http://www.ffc.org)

## **Governor Scott's Remarks Called "Disingenuous" by Election Integrity Advocates**

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In a statement released today, members of the Florida Fair Elections Coalition called comments by Gov. Rick Scott about Broward County's conduct of the 2018 election "disingenuous, partisan, and self-serving."

"For Gov. Rick Scott to act as though he is the innocent, aggrieved party is entirely disingenuous," said Susan Pynchon, executive director and co-founder of the Volusia County-based election integrity organization. "On the contrary, it seems that he has benefitted from his own administration's failure to address long-standing issues with Florida's elections."

FFEC research director, Kitty Garber added, "Given the partisan make-up of the county, vote loss in the U.S. Senate race is likely to have primarily harmed his opponent. Further, state election monitors overseeing Broward's process contradict Scott's claims of wrong doing. The chief problems in Broward apparently were poor ballot design and unfulfilled vote-by-mail requests. These are well-known issues that the state should have addressed long ago."

According to Garber and Pynchon, the problem with vote-by-mail is long-standing. Unfulfilled vote-by-mail requests have likely resulted in the disenfranchisement of thousands of voters every election since Snipes became supervisor of elections, they contend. Over the years, Snipes has been sued repeatedly by political parties, candidates, and good government organizations for these vote-by-mail failures. But during Scott's eight years as governor, his administration has done nothing to ensure that Broward's voters can expect to get a ballot if they request one, say the election integrity advocates. Holding Snipes' office accountable is difficult for citizens, they explain, because of its lack of transparency, destruction of election records, and refusal to fulfill public records requests. Unlike citizens, the state had both the necessary information and the authority to hold Snipes' accountable. After she was found guilty of destroying ballots from the 2016 primary in violation of state and federal law, Scott could have removed Snipes from office. Then Gov. Jeb Bush removed her predecessor in 2002 for incompetence.

The election integrity advocates say Scott's highly partisan and self-serving remarks raise questions about whether the state's failure during his administration to protect the votes of citizens in this heavily Democratic county was politically motivated.

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