

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PASCO AND PINELLAS COUNTIES, FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-035 PA/PI-CIR

RE: TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS FOR ELECTION-RELATED CASES

Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(3) states the chief judge shall consider available resources to ensure the efficient and proper administration of all courts within the circuit. Legal challenges to local, state, and national elections which are filed on the date of the election require expedited review. Lawsuits may be filed after hours when the Pasco County Clerk of Court and the Pinellas County Clerk of Court are closed. A managing judge is necessary to address election related issues to ensure a timely response, consistency and transparency.

In accordance with Article V, section 2, Florida Constitution, Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, and section 43.26, Florida Statutes,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. The Chief Judge, or the Chief Judge's designee, will be the judicial officer who will oversee lawsuits involving the election process in Pasco County and Pinellas County on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. This includes lawsuits filed by a candidate, the candidate's party organization, the supervisor of elections, the media, or an interested party. This also includes emergency petitions filed on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.
2. New filings will be marked in the e-portal as "emergency" in order for the Clerk of the Court's Office to docket the filing and bring it to the attention of the Chief Judge or the Chief Judge's designee.
3. Upon receipt of a newly-filed civil action arising from any election taking place in Pasco County, Florida on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, the Pasco County Clerk of the Court shall immediately notify the Chief Judge or the Chief Judge's designee.
4. Upon receipt of a newly-filed civil action arising from any election taking place in Pinellas County, Florida on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, the Pinellas County Clerk of the Court shall immediately notify the Chief Judge or the Chief Judge's designee.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida, this
_____ day of November 2020.

ORIGINAL SIGNED ON NOVEMBER 2, 2020
BY ANTHONY RONDOLINO, CHIEF JUDGE

cc: All Judges
The Honorable Bernie McCabe, State Attorney
The Honorable Bob Dillinger, Public Defender
The Honorable Nikki Alvarez-Sowles, Clerk & Comptroller, Pasco County
The Honorable Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Pinellas County
The Honorable Chris Nocco, Pasco County Sheriff
The Honorable Bob Gualtieri, Pinellas County Sheriff
Gay Inskip, Trial Courts Administrator
Ita M. Neymotin, Regional Counsel, Second District
Ngozi Acholonu, Assistant Regional Counsel, Second District
Lillian Simon, Director Administrative Services, Pasco County
Kimberly Thompson, Chief Operations Officer, Pasco County Clerk's Office
Brian E. Corley, Pasco County Supervisor of Elections
Julie Marcus, Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections
Law Libraries, Pinellas and Pasco County
Bar Associations, Pinellas and Pasco County