



Joe Scott, Supervisor of Elections
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October 11, 2021

Sam Goren, City Attorney
Quentin Morgan, Asst. City Attorney
City of Pembroke Pines
601 City Center Way
Pembroke Pines, FL 33025

Dear Messrs. Goren and Morgan:

I received your message asking if our Office would be able to facilitate a city election in March 2022 with new districts created by the City in November of 2021. It will not be feasible for us to complete the necessary configuration changes before candidate qualifying which begins on January 3, 2022. We are currently engaged in a Special Primary Election to fill the vacancy of the office of U.S. Representative in Congress, District 20. As qualifying is taking place for the March Municipal Elections, we will be in the middle of early voting for the Congressional Special General Election.

Updating the County precincts and the statewide redistricting is a complicated process that happens once a decade. Because of the complexity of multiple levels of redistricting at the federal, state, county, and local levels, the drawing of new precincts and their approval by the Board of County Commissioners (which is required by statute) will not be finalized until after the March Municipal Elections. By mid-March, we expect to have all the district maps we need including Congressional Districts, State Senate Districts, State House Districts, County Commission Districts, and School Board Districts. Once all these districts have been drawn, we will be able to overlay the maps and create precincts that work with the new districts and assign voters accordingly. The drawing of new precincts, including setting polling places, will require mailing out new voter registration cards to every voter in the County in advance of the August election.

If the City of Pembroke Pines implements new districts and intends to have them apply to the March 2022 election, there are additional costs for the election that would be incurred by our office and would need to be paid by the City. The logistics of a last-minute change to districts would require our office to draw new precinct maps just for this election, determine polling places just for this election, and mail out the new cards to all of Pembroke Pines' voters well in advance of the January qualifying period for the city's elections in March. Pembroke Pines has the second-largest number of precincts in the County and 118,603 voters. Mailing out the cards to these voters alone will cost the City an additional \$82,110 on top of the regular election costs for March. Additionally, since staff time will be incurred in creating new precincts and handling the district revisions on an expedited basis, and not as part of our overall changes that will be implemented for August, there will be an additional staff cost incurred of potentially as much as \$25,000, which will also be charged to the City.

In addition to the logistical issues and significant additional costs that the city would be responsible for, there is also the issue of voter confusion that will be created by this last-minute change. Every time a polling place or precinct number changes, and new voter registration cards are sent out, our office receives

a significant number of inquiries from voters asking about the changes and how it impacts them. Our office tries to make these types of changes as infrequently as possible to avoid situations where voters (especially those who may require special accommodations or have transportation difficulties) become confused about where they are supposed to vote and may go to the polling place they traditionally vote at, only to be told that they cannot vote there. The city's request would not only have our office mail out these polling place and precinct changes to voters shortly before an election but would also require us to send out a new set of voter registration cards later in the Spring because, inevitably, precincts and polling places will again change for Pembroke Pines voters for the August Primary Election.

All of the district maps being created for the federal, state, county, and school board districts for 2022 are intended to go into effect for the August 2022 primary, which will allow our office sufficient time to create appropriate precincts and ensure polling places for that election.

I wish we could accommodate your city's request for a special precinct-creation process to accommodate the March 2022 elections, but it simply isn't feasible at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Scott", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Scott
Supervisor of Elections