



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KURT S. BROWNING
Secretary of State

MEMORANDUM

TO: Supervisors of Elections

FROM: Dr. Gisela Salas, Director
Division of Elections

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gisela Salas", written over a horizontal line.

DATE: May 31, 2011

SUBJECT: Initiative Petition Changes

Governor Scott signed CS/CS/HB 1355 into law and most portions of it became effective on May 19, 2011. One major change involved constitutional initiative petitions in s. 100.371, Florida Statutes.

The new law reduces the shelf-life of a voter's signature on an initiative petition proposing constitutional amendments from 4 years to 2 years. This means any petition signed by a voter on May 19, 2011 or before is valid for four years; however, any petition signed by a voter on May 20, 2011 to present is only valid for two years. Please make note of this and be careful when verifying petition signatures.

To ensure proper certifications for existing initiative petitions are accurately reported and to ensure that signatures drop out of our database at the correct time, please make a separate certification for any signature on a petition prior to May 20th which you receive. Therefore, for example, if you have signatures to certify for an initiative petition and 15 signatures were signed on or before May 19th and 10 signatures were signed on or after May 20th for that petition, please do two separate certifications, one for 10 and the other for 15 signatures. On the certification for signatures on or before May 19th, please add a prominent notation on the certification which indicates words to the effect: "For signatures on or before May 19, 2011."

I thank you for your cooperation in complying with this change in the petition certification process.