



July 24, 2018

W. Kent Fuchs, Ph.D.
University of Florida
226 Tigert Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear President Fuchs:

I am writing to you regarding U.S. District Court Judge Mark Walker's recent decision to temporarily strike down language within Florida law that prohibits Supervisors of Elections from using facilities on college campuses as early voting locations.

With this change to the law, my office would like to set up an early voting location on the University of Florida campus for the 2018 General Election. Given that it is a polling place on Election Day and is situated in the heart of campus, the J. Wayne Reitz Union is the building we desire to use. Early voting for the 2018 General Election begins Monday, October 22, and ends Saturday, November 3.

It is my responsibility to provide every voter in Alachua County access to an early voting site. Voters who do not attend or work at the University of Florida will need to have an unrestricted ability to access the room in the J. Wayne Reitz Union where early voting is taking place.

Understanding that the university's daily operations do not easily provide such access, there are certain requests that would need to be met for my office to use the J. Wayne Reitz Union for early voting.

- Forty monitored parking spots in the J. Wayne Reitz Union parking garage from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Monday, October 22, to Saturday, November 3. We cannot charge voters to park, and any voter who would like to vote early at the J. Wayne Reitz Union would need to have the ability to do so.
- Access to a secure room within the J. Wayne Reitz Union where voting can take place and equipment can be stored from Thursday, October 18, to Saturday, November 3. The room could not be used for any other purpose during the early voting period and would need to remain locked when election workers are not there.
- Access to the room where voting will take place at least a month before the early voting period so that my office can test equipment and ensure the location is ready.
- Signage at all entrances to the J. Wayne Reitz Union directing voters to the room where early voting is taking place.

The day that gives me the biggest cause for concern is Saturday, November 3, the day the Gators play the University of Missouri in football. The last Saturday of early voting is generally one of the busiest days, and it is important that access to the early voting location not differ from any other day, even if there is a football game happening.



Additionally, I would ask that the university undertake a continued effort to encourage students, faculty and staff to vote in the November election and future elections through its communications channels. We want voters who live and work at the University of Florida to be aware of the access that the additional early voting location would provide.

At your earliest convenience, I would like to set up a time to discuss this with you or a designee so that we can be sure we are serving your students, faculty and staff.

I can be reached by phone at 352-374-5252 or by email at kbarton@alachuacounty.us.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter, and I look forward to continuing our discussion.

Sincerely,

Kim A. Barton
Supervisor of Elections
Alachua County

cc: The Honorable Lee Pinkoson, Chair, Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
Charlie Lane, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, University of Florida
Mark Kaplan, Vice President for Government and Community Relations, University of Florida
Susan Crowley, Assistant Vice President of Community Relations, University of Florida