

**FLORIDA STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
to the  
THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:**

Elena Flom, Ed.D.  
*Chair, Florida Advisory Committee*  
[elenaflomcb@gmail.com](mailto:elenaflomcb@gmail.com)  
(404) 562-7000

**FLORIDA STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RELEASES REPORT  
ON EX-FELON VOTING RIGHTS**

Atlanta -- The Florida State Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights (Committee or SAC) has released its report on ex-felon voting rights. In its report to the Commission, the Florida SAC independently estimates that the total number of persons in the state disenfranchised from voting ranges from 600,000 to 1.2 million persons, or about 3 to 6 percent of the voting population.

Dr. Elena Flom, Chair of the Florida SAC, states: "Previously in 2009 the Florida State Advisory Committee issued a report in support of the revised Rules of Executive Clemency that automatically restored voting rights for most ex-felons. In 2011 Governor Rick Scott, with the support of a majority of the Cabinet, revoked the revised clemency rules. As a result, all ex-felon voting rights restoration cases must be individually reviewed. Given the large number of persons disenfranchised in the state because of the state's ex-felon Constitutional provision, the original framers of the state's Constitution in 1845 could not have possibly envisioned a state population of 20 million persons and the disenfranchisement of hundreds of thousands of persons when they enacted the ex-felon voting ban and the procedures for executive clemency."

The right to vote is fundamental to democracy. With its updated report, the Florida SAC recommends that the Commission urge the Governor and Cabinet to re-consider their 2011 action and restore the revised rules of clemency to allow non-violent ex-felons who have completed all terms of their sentence to have their right to vote restored without undue delay.

The report is posted on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights website at [http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/FL\\_SAC\\_Ex-Felon-Report.pdf](http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/FL_SAC_Ex-Felon-Report.pdf). A print version of the report is available from the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights by calling (202) 376-8128.

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