



## FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Governor Rick Scott Signs On-line Voter Registration Legislation**

*On-line voter registration reduces costs, paperwork and risk for errors; will take effect in 2017*

TALLAHASSEE – Today, Governor Rick Scott signed legislation approving on-line voter registration in Florida. The legislation was supported by the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE), comprised of supervisors from Florida’s 66 counties of varying sizes and political parties, who said it would save Florida taxpayers millions each year, eliminate paperwork and greatly reduce the risk of clerical error. The bill passed overwhelmingly in both the Florida Senate and House of Representatives earlier in the legislative session.

“We thank the Governor and state legislature for their vision, and for also counting it a priority that Florida has a voting system that is more efficient, accurate and secure,” said Jerry Holland, President of the FSASE.

All on-line registrants will be linked to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles’ system to confirm their citizenship status and link the electronic signature in the DHSMV system to their voting record

Over twenty states presently employ some form of state-wide on-line registration and many other states are following suit. All states with existing on-line capabilities found it to be partisan neutral, in that it does not benefit one political party’s registration rate over another’s.

The move would not be available immediately. The state Division of Elections will take the project in phases to ensure accuracy and security and it will be fully implemented after the 2016 Presidential Election cycle. The on-line registration would also not be accessible to first-time registrants without the voter showing verification before casting a ballot.

“This is a common sense approach for 21<sup>st</sup> century voters. So much is done on-line now, including very personal things like banking. Voters take convenience for granted and with technology, convenience can be secure. We know this will make our registration system more accurate, efficient and it will allow us to quickly and more securely process our military/overseas voters’ registration applications,” said Holland.

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