



Press Advisory: August 7, 2020

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**Florida Rights Restoration Coalition to Announce \$2 Million Paid
to Returning Citizens in Fines and Fees
-Group will also outline voting plans for August Primary at Monday
Press Conference-**

ORLANDO, FL (August 7, 2020) — On Monday, August 10, at 10:00am in front of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office, the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC) will announce it has spent over \$2 Million dollars assisting Florida's returning citizens in paying off their fines/fees, and restoring their right to vote.

"The growing support for the FRRC Fines and Fees program reflects a real commitment to strengthening democracy and making sure people's voices are being heard," said FRRC Executive Director Desmond Meade. "We are grateful for everyone who is donating to this important effort."

FRRC has raised several million dollars in recent weeks to assist with court-related financial obligations of returning citizens, through the Fines and Fees program. 100 percent of the donations to the program go to assist returning citizens all over the state.

"It is incredible to not only have the opportunity to believe and invest in the lives of our Returning Citizen family, but to be able to invest in our communities," said Jessica Younts, the Director of FRRC's Fines and Fees Department. "This has been such an amazing effort by everyone who played a part in making this happen, from our Returning Citizen family, clerk staff, volunteer attorneys, our FRRC team, to all the donors. We all did this. We all came together and now our communities will be forever changed for the better," Younts continued.

Monday's announcement marks a milestone achieved by FRRC in the process of creating a more inclusive democracy. Thousands of returning citizens will become eligible to vote for the first time in upcoming elections and impact change in their communities, while also overcoming years of historical disenfranchisement. Local returning citizens will join the press conference to discuss their new voting rights, with some anticipating to vote at the supervisor's office on Monday.



“We are incredibly excited to be voting in our local primaries,” said FRRRC Deputy Director Neil Volz. “Many of us have waited decades to vote, or never voted at all. It is going to be a special moment.”

In 2018, Florida citizens voted to approve Amendment 4 and automatically restore the voting rights of 1.4 million people with past felony convictions. Today, the voting eligibility of returning citizens is jeopardized due to recent court decisions concerning Florida’s law requiring the payment of all fines, fees and restitution related to prior convictions.

PRESS CONFERENCE DETAILS

When: 10:00am on Monday, August 10th
Where: Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office
What: FRRRC Leadership and local Returning Citizens

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About The Florida Rights Restoration Coalition

FRRRC is a grassroots, membership organization run by Returning Citizens (Formerly Convicted Persons) who are dedicated to ending the disenfranchisement and discrimination against people with convictions and creating a more comprehensive and humane reentry system that will enhance successful reentry, reduce recidivism, and increase public safety. For more information, visit <https://floridarrc.com/>.