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## **In Light of 11th Circuit Ruling, Florida Rights Restoration Coalition Vows to Pay the Fines & Fees of Returning Citizens**

**ORLANDO, FL (September 11, 2020)** — Earlier today, the 11th Circuit dealt a massive blow to our democracy, and the real lives of returning citizens across Florida. In 2018, Florida voters passed Amendment 4 by  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority, expanding voting rights to 1.4 million formerly convicted citizens.

Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, which had filed an amicus brief on this case, is raising money to help pay the outstanding fines and fees of thousands of returning citizens. In response to SB7066 being upheld, Desmond Meade of the FRRC has remained steadfast.

"The 11th Circuit's decision is a blow to democracy and to the hundreds of thousands of returning citizens across Florida who should have an opportunity to participate in this incredibly important election," said Desmond Meade, Executive Director of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition. "We will continue to place people over politics. We will not rest until we live up to the promise of Amendment 4 and see every one of the 1.4 million returning citizens who want to be a part of our democracy have the opportunity to do so. That is why we are encouraging people to step up and defend democracy by supporting our efforts to pay the fines and fees of Florida's returning citizens through our Fines & Fees program, and allow people with past convictions to become eligible voters despite the obstacles placed before us."

To date, FRRC has already freed the vote for over 4,000 returning Florida citizens.

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### **About The Florida Rights Restoration Coalition**

FRRC 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/>.