



NEWS RELEASE

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Statement on Cybersecurity and Voter Registration Database

Deborah Clark, Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections has released the following statement regarding news reports that Russians have penetrated voter registration databases:

There is no indication any of Pinellas County's election systems have been penetrated.

Upon hearing media reports that some voter registration systems in Florida had been hacked, we immediately made contact with the Department of Homeland Security, FBI, Florida Division of Elections, our county system administrators and a multi-state information sharing group that monitors cyber threats, as well as our vendor for the voter registration database, VR Systems. All of these officials stated that no known penetration occurred.

We are actively engaged in cyber threat prevention, protection and have protocols for response and recovery. Elections have been designated as critical infrastructure by the federal government, and we take seriously the responsibility of protecting the integrity of electoral process.

If, for any reason, our voter registration system was not available on Election Day to determine voters' eligibility, back-up paper precinct registers (lists of voter information by precinct) are available to our poll workers. Also, in order to ensure voters are able to cast a ballot, provisional ballots are a part of our continuity of operations plan and are a reliable back-up option.

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