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GOVERNOR SCOTT VETOES HOUSE BILL 249

Governor Rick Scott vetoed House Bill 249 on Friday, which would have exempted e-mail addresses provided on the Florida uniform statewide voter registration application from becoming public record.

The bill was presented in conjunction with House Bill 247, requiring that the Florida voter registration form is designed to elicit the applicant's e-mail address and whether the applicant wishes to "opt-in" to receive sample ballots by mail. HB 247 was signed into law on Friday, while HB 249 was vetoed.

"We work very hard to get voters to take advantage of new technology that can make access to voting and election information simpler and more convenient. It's my fear that there will be less participation in the e-mail opt-in program, since the voter's e-mail address would be available to anyone who requests it," said Chris Chambless, Clay County Supervisor of Elections.

The law does not apply to e-mail addresses given when requesting an absentee ballot (F.S. 102.63(3)(c)).

The Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE) recently attended their Annual Summer Conference, where both the Florida Elections Commission and the Florida Ethics Commission gave presentations to be proactive in meeting the ethics education requirement.

For questions or more information, please call (904) 269-6350 or e-mail outreach@clayelections.com.

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