



March 5, 2021

House Public Integrity & Elections Committee
317 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: HB 155 – Pub. Rec./Voters and Voter Registration

The First Amendment Foundations writes to express our concerns with House Bill 155, which exempts and makes confidential certain voter information from public view.

While the public would be unable to access this information under HB 155, the bill creates an exception for a political party, candidate, or political committee to access this information. By releasing personal information to parties and political committees, the information could still be misused to harass and mislead voters. The exception afforded to candidates and political committees undermines the public necessity statement provided in the bill.

The Florida Constitution grants a right of access to records to every person. This bill limits the public's right of access to information while granting access to campaigns and political committees who stand to benefit from voter information. Accordingly, the First Amendment Foundation opposes this legislation.

With best regards,

FIRST AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela C. Marsh".

Pamela C. Marsh
President

cc: The Honorable Chris Spowls, Speaker, Florida House
Jim Baltzelle, Associated Press, Chair, First Amendment Foundation
Samuel Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association
Lisa Nellesen Savage, Chair, Florida Society of News Editors

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