

**FLORIDA ADVISORY COMMITTEE to the  
THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

August 14, 2008

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**FLORIDA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE RELEASES REPORT  
IN SUPPORT OF RESTORATION OF EX-FELON VOTING RIGHTS**

The Florida Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights today released its report on the restoration of voting rights for ex-felons, *Ex-Felon Voting Rights in Florida: Revised Rules of Executive Clemency that Automatically Restore Civil Rights to Level-1 Offenders Is the Right Policy*.

On April 5, 2007, with the concurrence of a majority of the Cabinet, the Clemency Board issued revised Rules of Executive Clemency that automatically restore civil and voting rights to most felons upon release from prison. The new rules no longer require most ex-felons to apply for the restoration of their civil rights. Instead, under the new Rules of Executive Clemency, immediately upon completion of their sentences ex-offenders are automatically reviewed by the Parole Commission to determine their eligibility for restoration of civil rights without a hearing.

The Florida Advisory Committee, a bi-partisan advisory panel to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, unanimously supports the change in policy and issued its report in support of its position. In releasing its report, the Florida Advisory Committee also recommends that succeeding Governors and cabinet officials continue to endorse and retain this policy.

The United States Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan fact-finding federal agency, with State Advisory Committees established in each state.

The chairperson of the Florida Advisory Committee is **Dr. Elena M. Flom** (Cocoa Beach). She was appointed chairperson by the Commission in 2006. Other members of the Florida Advisory Committee are: **Judith A. Albertelli** (Jacksonville), **Juanita Alvarez Mainster** (Homestead), **Frances M. Bohnsack** (Miami), **Clint Cline** (Brandon), **Gilbert Colon** (Miami), **Charles Fred Hearn** (Tampa), **Walter Bryan Hill** (Pensacola), **J. Robert McClure, III** (Tallahassee), **Elizabeth M. Rodriguez** (Orlando), **Frank S. Shaw, III** (Tallahassee), **Alan B. Williams** (Tallahassee), and **Sofian A. Zakkout** (Miami).

The full report is available from the website of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights at [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov). A printed copy of the report can also be obtained by contacting:

Dr. Peter Minarik, Regional Director, Southern Regional Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 61 Forsyth St., SW, Suite 18T40, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303, or by calling (404) 562-7000.

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