

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0910

June 13, 2024

Glenton Gilzean Jr.  
Supervisor of Elections  
Office of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections  
119 W. Kaley Street  
Orlando, FL 32806

Dear Supervisor Gilzean,

I congratulate you on your historic appointment as Supervisor of Elections for Orange County. At your swearing-in, you took an important pledge to conduct your official duties with transparency, fairness, and accessibility, and I am committed to partnering with you to ensure that the Office of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections reaches its goals.<sup>1</sup> It is with concern that I request the Office of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections expeditiously meet with stakeholders and elected officials to discuss a detailed plan to curb public confusion about the steps being taken by the Office of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections to secure the integrity of the upcoming November General Election.

A candidate can file to run for office for free in Orange County using a petition with a prerequisite number of certified signatures and if a candidate does not have the prerequisite certified signatures on a petition, they must instead pay a filing fee.<sup>2</sup> I was disheartened that due to delayed processing times, many candidates were effectively unable to pursue this option. Some reports allege that the signature certification process took weeks, rolling right past the submission deadline. This has become a pain point for candidates of any party as folks are used to the 48-hour turnaround times of Supervisor Cowles' tenure.

Additionally, the Office of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections has announced plans to adjust two precinct boundaries, establish four *new* precincts, and re-number an existing precinct, which is all expected to impact some 25,000 voters across Lake Nona, Apopka, Dr. Phillips, and Williamsburg just a few months before a major general election.<sup>3</sup>

These changes in the Office of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections could jeopardize the freeness and fairness of the upcoming general election in November if candidates – of any party – are *de facto* barred from filing for free and risk tens of thousands of voters getting turned away at the ballot box on election day.

The cornerstone of our democracy is the confidence that every eligible voter can participate in the electoral process without undue hindrance or delay. As an elected representative of the people of Orange County and a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Accountability,

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<sup>1</sup> Lemongello, Steven. "Gilzean: I'll Be a 'Transparent, Fair' Orange Elections Supervisor." *Orlando Sentinel*, May 24, 2024. <https://www.orlandosentinel.com/>.

<sup>2</sup> "Become A Candidate | Orange County Supervisor of Elections." Accessed June 5, 2024. <https://www.ocfelections.com/become-candidate>.

<sup>3</sup> "Orange County Announces New Voter Precincts, Polling Locations for 2024 Elections." *Fox 35 Orlando*, May 15, 2024. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/orange-county-announces-voter-precincts-221537062.html>.

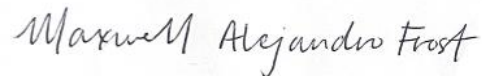
it is my duty to ensure every citizen's right to vote is protected and that our elections are conducted with the highest standards of integrity and transparency.

I urge you to meet with elected officials and stakeholders to formulate and publish a detailed plan that addresses but is not limited to, the following elements:

1. **Public Meetings.** How is your office planning to meet with, and solicit feedback from stakeholders and other elected officials? What partnerships are being leveraged to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of election administration?
2. **A Detailed Plan.** How do you plan to address the shortcomings that led to delays in signature certification, ballots, voter registration, and ballot processing? What initiatives are being undertaken to educate voters about their rights and the voting process?
3. **Transparency, Security, and Outreach.** How is your office ensuring that all communities, particularly those that are traditionally underrepresented, are fully informed and engaged in the electoral process? What security measures are being implemented to protect against interference, intimidation, and electioneering? How is your office promoting transparency and accountability in the electoral process?

The challenges we face are significant, but they are not insurmountable. By working collaboratively and with a shared sense of purpose, we can overcome these obstacles and deliver an election process that is worthy of the trust and confidence of the people of Orange County. I look forward to your response and to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maxwell Alejandro Frost". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress