

Statement of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Florida on Governor Crist's Executive Order Affecting Restoration of Civil Rights, No. 08-179:

Please attribute the following quote to Howard Simon, Executive Director, ACLU of Florida.

"We are pleased that Governor Crist responded to the request we and the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition made last December to facilitate the right to vote for thousands of people whose voting rights had been restored," Howard Simon, Executive Director, ACLU of Florida.

Please attribute the following quotes to Muslima Lewis, Senior Attorney and Director, Racial Justice and Voting Rights Projects, ACLU of Florida.

"But this was a lost opportunity--had he issued today's Executive Order when we asked him to do so more than eight months ago, thousands more Floridians would have benefited.

Waiting until August 27th, when there are just over five weeks to register to vote for the November general election greatly diminishes the impact of the Governor's action.

In addition, had he issued this order in December when requested, and when 60 employees of the Department of Corrections were on loan to the Parole Commission to process Restoration of Civil Rights cases and before the Parole Commission staff was cut, more people would have been impacted," said Muslima Lewis, Senior Attorney and Director, Racial Justice and Voting Rights Projects, ACLU of Florida.

The December 6, 2007 letter from the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition and the ACLU of Florida to Governor Crist is attached.