



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

**RON DESANTIS**  
Governor

**LAUREL M. LEE**  
Secretary of State

August 17, 2020

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
(via email – [REDACTED])

Re: Response to Request for Advisory Opinion F-20-1

Dear [REDACTED]

On June 4, 2020, we received from you via email the attached (without attachments) request for an advisory opinion pursuant to the procedure articulated by the court in Jones et al. v. DeSantis et al.; U.S. District Court, Northern District, Case No. 4:19cv300-RH/MJF.

Specifically, you requested:

- 1) A statement of the amount of any fine or restitution that must be paid to make you eligible to vote and an explanation of how the amount was calculated; and
- 2) A finding that you are unable to pay any such amounts.

The district court's decision has been stayed by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. As such, because there is not in existing Florida law any impact upon voting eligibility or ineligibility based upon an inability to pay outstanding fines or restitution, the second question is outside the scope of the Division's legal authority under section 106.23(2), Florida, Statutes, and Florida Administrative Code Rule 1S-2.010, and will not be answered.

The first question relating to the amount of outstanding legal financial obligations is relevant to voting eligibility and will be answered. The information that you provided regarding your conviction was that it was a federal conviction for [REDACTED] filed in [REDACTED] County, Florida, that the only amount owed was \$140,000 to [REDACTED] for restitution, and that such amount had been converted to a restitution lien filed in [REDACTED] County.

**Division of Elections**  
R.A. Gray Building, Suite 316 • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
850.245.6200 • 850.245.6217 (Fax) • [DOS.MyFlorida.com/elections](http://DOS.MyFlorida.com/elections)



Our research found credible and reliable information that the monetary obligations in your judgment were noticed as a civil lien on [REDACTED], [REDACTED] in the amount of \$140,800.00. *See* attached Notice of Lien. This total consists of a Special Assessment in the amount of \$100.00 and Non-federal restitution in the amount of \$140,700.00. Although your request indicates that you believed you had restitution outstanding in the amount of \$140,000.00, there is no indication in the records that you have satisfied any of the lien.

Based on our research and the information you provided, as well as the credible and reliable information located by Division staff, the Division of Elections finds that the amount of money related to your conviction in Case No.: [REDACTED] that must be paid to make you eligible to vote is **\$140,800.00**.

Please note that the finding in this opinion is based upon the information you provided related to the above-noted federal conviction. You have not indicated any other convictions in any statewide or national jurisdictions and the Division does not opine as to whether any other convictions exist nor whether any such other convictions would interfere with eligibility.

Thank you for submitting your request. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Florida Division of Elections