



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

March 14, 2023



Re: Response to Request for Advisory Opinion – F-22-17



Dear 

We received on December 1, 2022, your request for an advisory opinion. You indicate that you have one felony conviction and that your request is on whether you are eligible to vote in Florida, including whether you have any outstanding legal financial obligations under section 98.0751, Florida Statutes, which would otherwise make you ineligible to vote and if so, a statement of the amount that must be paid to make you eligible to vote, and an explanation of how the amount was calculated.

The Division hereby responds to your request pursuant to its legal authority under section 106.23(2), Florida Statutes, and Florida Administrative Code Rule 1S-2.010, to provide an advisory opinion to you as an individual seeking to be involved in a political activity (voting) and the particular activity in your inquiry (eligibility to vote).

Per Rule 1S-2.010(4)(f), the requestor must provide the precise factual circumstances giving rise to the request. You reference one case, and the Division has found the following felony case associated with your file:

(1) -CF--A

As it relates to case -CF--A, our records indicate that you were adjudicated guilty of a third-degree felony, and you were sentenced to 36 months of probation on June 13, 2019. You were also ordered to pay **\$2,777.00** in costs, fines, and fees, and you were ordered to complete 500 hours of community service. Subsequently, you filed a motion asking the court to modify your sentence—specifically, you asked the court to convert your community service hours into a monetary payment, which the court granted on May 7, 2021, thereby converting your 500-hour requirement,

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which was part of your original sentence, into a **\$5,000.00** fee. The Division therefore finds that your total fines, fees, and costs are **\$7,777.00**.

Our records indicate that you are no longer on probation, and you have paid **\$5,013.00** towards your fines, fees, and costs, leaving a balance of **\$2,764.00**. Accordingly, the Division finds that you are ineligible to vote based on your felony conviction in case ■-CF-■-A until you pay the remainder of your costs, fines, and fees.

Please note that the findings in this opinion are based solely upon the single case located from the personal identifying information you provided in your request for an advisory opinion. You have not indicated any other specific 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 your eligibility.

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

Sincerely,

Florida Division of Elections