

Item #65₍₂₎

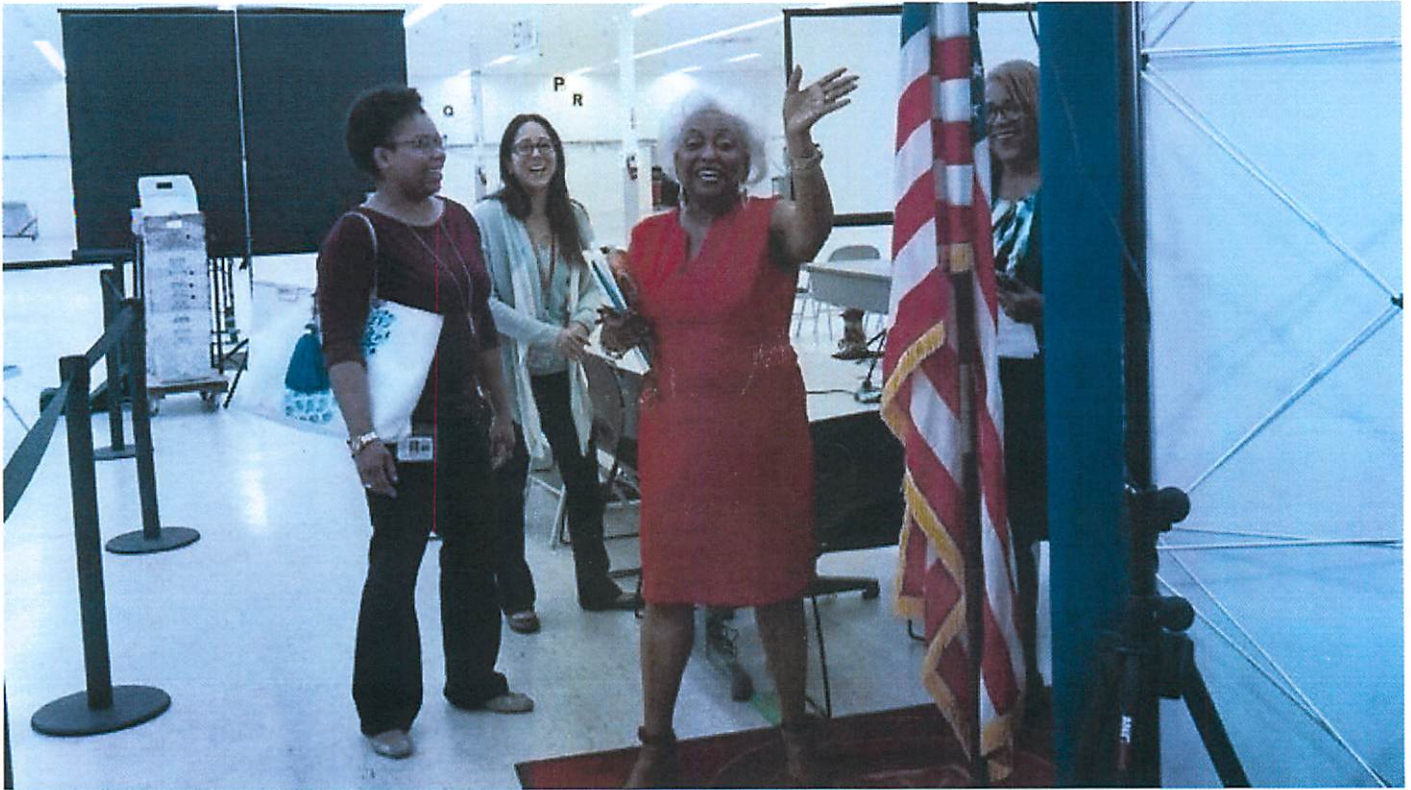
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

**Regular Meeting
DECEMBER 4, 2018**

SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF

COMMISSIONER STEVE GELLER

Broward may investigate governor's replacing of Brenda Snipes



Broward Supervisor of Elections Brenda Snipes waves goodbye to the media, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018, at the end of the county's recount. Snipes has since been suspended from office by Gov. Rick Scott. (Joe Cavaretta / South Florida Sun Sentinel)



By **Larry Barszewski**
South Florida Sun Sentinel

DECEMBER 4, 2018, 1:10 PM

While Brenda Snipes says she will challenge Gov. Rick Scott's decision to replace her as Broward's elections supervisor, county commissioners may take a look to see if the governor handled the issue appropriately.

Commissioner Steve Geller is asking commissioners Tuesday to have the county attorney's office "take any legal action necessary to ensure that the appointment process complies with applicable law."

Geller said he's not sure Scott had the authority to do what he did. He questioned Scott's motivation in appointing Peter Antonacci — whom he described as "an extremely competent person" — concerned about news reports that describe Antonacci as Scott's "hatchet man" and "go-to guy."

Geller said supervisors of elections have great ability to boost or minimize voter turnout through policies they put in place, such as early-voting hours and locations and where polling places are located. That could impact the outcomes in heavily Democratic Broward County, he said. Antonacci is a Republican and not a county resident.

“If Gov. Scott wanted as a going-away present to Broward County to do everything possible to enhance the chances of his friend Donald Trump to get re-elected in 2020, the single biggest thing that Gov. Scott could do would be to appoint a Scott loyalist that would attempt to minimize the voter turnout in Broward,” Geller said during a break in the commission meeting. “I don’t know what’s in Mr. Antonacci’s heart. I don’t know if that is his goal.”

Prior to the governor’s decision, Snipes had sent in her resignation letter. On Saturday, **Snipes said she would rescind her resignation** and challenge her suspension.

Geller said he thought Gov.-elect Ron DeSantis should fill the vacancy, given Snipes’ original resignation as of Jan. 4, after Scott leaves the governor’s office.

Geller’s request is scheduled as the last item on the commission’s meeting agenda.

Scott suspended Snipes on Friday for “misfeasance, incompetence and neglect of duty.” He appointed Antonacci to complete the final two years of her term. **Antonacci was on the job Monday.**

This is a developing story. Check back for updates.

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