PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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*** SPECIAL NOTICE ***
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING REINSTATEMENT LETTERS

Bill 34-0230 was passed by the Honorable 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, and signed into law by the Honorable Governor. An Act amending title 18 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 5, section 110, relating to registration of electors to require the Supervisor of Elections to compile an active vs. inactive voter’s list within 90 days after each General Election starting with the General Election in 2022. An amendment was made to make this bill take enactment once the Governor signs the bill.

The Elections System of the Virgin Islands (ESVI) supported this bill to provide a clean voter registration rolls and accurate statistics of Election results.

The staff of the Elections System discussed the best way to implement this law with minimum impact on the voter. The last time the Elections System purged our voter registration rolls was in 2015 utilizing the 2012 and 2014 General Elections. We decided to start with General Elections year 2014-2016 based on the law. A voter must not vote in the past two General Elections. For example, if a voter voted in 2014, but missed 2016 the voter would not be placed inactive. Voters were not aware of this law and that may have decided their decision not to go to vote. We considered many factors in our thought process to ensure all eligible voters remain active.

Letters were prepared prior to the 2022 Primary Election. If you voted in the 2022 Primary Election, your ballot cast was counted, and we encourage voters to take part in upcoming 2022 General Election.

My amazing staff members did an excellent job preparing these letters while planning and executing an election. Letters were mailed to voters on August 15, 2022, and the voter has thirty (30) days to respond to the notice either personally or by mail, a written request for reinstatement of your registration, setting forth your place of residence and your mailing address. This written request for reinstatement must be signed by you and reach the Elections System of the Virgin Islands office in your District not later than September 14, 2022, at 5:00 PM.
As the Supervisor of Elections, I am encouraging voters to please contact their respective District office to find out their registration status to ensure their registration status remains active. Voters can visit our website, https://www.vivote.gov/status, to complete the form electronically and return it. Before any voter is placed inactive, their voting history will be reviewed to ensure that these individuals did not vote. This is another review of the voter history to maintain the integrity of the Elections System.

If a voter is placed as an inactive voter, the voter is still registered to vote. The voter may update their registration any time before 7:00 P.M. on Election Day or during Early Voting and receive a ballot. Before a voter may vote, the voter will be required to complete an affirmation of current and continuous residence as prescribed by the Supervisor of Elections. On this form, the voter must affirm that they continue to reside at the address at which the voter is registered, have moved within the same district, or have moved to another district within the Virgin Islands. The voter registration status will be reinstated to active once the voter completes the voting process.

Supervisor of Elections Caroline F. Fawkes apologizes to the loved ones of deceased voters who received letters from the Elections System. The Elections System of the Virgin Islands is working with our partners to ensure this occurrence does not happen or at a minimum. Future legislation will allow loved ones to notify the Elections System of their loved one passing.

I will take the feedback received under advisement as we prepare to complete letters for Elections 2020 and 2022 after this election cycle and future election years. This way the Elections System can improve the process and reduce cost.

Again, I thank you, the voters, for allowing my team and I to serve you. I do hope to see you and your family at the voting centers during the 2022 General Election scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Remember Your Voice is Your Vote and Your Vote is Your Vote.

Voting is not just your right – it’s the right thing to do.