

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 30, 2023

MEDIA CONTACT

Miriam Krinsky

krinskym@krinsky.la

818-416-5218

FJP Statement on Voters’ Lawsuit Against Gov. DeSantis’ Undemocratic Suspension of Orlando State Attorney Monique Worrell

[Fair and Just Prosecution](#) Executive Director Miriam Krinsky issued the following statement in response to a [lawsuit](#) filed today in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division, by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) on behalf of voters from Orange and Osceola Counties, and a grassroots democracy-building organization with members who are voters in those counties, challenging Gov. Ron DeSantis’ suspension of duly-elected State Attorney Monique Worrell:

“We applaud the voters of Orange and Osceola Counties who took action today to ensure that their votes matter and their voices are heard, despite the undemocratic and unlawful suspension by Gov. Ron Desantis earlier this year of duly elected State Attorney Monique Worrell. As noted in the lawsuit, this decision has effectively disenfranchised nearly 400,000 Floridian voters.

The right to vote and to have your vote count is the foundation of our democracy, yet Gov. DeSantis decided he knew better than the two-thirds of local voters who elected SA Worrell in 2020. This is simply one of a number of efforts by DeSantis to remove elected local leaders based on nothing more than political differences. Florida’s citizens deserve to be represented by their chosen representatives, not by the governor’s hand-picked replacements.

Throughout her time in office, SA Worell has carried out the vision of justice that her community chose when they elected her. The governor’s suspension was not premised upon any official misconduct or wrongdoing but was simply a politically driven move to further his partisan agenda and national aspirations.

Our democracy will not survive if we allow leaders to act lawlessly and with impunity. And when communities lose trust in the integrity of our democracy, it undermines public safety, putting all of us at risk.

The office of State Attorney does not belong to Gov. DeSantis – it belongs to the people. We commend the plaintiffs and the SPLC for fighting for all Floridians and for democracy, and we hope the courts will uphold these fundamental principles, restore trust in the rule of law, and protect voters from the governor’s egregious abuse of power.”

###

Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP’s work, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Threads](#), and [LinkedIn](#).