IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2026-05

IN RE: ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2026 ELECTION-RELATED CASES

WHEREAS, pursuant to Rule 2.215(b)(4), Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, the Chief Judge is authorized to assign judges to courts and divisions within the circuit; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the same rule, the Chief Judge is authorized to temporarily assign any judge to serve in any court within the circuit for which the judge is qualified; and

WHEREAS, the orderly and efficient administration of justice requires the establishment of procedures for the assignment and management of election-related cases;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED,

I. **Notification of Election-Related Filings**
The Leon County Clerk of the Circuit Court shall notify the Administrative Judge of the Leon County Circuit Civil Division (hereinafter "Administrative Judge") upon the filing of any case arising from the November 3, 2026, general election (hereinafter "election-related case").

II. **Initial Assignment of Election-Related Cases**
Upon notification, the Administrative Judge shall review each case to determine whether it meets the criteria established by this Order. The first six qualifying election-related cases shall be assigned to the following circuit judges in the order specified:

1. Circuit Judge David Frank
2. Circuit Judge Joshua M. Hawkes
3. Circuit Judge Jonathan Sjostrom
4. Circuit Judge David Frank
5. Circuit Judge Joshua M. Hawkes
6. Circuit Judge Jonathan Sjostrom

III. **Temporary Assignment of Additional Circuit Civil Judges**
Upon the assignment of six election-related cases to the Leon County Circuit Civil Division, Circuit Judge J. Lee Marsh, Circuit Judge Stephen S. Everett and Circuit Judge Ronald W. Flury shall be temporarily assigned to the Leon County Circuit Civil Division for purposes of handling election-related cases.

IV. **Assignment of Subsequent Election-Related Cases**
The seventh, eighth, and ninth qualifying election-related cases shall be assigned as follows:

1. Circuit Judge J. Lee Marsh (seventh case)
2. Circuit Judge Stephen S. Everett (eighth case)
3. Circuit Judge Ronald W. Flury (ninth case)

Beginning with the tenth qualifying election-related case, the Leon County Clerk of the Circuit Court shall randomly assign cases among the six circuit judges identified in Sections II and III of this Order. This assignment procedure shall continue for as long as necessary, unless otherwise directed by the Chief Judge.

V. Nothing in this Order prohibits the Chief Judge from taking other appropriate action for reasons of judicial economy and efficiency.

VI. To the extent practicable, circuit judges, county judges, and senior judges who are not otherwise assigned or temporarily assigned to the Leon County Circuit Civil Division shall provide assistance in maintaining the caseloads of judges assigned to election-related cases, consistent with the authority set forth in Sections IV.A. and IV.B. of Second Judicial Circuit Administrative Order 2026-02, as amended.

VII. The Second Circuit's Office of Court Administration, in coordination with the Supervising Trial Court Staff Attorney, shall provide assistance and support to judges assigned to election-related cases.

VIII. This order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the final disposition of all election-related cases subject to this Order, including the resolutions of any appeals, at which time it shall be automatically rescinded. This Order may be amended, modified, or rescinded at any time by subsequent administrative order of the Chief Judge.

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, this 3rd day of November 2026.

FRANCIS J. ALLMAN
CHIEF JUDGE