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Governor's Latest Attempt to Disenfranchise Florida's Voters

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Yesterday evening, the governor issued Executive Order 21-224 (Special Elections – Senate District 33, House District 88, and House District 94) declaring a special election date for two House seats and one Senate seat on March 8, 2022, effectively leaving hundreds of thousands of Floridians unrepresented during the 2022 Legislative Session. This follows the governor's previous delay in announcing an election date to fill the seat of the late **Congressman Alcee Hastings**, leaving Floridians unrepresented at the federal level during that time.

The following Florida House Democratic Caucus members issued the following statements.

“The specific dates for the primary and general election were deliberately chosen so that none of our constituents would have a voice in the Capitol during this upcoming Legislative Session, especially when the Florida Legislature will vote on new district maps in a process that happens once every 10 years. The governor is letting South Floridians down by setting a date so far in the future to be effective, leaving hundreds of thousands of voters voiceless during the next legislative session,” said **Leader Bobby DuBose (D-Ft. Lauderdale)**.

“Yet again, the governor is playing politics with the right to vote. He is denying people of color the chance to have a say in what I'm sure will be a consequential legislative session. There was no legitimate reason for him to wait this long before scheduling the special elections for these legislative seats. He did this to deny people of color their say in the legislative process,” said **Representative Omari Hardy (D- West Palm Beach)**.

“I am deeply disappointed by the governor calling a special election that will deny citizens who reside in these districts the right to have representation to engage in political debate on matters of important public policy during the next legislative session. This is a display of reckless rhetoric that I don't think is appropriate that the governor has chosen to exercise when every Floridian has the right to be represented. This repeated political maneuvering undermines the public faith in their government, and it is a dangerous course to take when it comes to something as precious as people's right to vote and be represented,” stated **Representative Ramon Alexander (D-Tallahassee)**.

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