

Preventing Long Lines

Florida Democratic Party v. Detzner (Joan A. Lenard and Ursula Ungaro, S.D. Fla. 1:12-cv-24000)

Late on the Saturday before the 2012 general election, Florida's Democratic Party filed a federal complaint in the Southern District of Florida, seeking relief from anticipated long lines on election day in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties, because of long lines during early voting.¹ With its complaint, the party filed a motion for a temporary restraining order.²

Judge Joan A. Lenard drew the case, but she was out of the district when the case arrived, so the emergency motion was randomly assigned to Judge Ursula Ungaro.³

Apparently as a result of the lawsuit, the three defendant counties allowed in-person absentee voting on Sunday and Monday.⁴

On Monday, the plaintiff's attorney filed a stipulation for each county by which each county agreed to provide election-day in-person absentee voting at county offices.⁵ That day, Judge Ungaro approved the stipulations, retaining the court's jurisdiction to enforce them.⁶

On the day after the election, Judge Lenard issued an order to show cause why the case should not be dismissed as moot.⁷ On November 14, the party dismissed the action voluntarily.⁸

1. [Complaint](#), Fla. Democratic Party v. Detzner, No. 1:12-cv-24000 (S.D. Fla. Nov. 4, 2012), D.E. 1; see Lloyd Dunkelberger, *Lawsuit Is Filed in Florida After Early Voting Ends*, Sarasota Herald Trib., Nov. 5, 2012, at A4; Jane Musgrave, Scott Eyman & Dara Kam, *Elections Office Taking Absentee Ballots Today*, Palm Beach Post, Nov. 5, 2012, at 1A.

2. [Temporary Restraining Order Motion](#), Fla. Democratic Party, No. 1:12-cv-24000 (S.D. Fla. Nov. 5, 2012), D.E. 6.

3. Email from Hon. Joan A. Lenard to Tim Reagan, Dec. 5, 2012.

4. See Dunkelberger, *supra* note 1; Musgrave et al., *supra* note 1.

5. Stipulations, [Fla. Democratic Party](#), No. 1:12-cv-24000 (S.D. Fla. Nov. 5, 2012), D.E. 18–20.

6. [Order](#), *id.* (Nov. 5, 2012), D.E. 21.

7. [Docket Sheet](#), *id.* (Nov. 4, 2012).

8. [Notice](#), *id.* (Nov. 14, 2012), D.E. 24.