

# Exhibit O

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
 )  
 Plaintiff, )  
 )  
 v. )  
 )  
 STATE OF FLORIDA, GEORGE FIRESTONE, )  
 SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE )  
 OF FLORIDA, )  
 )  
 Defendants. )

CIVIL ACTION NO: TCA 80-1055  
TEMPORARY RESTRAINING  
ORDER

The plaintiff, United States of America, having filed its Application for a Temporary Restraining Order, along with a supporting affidavit, and the attorneys for the United States having been heard, and the Court having considered the matter and having concluded that:

(a) Defendants have failed to take such steps as are necessary to ensure that those individuals who have qualified and applied for absentee ballots, pursuant to the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. §§1973dd et seq., and the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955, 42 U.S.C. §1973cc(b), would be given a reasonable opportunity to cast and return such ballots before the close of the polls on November 4, 1980;

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TALLAHASSEE, FLA.

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(b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that this failure involves a violation of the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. §§1973dd et seq., and the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955, 42 U.S.C. §1973cc(b);

(c) that the United States and overseas citizens who formerly resided in Florida State will be irreparably injured by this failure because these overseas citizens have not been given a reasonable opportunity to cast and return election ballots before the close of the polls on November 4, 1980, and, as such, they will effectively be denied their right to vote in the federal election held on that date.

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that the defendants, their agents, officers, successors, and all those acting in concert or participation with them, are restrained from failing or refusing to take such steps as are necessary to ensure that those ballots cast pursuant to the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. §§1973dd, and the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955, 42 U.S.C. §1973cc(b), which are signed and dated by voters on or before November 4, 1980 and received on or before November 14, 1980 by the appropriate election officials, are counted as validly cast ballots.

It is further ORDERED that this Temporary Restraining Order be forthwith served by the marshal on the defendants named herein.

Done this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1980 *at 5:23 P.M.*

*William Stafford*  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

**CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY**

MARILYN S. WAITS, CLERK

By

*Marilyn S. Waits*  
Deputy Clerk