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## TRUE THE VOTE WINS IN SETTLEMENT WITH ST. LUCIE COUNTY FL ELECTIONS SUPERVISOR

*Access to all ballots and registration information has been granted to True the Vote for citizen-led audit of the 2012 contest for Florida's 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District*

**HOUSTON, TX. May 7, 2013** — [True the Vote](#) (TTV), the nation's leading voters' rights organization, today announced its settlement with the **St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections** regarding records inspection rights under federal law and the Florida Constitution. The agreement provides True the Vote access to all ballots, registrations, and other election related data necessary to conduct an audit of a federal election in Florida's 18th congressional district. The audit will be led not by government entities or political parties, but by concerned citizens.

"[True the Vote](#) can now begin reconstruction and review of the **18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District** election race between Colonel Allen West and Patrick Murphy," [True the Vote](#) President **Catherine Engelbrecht** said. "We must stop this scandalous cycle of ignoring failures in our electoral process when the campaigns and cameras go home. Understanding how failures in administration can effect elections, as we saw in St. Lucie County, will help prevent them from occurring in the future. We cannot allow slipshod standards to become pandemic across our country's election processes – citizens can and will stand up in defense of election integrity."

"This settlement grants [True the Vote](#) all of the records we originally requested, without any adverse impacts to St. Lucie County taxpayers. The real work toward understanding exactly what happened before, during and after the 2012 18th Congressional District race can finally begin."

A key component to the settlement agreement was to permit access to information dating back to January of 2009. Such information will help evaluate efforts to maintain voter rolls, both before and after federal election cycles.

"Since 2009 to present, Washington has made clear that it doesn't have any interest in seeing that voter rolls are maintained – we must fully study how that can affect a close congressional race," [True the Vote](#) attorney **J. Christian Adams** said. "This case is unique because it was directly impacted by the Holder Justice Department's attempt to block the State of Florida's efforts to remove ineligible persons from the voter rolls ahead of the 2012 General Election. This settlement will lead my client to answers, finally."



The agreement between [True the Vote](#) and **St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections Gertrude Walker** allows for sharing of records that pertain directly to the 2012 contest, in addition to election administration files dating back to January 2009. An abbreviated list of records includes:

- 2012 voter credit documents;
- completed voter registration forms;
- copies of all regular and provisional ballots cast (including provisional notices);
- documents pertaining to federal list maintenance requirements since 2009 (including felon and non-citizen records);
- all documentation for those trained as poll and tabulation workers for the 2012 contest.

The settlement came as a result of a lawsuit after requests to inspect election records were not immediately addressed ([True the Vote, Inc. v. Gertrude Walker in her official capacity as St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections, Civil Action \(No 2:13cv14046.\)](#)). TTV chose to perform a comprehensive audit of the 2012 election and subsequent recount between incumbent **Allen West** and **Patrick Murphy** after reports of errors and inaccurate tabulations were admitted to.

[True the Vote](#) originally filed its complaint in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida – Fort Pierce Division.

To read the complete settlement agreement between [True the Vote](#) and St. Lucie County, [click here](#).

*[True the Vote](#) (TTV) a nonpartisan, voters' rights and election integrity organization focused on preserving election integrity and is operated by citizens for citizens, to inspire and equip volunteers for involvement at every stage of our electoral process. TTV empowers organizations and individuals across the nation to actively protect the rights of legitimate voters, regardless of their political party affiliation. For more information, please visit [www.truethevote.org](http://www.truethevote.org).*

*[Voto Honesto](#) (TTV) es una organización sin fines de lucro, no partidaria, enfocada en preservar la integridad en las elecciones y operada por ciudadanos para ciudadanos, para inspirar y equipar a voluntarios para envolverse en cada una de las etapas del proceso electoral. TTT capacita a organizaciones e individuos a través de la nación para activamente proteger los derechos de los votantes legítimos, sin importar a que partido político pertenezcas. Para más información, por favor visite [www.votohonesto.org](http://www.votohonesto.org).*

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