

The statutes addressed in this opinion have changed. Please consult current Florida law.

DE 88-05 - February 17, 1988

**Obtaining List of Registered Voters  
Section 98.211, F.S.**

*To: Honorable Jane Carroll, Supervisor of Elections, Broward County, Broward County  
Governmental Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301*

*Prepared by: Division of Elections*

This is in reference to your request for an advisory opinion. Under Section 106.23(2), Florida Statutes, the Division of Elections has authority to issue advisory opinions relating to the Florida Election Code, Chapters 97-106, Florida Statutes, to several categories of persons, including supervisors of elections. Your question is:

Pursuant to Chapter 87-538, Section 1, Laws of Florida, an incumbent office holder may obtain a list of voters for the office holder to report to his constituents. When an office holder is elected from a single-member district, are his constituents only the voters who are eligible to vote for him or are they all the voters within the entire jurisdiction?

The Florida Election Code does not define constituent.

Webster's Dictionary defines constituent as "one of a group who elects another to act for him" or a "resident in a constituency." Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary 281 (1983 ed). Black's Law Dictionary defines constituent as "(h)e who gives authority to another to act for him." Black's Law Dictionary 281 (5th ed. 1979). Black's also states that in the language of politics, a constituent is who a "representative" represents and that constituents are usually the electors of a representative's district. Id.

It is our opinion that when an office holder is elected from a single-member district, his constituents are only the voters who are eligible to vote for him and not the voters within the entire jurisdiction. Therefore, under the law, such an office holder may only obtain the list of voters residing in that elected official's district.

**SUMMARY**

When an office holder is elected from a single-member district, his constituents are only the voters who are eligible to vote for him and not the voters within the entire jurisdiction. Under the law, such an office holder may only obtain the list of voters residing in that elected official's district.