

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
15th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND
FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.,

Plaintiff,

Vs.

CASE NO.: 2000- **CL '00 1 1 3 4 3 AB**
FLA. BAR NO. 246220

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

① THERESA LA PORE, SUPERVISOR
OF ELECTIONS, PALM BEACH
COUNTY, 301 North Olive Avenue,
Room 105, West Palm Beach,
FL 33401,

Defendant.

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CIRCUIT CIVIL

1. This is a civil action to enforce the provisions of the Public Records Act, Fla. Stat. Ann. § 119.07. Judicial Watch, Inc. ("Judicial Watch"), Plaintiff herein, complains of Theresa LaPore, Supervisor of Elections, Palm Beach County Florida, Defendant herein, and for cause of action would show the following:

PARTIES

2. Judicial Watch is a non-profit public interest legal watchdog organization with offices in Washington, D.C. and Miami, Florida, among other locations.

3. Defendant Theresa LaPore resides in Palm Beach County, Florida and is a public official for said county, serving as the custodian for ballots cast in Palm Beach County, which are the public records which are the basis of this suit to enforce the Public Records Act.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

4. On November 10, 2000, Judicial Watch made a written request pursuant to Fla. Stat. Ann. § 119.07(a) and (c) for the inspection and examination of ballots case in Palm Beach County Florida and/or by residents of the State of Florida during the November 7, 2000, election.

5. Judicial Watch's request for inspection and examination of public records was made to Defendant Theresa LaPore, as the custodian of the public records in question.

6. On November 16, 2000, Plaintiff received a letter from Denise Dytrych, County Attorney, written on behalf of Defendant Theresa LaPore, in response to its November 10, 2000 request. Ms. Dytrych's letter denied Judicial Watch's request to timely inspect these public records as required by the Public Records Act. Exhibit 1.

7. Defendant Theresa LaPore, by her failure to respond to Judicial Watch's request by allowing for a timely inspection, failed and refused to permit the records to be inspected and examined by Judicial Watch as required by law.

8. Pursuant to Fla. Stat. Ann. § 119.11, Judicial Watch files this action to enforce the provisions of the Public Records Act.

RELIEF SOUGHT

9. Judicial Watch requests that this court set an immediate and accelerated hearing, giving the case priority over other pending cases, all as required by Fla. Stat. Ann. § 119.11.

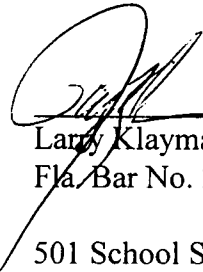
10. Upon completion of an immediate and accelerated hearing, Judicial Watch seeks an order from this court that Theresa LaPore open the records in question to inspection and examination by Judicial Watch within twenty-four (24) hours from the time of the order.

WHEREFORE, Judicial Watch requests that Defendant be cited to appear and answer; that

an immediate and accelerated hearing be set, giving the case priority over other pending cases; and that upon such hearing this court order that Defendant open the public records in question for inspection and examination by Judicial Watch within twenty-four (24) hours of such order; and for other and further relief to which Judicial Watch shall be entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.



Larry Klayman, Esq.
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