

## **DECLARATION OF ZETTA LOUISE WILLIAMS**

My name is Zetta Louise Williams. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration. Under penalty of perjury, I state the following:

1. I am a 65-year-old African American woman.
2. I am a resident of Miami, Florida. I am eligible and registered to vote in Miami, Florida.
3. I first registered to vote when I turned 18 years old in Georgia where I grew up. I am lifelong voter. I try to vote in every election. I take great pride in voting. I consider voting to be a family and social activity. I remember going to the polls with my mother and friends in Georgia. I remember going to the polls together with my sister in law, niece, and nephew here in Miami.
4. I am legally blind.
5. I am a former social worker. I worked for the State of Florida in the Department of Children and Families for 28 years. I retired in 2009 when I became legally blind.
6. I am also a dialysis patient. I receive dialysis on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. I have received dialysis since 2007.
7. Prior to my vision disability, I voted in-person at my polling site. After becoming legally blind, I vote in-person at my polling site only when I am able to obtain assistance in voting from Mrs. Queen Williams (“Queen”), my sister-in-law.
8. When Queen is not available to help me vote in-person and/or when the in-person voting day falls on a dialysis day, I vote by mail. When I vote by mail, Queen also serves as my assister. She reads the ballot to me and assists me in marking my choices. I sign the ballot myself. Queen is a sixth-grade teacher in Miami-Dade County. She was married to my brother for 42 years until his passing.

9. In 2012, I voted in-person at a polling site. My ballot was accepted.
10. In 2014, I successfully voted by mail with Queen's assistance. Queen read the ballot to me and assisted me in marking my choices. I signed the ballot myself. I believe my ballot was accepted and counted.
11. However, in 2016, I voted by mail again with Queen's assistance. Queen again read the vote-by-mail ballot to me and assisted me in marking my choices. I again signed the ballot myself. However, this time, my vote-by-mail ballot was not accepted. I received a notice in the mail from my county election office stating that my signature did not match and my ballot was rejected. I received this notice after the announcement of the results of the election, so I did not try to fix the signature mismatch problem.
12. In 2018, I again voted by mail with Queen's assistance. Queen again read the vote-by-mail ballot to me and assisted me in marking my choices. I again signed the ballot myself. Again, my vote-by-mail ballot was not accepted. Again, I received a notice in the mail from my county election office stating that my signature did not match and my ballot was rejected. Once again, I received this notice after the announcement of the results of the election, so I did not try to fix the signature mismatch problem.
13. This signature mismatch problem upsets me. I do not understand why my signature did not match on the mail ballots I cast in 2016 and in 2018. When I became legally blind, I received a new Florida state identification card and updated my signature then. Since 2009, this updated signature has been my signature. I have used this updated signature for banking and utilities purposes for the past 11 years without any issue.

14. I used this updated signature to vote by mail in 2014 without any issue. I have lived at the same address in Miami, Florida for the past 23 years. I registered to vote using this address. There should be no problem with my voter registration on file.
15. I would like to vote by mail in the upcoming November 3, 2020 general election. However, I am concerned that if I vote by mail, I will be disenfranchised a third time. To avoid this, I could vote in-person at my polling site, but now that we are in the coronavirus era, I feel this is not an option. I have been sheltered in place except for my dialysis appointments. Voting in-person increases my exposure to coronavirus, and given my health issues and age, if I am exposed, I am more likely to develop a severe case of the virus. I cannot take that risk. I also cannot risk Queen's health as my assister. Queen is also elderly and has chronic bronchitis.
16. Thus, I am sending a letter requesting accommodations to ensure that I have a meaningful opportunity to cast my ballot in the August election and the presidential election in the fall. My request asks for a period of fifteen days to cure any signature mismatch issues that may arise. This request also asks that my cure affidavit not be rejected if my signature on the cure affidavit does not match the signature on file for me as long as I submit a copy of my Florida state identification card with my cure affidavit. I am also interested in hearing about any available computer-assisted technology for low and vision-impaired individuals like me.
17. Without the accommodations, I feel disheartened about the fall elections. I have voted all my life. It is very unfair to me. I am a U.S. citizen. This cannot be right.
18. Pastor Vickers encouraged me to share my voting experiences publicly. He is a part of a nonprofit organization called Faith in Florida.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Miami, Florida

May \_\_\_\_, 2020

---

Printed Name

---

Signature