A bill to be entitled

An act relating to elections; amending s. 97.0575, F.S.; removing the limitation on the amount of aggregate fines that may be assessed in a calendar year against a third-party voter registration organization for specified violations; amending s. 99.021, F.S.; revising the candidate oath to require a candidate to subscribe to an oath or affirmation regarding outstanding fines, fees, or penalties owed for certain ethics or campaign finance violations; creating s. 101.019, F.S.; prohibiting the use of ranked-choice voting to determine election or nomination to elective office; voiding existing or future local ordinances authorizing the use of ranked-choice voting; amending s. 101.657, F.S.; authorizing the supervisor of elections to designate up to two additional early voting sites per election in areas of a county that do not have otherwise eligible locations; amending s. 105.031, F.S.; revising the oath for judicial candidates to require a candidate to subscribe to an oath or affirmation regarding outstanding fines, fees, or penalties owed for certain ethics or campaign finance violations; providing effective dates.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 97.0575, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
97.0575 Third-party voter registrations.—
(3)(a) A third-party voter registration organization that collects voter registration applications serves as a fiduciary to the applicant, ensuring that any voter registration application entrusted to the organization, irrespective of party affiliation, race, ethnicity, or gender, must be promptly delivered to the division or the supervisor of elections in the county in which the applicant resides within 14 days after the application was completed by the applicant, but not after registration closes for the next ensuing election. A third-party voter registration organization must notify the applicant at the time the application is collected that the organization might not deliver the application to the division or the supervisor of elections in the county in which the applicant resides in less than 14 days or before registration closes for the next ensuing election and must advise the applicant that he or she may deliver the application in person or by mail. The third-party voter registration organization must also inform the applicant how to register online with the division and how to determine whether the application has been delivered. If a voter registration application collected by any third-party voter registration organization is not promptly delivered to the division or supervisor of elections in the county in which the applicant resides, the third-party voter registration organization is liable for the following fines:

1. A fine in the amount of $50 for each application received by the division or the supervisor of elections in the county in which the applicant resides more than 14 days after the applicant delivered the completed voter registration
application to the third-party voter registration organization or any person, entity, or agent acting on its behalf. A fine in the amount of $250 for each application received if the third-party voter registration organization or person, entity, or agency acting on its behalf acted willfully.

2. A fine in the amount of $100 for each application collected by a third-party voter registration organization or any person, entity, or agent acting on its behalf, before book closing for any given election for federal or state office and received by the division or the supervisor of elections in the county in which the applicant resides after the book-closing deadline for such election. A fine in the amount of $500 for each application received if the third-party registration organization or person, entity, or agency acting on its behalf acted willfully.

3. A fine in the amount of $500 for each application collected by a third-party voter registration organization or any person, entity, or agent acting on its behalf, which is not submitted to the division or supervisor of elections in the county in which the applicant resides. A fine in the amount of $1,000 for any application not submitted if the third-party voter registration organization or person, entity, or agency acting on its behalf acted willfully.

The aggregate fine pursuant to this paragraph which may be assessed against a third-party voter registration organization, including affiliate organizations, for violations committed in a calendar year is $1,000.

Section 2. Effective January 1, 2023, present paragraph (d)
of subsection (1) of section 99.021, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (e), and a new paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, to read:

99.021 Form of candidate oath.—
(1)
(d) In addition, each candidate, whether a party candidate, a candidate with no party affiliation, or a write-in candidate, shall, at the time of subscribing to the oath or affirmation, state in writing whether he or she owes any outstanding fines, fees, or penalties that cumulatively exceed $250 for any violations of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees under part III of chapter 112, any local ethics ordinance governing standards of conduct and disclosure requirements, or chapter 106. If the candidate owes any outstanding fines, fees, or penalties exceeding the threshold amount specified in this paragraph, he or she must also specify in the oath or affirmation the amount owed and each entity that levied such fine, fee, or penalty. For purposes of this paragraph, any such fines, fees, or penalties that have been paid in full at the time of subscribing to the oath or affirmation are not deemed to be outstanding.

Section 3. Section 101.019, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

101.019 Ranked-choice voting prohibited.—
(1) A ranked-choice voting method that allows voters to rank candidates for an office in order of preference and have ballots cast be tabulated in multiple rounds following the elimination of a candidate until a single candidate attains a majority may not be used in determining the election or the
nomination of any candidate to any local, state, or federal elective office in this state.

(2) Any existing or future ordinance enacted or adopted by a county, a municipality, or any other local governmental entity which is in conflict with this section is void.

Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 101.657, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.657 Early voting.—

(1)(a) As a convenience to the voter, the supervisor of elections shall allow an elector to vote early in the main or branch office of the supervisor. The supervisor shall mark, code, indicate on, or otherwise track the voter’s precinct for each early voted ballot. In order for a branch office to be used for early voting, it shall be a permanent facility of the supervisor and shall have been designated and used as such for at least 1 year prior to the election. The supervisor may also designate any city hall, permanent public library facility, fairground, civic center, courthouse, county commission building, stadium, convention center, government-owned senior center, or government-owned community center as an early voting site; however, if so designated, the sites must be geographically located so as to provide all voters in the county an equal opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as is practicable, and must provide sufficient nonpermitted parking to accommodate the anticipated amount of voters. In addition, a supervisor may designate **up to two** early voting sites per election in **an area** of the county that do not have any of the eligible early voting locations. Such additional early voting sites must be geographically located so as to
provide all voters in such areas with an equal opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as is practicable, and must provide sufficient nonpermitted parking to accommodate the anticipated amount of voters. Each county shall, at a minimum, operate the same total number of early voting sites for a general election which the county operated for the 2012 general election. The results or tabulation of votes cast during early voting may not be made before the close of the polls on election day. Results shall be reported by precinct.

Section 5. Effective January 1, 2023, paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 105.031, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

105.031 Qualification; filing fee; candidate’s oath; items required to be filed.—

(5) ITEMS REQUIRED TO BE FILED.—

(a) In order for a candidate for judicial office or the office of school board member to be qualified, the following items must be received by the filing officer by the end of the qualifying period:

1. Except for candidates for retention to judicial office, a properly executed check drawn upon the candidate’s campaign account in an amount not less than the fee required by subsection (3) or, in lieu thereof, the copy of the notice of obtaining ballot position pursuant to s. 105.035. If a candidate’s check is returned by the bank for any reason, the filing officer shall immediately notify the candidate and the candidate shall, the end of qualifying notwithstanding, have 48 hours from the time such notification is received, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, to pay the fee with a
cashier’s check purchased from funds of the campaign account.
Failure to pay the fee as provided in this subparagraph shall disqualify the candidate.

2. The candidate’s oath required by subsection (4), which must contain the name of the candidate as it is to appear on the ballot; the office sought, including the district or group number if applicable; a statement declaring whether the candidate owes any outstanding fines, fees, or penalties that cumulatively exceed $250 for any violations of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees under part III of chapter 112, any local ethics ordinance governing standards of conduct and disclosure requirements, or chapter 106; and the signature of the candidate, duly acknowledged. If the candidate owes any outstanding fines, fees, or penalties exceeding the threshold amount specified in this paragraph, he or she must also specify in the oath or affirmation the amount owed and each entity that levied such fine, fee, or penalty. For purposes of this subparagraph, any such fines, fees, or penalties that have been paid in full at the time of subscribing to the oath or affirmation are not deemed to be outstanding.

3. The loyalty oath required by s. 876.05, signed by the candidate and duly acknowledged.

4. The completed form for the appointment of campaign treasurer and designation of campaign depository, as required by s. 106.021. In addition, each candidate for judicial office, including an incumbent judge, shall file a statement with the qualifying officer, within 10 days after filing the appointment of campaign treasurer and designation of campaign depository,
stating that the candidate has read and understands the requirements of the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct. Such statement shall be in substantially the following form:

Statement of Candidate for Judicial Office

I, ...(name of candidate)..., a judicial candidate, have received, read, and understand the requirements of the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct.

...(Signature of candidate)...

...(Date)...

5. The full and public disclosure of financial interests required by s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or the statement of financial interests required by s. 112.3145, whichever is applicable. A public officer who has filed the full and public disclosure or statement of financial interests with the Commission on Ethics or the supervisor of elections prior to qualifying for office may file a copy of that disclosure at the time of qualifying.

Section 6. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2022.