

# Local & State

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## Voters were told candidate dropped out

Lauren Brody still in Village Council race

By Anthony Man  
SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

A printer's error has sparked controversy in a Wellington Village Council election, after 170 voters were wrongly informed that one of the candidates had dropped out.

The notice inserted in vote-by-mail ballots that arrived in recent days informed people that two Village Council candidates had withdrawn and votes for them wouldn't count.

The message was incorrect. One candidate did, in fact, drop out, and votes for him won't count. The other candidate is still in the race, and votes for her will be counted.

"There definitely was an error," Supervisor of Elections Wendy

Sartory Link said in a phone interview Tuesday. She said it was a human error made by the printer her office uses and the mistake was missed by one of her employees. Link said her office takes responsibility.

The candidate in question, Lauren Brody, said Tuesday she was greatly troubled by what happened. After speaking with Link, Brody is skeptical about the election supervisor's explanation.

"It's a little hard to trust somebody that — whether it was on purpose or not — has sabotaged" her campaign, Brody said in a phone interview.

"This is a very, very big deal. This is an election, and the election has been tampered with. I don't think it matters if it is a local Village of Wellington election or a presidential election," she said.

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## Nonprofit dedicates new North Lauderdale homes



Portia McKay shows her son, Alfredo Mason Jr., the view from his new room on Monday as Habitat for Humanity of Broward dedicates the completion of eight newly built townhomes in North Lauderdale. **CARLINE JEAN/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL**

## Gun-control advocates blast AG for refusing to defend concealed carry

By Rafael Olmeda  
SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier asked an appeals court to uphold a teenager's right to carry a concealed weapon even after a Broward judge last year declared the ban constitutional, all but handing another victory to gun-rights supporters who have tried to make it easier to buy and carry firearms in the Sunshine State.

Uthmeier's office is legally responsible for representing the

state in appeals, but in this case he is siding against state prosecutors who say the law is still on the books and should be enforced. The Broward State Attorney's Office asked Uthmeier's office for permission to defend the law in the Fourth District Court of Appeal, but the office denied the request, drawing criticism from gun-control advocates.

At issue is a 1987 law that blocks anyone between the ages of 18 and 21 from carrying a concealed firearm. The law has survived multiple

reviews and reconsiderations of gun rights and gun control legislation.

Last October Broward Circuit Judge Frank Ledee dismissed the case against a teenager arrested for carrying a concealed handgun, a felony punishable by up to five years in prison. "Because the Second Amendment's plain text applies to the concealed carry of firearms, Florida's concealed carry ban, as applied to 18-to-20-year-olds, is unconstitutional," the judge wrote in his ruling.

But months earlier, Judge Lorena

Mastrarrigo upheld the same law in a similar case. Defense lawyers in that case appealed the ruling, and Uthmeier decided the state was wrong to prosecute the defendant, asking the appeals court to rule for the defendant.

In a written statement issued Monday, Broward State Attorney Harold Pryor said he disagreed with the attorney general and is seeking permission from the appeals court to file a "friend of the court" brief defending the law.

"Given the impact of gun crimes

in the State of Florida — including the Feb. 14, 2018, mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland in our community, which resulted in the tragic murders of 17 children and adults and severe injuries to 17 individuals who survived — we respectfully disagree with the position taken by the Office of the Attorney General," Pryor said.

Despite the Broward judge's ruling, the law remains on the

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