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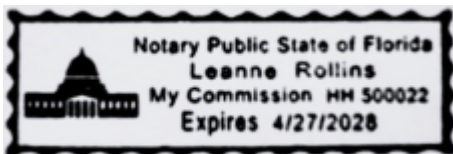
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## Orlando Sentinel OPINION

### SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL COLUMNIST

# ‘The Purge’ means something different than in horror movies

It can be hard to vote. Long lines play havoc with work schedules. Kids have to be picked up from school. You might need a ride.

But before you call it off as too much hassle, or convince yourself that your one vote doesn't matter, it's worth revisiting who is out there trying to keep you from casting that vote.

There are the usual suspects. The governor and his anti-Amendment 4, fib-ridden lackeys come to mind.

Voter suppression can also fly under the radar, though, like the Lake Worth man who gathered up the names of a few dozen Palm Beach County voters, arguing they were fraudulent. Or the snooper who once canvassed his South Florida retirement community taking names of people who weren't at home, but who were registered to vote. (Because retirees never travel, especially during the summer.)

Then there was the right-wing nonprofit armed with tricky math. In 2016, lawyers with the Public Interest Legal Foundation argued that the number of registered Broward voters had to be fake, in part because there were more people registered than there were eligible voters.

“Flawed from the start,” ruled a federal judge in dismissing the lawsuit.

But statistical nonsense soup is still being served up, frequently as a variation on “I see dead people.” Dead people on voter registration rolls does not mean dead people vote. Voters do die, and their loved ones may not notify the supervisor of elections. Supervisors' routine list maintenance is designed to spot and remove deceased voters. But the dead aren't shambling up to precincts,



Pat Beall

ballot in hand.

These days, whole-sale purges of voter rolls based on similarly sketchy data is a preferred voter suppression technique because it inevitably sweeps up legitimate voters.

Take Florida's state-ordered 1998 purge. The company conducting it warned that innocent voters might be misidentified in a search for felons. Which is exactly what happened. At least 1,100 eligible voters were purged, just before the 2000 presidential election.

You may recall that election? The one that turned on 537 Florida votes? We don't know if the 1,100 would have gone for the Texan or the environmentalist, but those voters were robbed of being able to cast ballots for anyone at all.

Never mind. In 2012, Gov. Rick Scott ordered a purge of noncitizens from voter rolls. (“I see brown people.”)

They “found” 182,000 potential noncitizens; among them, a 91-year-old awarded a Bronze star in World War II. That was cut to 2,700 and then to fewer than 100. And it broke federal law: Scott's office tried to kick voters off the rolls just weeks before the presidential election. A very specific kind of voter, too: More than half of the 2,700 were Hispanic, the Miami Herald found.

Purge fans aren't limited to lawyers and officials. Dan Heim is hardly a household name, but NBC News reported that in 2022 the Florida man claimed he found tens of thousands of election fraudsters. Pressed, he came up with 230. None committed fraud.

This year, Heim threw roughly 10,000 names at the Florida Division of Elections, which ordered local supervisors

to research every single one.

“It is a criminal offense in Florida to make frivolous challenges,” protested a group of voting advocates.

I am sure the governor's election police will get right on that. The names were the work of Eagle AI, a dubious artificial intelligence program embraced by Cleta Mitchell and her wildly misnamed Election Integrity Network. Mitchell was the lawyer listening in when Donald Trump asked Georgia for an extra 11,000 votes. She chairs the Public Interest Legal Foundation — the same foundation whose lawyers filed that 2016 lawsuit seeking to erase thousands from Broward's voter registration rolls.

Small world.

Yes, the federal government could do more to help states keep accurate voter registration rolls. Yes, it's important to make sure the dead, certain felons and noncitizens don't vote. But is accuracy what Florida really wants? After all, Florida ditched the Electronic Registration Information Center, a bipartisan multistate program that can spot double voting. There's nothing else like it. And now, Florida has nothing to replace it.

Ponder that as you also ponder all the work, all the money spent on these efforts to keep some number of Floridians of any political persuasion from the ballot box.

Why? Because they are afraid of our votes, and they should be. One by one, votes topple tyrants, protect rights, rebuke falsehoods and guide democracy.

Vote for whomever and whatever this week, but please do vote — if only to irritate those who desperately don't want you to.

Pat Beall is a columnist and editorial writer for the Sun Sentinel. Contact her at beall.news@gmail.com.

### GUEST COLUMNIST

## In Puerto Rico, a cycle of false hope, indifference

On Nov. 5, Puerto Ricans will once again cast votes in a status plebiscite, faced with choosing between statehood, independence or sovereignty with free association. While at first glance, this may seem like a step toward resolving Puerto Rico's long-standing colonial dilemma, this plebiscite, like those before it, is built on weak foundations. The legislation underpinning it is not legally binding, leaving voters with little more than false hope and empty promises.

The plebiscite is based on the Puerto Rico Status Act, a bill introduced in Congress in 2022 and reintroduced in 2023. Its key feature is the exclusion of Puerto Rico's current territorial status, forcing voters to choose only between non-territorial options. However, this legislation has never been passed into law. The U.S. House of Representatives approved an earlier version, but it has stalled in the Senate, rendering the plebiscite legally non-binding. No matter what Puerto Rican voters choose, Congress is under no obligation to act on the results.

This lack of enforceability raises serious doubts about the plebiscite's legitimacy. Puerto Rican voters are being asked to weigh in on their future, yet Congress has shown little genuine interest in addressing the island's status. History is full of examples of similar plebiscites that have yielded little change. In the 2020 referendum, 53% of voters (or 27% of all registered voters) opted for statehood, yet Congress failed to take action. Without a legally binding commitment from Congress, plebiscites become little more than symbolic gestures.

One of the most glaring issues is the plebiscite's failure to address critical questions that should be at the forefront of any decision regarding Puerto Rico's future. A particularly pressing concern is the potential imposition of



Javier A. Hernández

English-language requirements under the “Arizona precedent,” which mandates English proficiency for public education and elected office in territories that become states. This precedent could drastically reshape education and governance in Puerto Rico, where Spanish is the dominant language.

Another significant omission is the financial impact of annexation. Currently, Puerto Ricans are exempt from paying federal income taxes on island-earned income. Statehood would eliminate this exemption, subjecting residents to the same federal tax obligations as other U.S. citizens. Yet, the plebiscite fails to provide any information about how annexation would affect taxes.

The plebiscite also fails to address the deep political and social divisions that exist within Puerto Rican society regarding its future. Previous plebiscites have been plagued by low voter turnout and boycotts, with significant portions of the population either abstaining or voting for conflicting options.

Rather than pushing for another plebiscite likely to result in further frustration, Puerto Rican leaders should focus on securing a binding, democratic and congressionally approved process. Such a process, like the Status Assembly proposal supported by the PIP/MVC Alliance and others in Puerto Rico, must provide voters with clear, enforceable options to genuinely address Puerto Rico's political future. Anything less than this will only continue the cycle of false hope and congressional indifference, doing a disservice to Puerto Rico's 3.2 million residents who deserve a meaningful resolution to their political status.

Javier A. Hernández is a Puerto Rican writer, linguist, small-business owner, and pro-sovereignty activist and adviser. Follow him on X @ PRexitBook.

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United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Florida  
Date cases filed for chapter 11: 10/13/2024  
Official Form 309F1 (For Corporations or Partnerships)  
Notice of Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Case

Name of Debtor	Other Names Used by the Debtors (if any)	EIN	Case No.
MBMG Holding, LLC		85-3923880	Case No. 24-20576-CLC
Care Center Medical Group, LLC		82-3309052	Case No. 24-20577-CLC
Care Center Network, LLC		26-4795784	Case No. 24-20580-CLC
CCMC Physician Holdings, Inc.		33-1244532	Case No. 24-20578-CLC
Clinical Care Pharmacy, LLC		27-2532103	Case No. 24-20579-CLC
Florida Family Primary Care Center, LLC		46-4435005	Case No. 24-20581-CLC
Florida Family Primary Care Center of Pasco, LLC		32-9478570	Case No. 24-20582-CLC
Florida Family Primary Care Centers of Orlando, LLC		99-4853086	Case No. 24-20583-CLC
Florida Family Primary Care Centers of Pinellas, LLC		46-4457075	Case No. 24-20584-CLC
Florida Family Primary Care Centers of Tampa, LLC		46-4440631	Case No. 24-20585-CLC
MB Medical Operations, LLC		81-4488450	Case No. 24-20586-CLC
MB Medical Transport, LLC		32-0513476	Case No. 24-20587-CLC
MBMG Intermediate Holding, LLC		85-3889320	Case No. 24-20588-CLC
Miami Beach Medical Centers, Inc. f/k/a Rodolfo Dumenigo, M.D., P.A.		65-0603933	Case No. 24-20589-CLC
Miami Beach Medical Consultants, LLC		26-2302737	Case No. 24-20590-CLC
Miami Medical & Wellness Center, LLC		32-0432474	Case No. 24-20591-CLC

For the debtors listed above, a case has been filed under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. This notice has important information about the case for creditors, debtors, including information about the meeting of creditors and deadlines. Read carefully.

The filing of the case imposed an automatic stay against most collection activities. This means that creditors generally may not take action to collect debts from the debtor or the debtor's property. For example, while the stay is in effect, creditors cannot sue, assert a deficiency, repossess property, or otherwise try to collect from the debtor. Creditors cannot demand repayment from debtors by mail, phone, or otherwise. Creditors who violate the stay can be required to pay actual and punitive damages and attorney's fees.

Confirmation of a chapter 11 plan may result in a discharge of debt. A creditor who wants to have a particular debt excepted from discharge may be required to file a complaint in the bankruptcy clerk's office within the deadline specified in this notice. (See #8 below for more information.)

To protect your rights, consult an attorney. The bankruptcy clerk's office staff cannot give legal advice. Do not file this notice with any proof of claim or other filing in the case.

**WARNING TO DEBTOR: WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OR HEARING THE COURT MAY DISMISS YOUR CASE FOR FAILURE OF THE DEBTOR TO APPEAR AT THE MEETING OF CREDITORS OR FAILURE TO TIMELY FILE REQUIRED SCHEDULES, STATEMENTS OR LISTS.**

1. Debtors' Full Names: MBMG Holding, LLC, et al. \*\*  
\*\* (See above for full names of all Debtors)

2. All Other Names Used in the Last 8 Years:  
3. Address: 7500 S.W. 8th Street, Ste. 400, Miami, FL 33144

4. Debtors' attorney: Paul Steven Singerman, Esq., Jordi Guiso, Esq., Christopher Andrew Jarvinen, Esq., Berger Singerman LLP, 1450 Brickell Ave., #1900, Miami, FL 33131, Contact phone: (305) 755-9500

5. Bankruptcy Clerk's Divisional Office Where Assigned Judge is Chambered: C. Clyde Atkins U.S. Courthouse, 301 North Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33128. Hours open 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Contact Phone: (305) 714-1000. Clerk of Court: Joseph Falzone. Dated: October 15, 2024. Documents filed conventionally in paper may be filed at any bankruptcy clerk's office location. Documents may be viewed in electronic format via CM/ECF at any clerk's office public terminal (at no charge for viewing) or via PACER on the internet accessible at [pacer.uscourts.gov](https://pacer.uscourts.gov) (charges will apply). Case filing and unexpired deadline dates can be obtained by calling the Voice Case Information System toll-free at (866) 222-8029. As mandated by the Department of Homeland Security, ALL visitors (except minors accompanied by an adult) to any federal building or courthouse, must present a current, valid, government issued photo identification (e.g. driver's license, state identification card, passport, or immigration card.)

6. \*MEETING OF CREDITORS\*: NOVEMBER 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. (EST). \*MEETING WILL BE HELD BY TELEPHONE\*  
Trustee: Office of the US Trustee. Call in number: 1-844-291-5490. Participant Code: 1545029. The debtor's representative must attend the meeting to be questioned under oath. Creditors may attend, but are not required to do so. The meeting may be continued or adjourned to a later date. If so, the date will be on the court docket.

7. Proof of Claim Deadline: When Filing Proofs of Claim: Claims may be delivered or mailed to: By First Class Mail: CCMC Claims Processing Center, c/o Epiq Corporate Restructuring, LLC, P.O. Box 4420, Beaverton, OR 97076-4420; By Hand Delivery or Overnight Mail: CCMC Claims Processing Center, c/o Epiq Corporate Restructuring, LLC, 10300 SW Allen Boulevard, Beaverton, OR 97005. Proofs of Claim may also be filed electronically via the case website: <https://dm.epiq11.com/CCMC>. Deadline for all creditors to file a proof of claim (except governmental units): Filing deadline: 12/23/2024, (5:00 PM (EST)). Deadline for governmental units to file a proof of claim: Filing deadline: 04/11/2025, (5:00 PM (EDT)).

Deadlines for Filing Proof of Claim: A proof of claim is a signed statement describing a creditor's claim. A proof of claim form may be obtained at <https://www.flsb.uscourts.gov>, any bankruptcy clerk's office or on the case website at <https://dm.epiq11.com/CCMC>.

Your claim will be allowed in the amount scheduled unless your claim is designated as disputed, contingent, or unliquidated; you file a proof of claim in a different amount; or you receive another notice.

If your claim is not scheduled or if your claim is designated as disputed, contingent, or unliquidated, you must file a proof of claim or you might not be paid on your claim and you might be unable to vote on a plan. You may file a proof of claim even if your claim is scheduled. You may review the schedules at the bankruptcy clerk's office or online at [pacer.uscourts.gov](https://pacer.uscourts.gov) or at the case website of <https://dm.epiq11.com/CCMC>.

Secured creditors retain rights in their collateral regardless of whether they file a proof of claim. Filing a proof of claim submits the creditor to the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court, with consequences a lawyer can explain. For example, a secured creditor who files a proof of claim may surrender important nonmonetary rights, including the right to a jury trial. The deadline for filing objections to claims will be established pursuant to Local Rule 3007-1(B)(1).

Filing Deadline for a Creditor with a Foreign Address: The deadlines for filing proofs of claim in this notice apply to all creditors. If you are a creditor receiving a notice mailed to a foreign address, you may file a motion asking the court to extend the deadline to file a proof of claim. See also #9 below.

8. Exception to Discharge Deadline: The bankruptcy clerk's office must receive a complaint and any required filing fee by the following deadline. Writing a letter to the court or judge is not sufficient. If § 523 applies to your claim and you seek to have it excepted from discharge, you must start a judicial proceeding by filing a complaint by the deadline stated below. Deadline for Filing the Complaint: 01/17/2025.

9. Creditors with a Foreign Address: Consult an attorney familiar with United States bankruptcy law if you have any questions about your rights in this case.

10. Filing a Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Case: Chapter 11 allows debtors to reorganize or liquidate according to a plan. A plan is not effective unless the court confirms it. You may receive a copy of the plan and a disclosure statement telling you about the plan, and you may have the opportunity to vote on the plan. You will receive notice of the date of the confirmation hearing, and you may object to confirmation of the plan and attend the confirmation hearing. Unless a trustee is serving, the debtor will remain in possession of the property and may continue to operate its business.

11. Option to Receive Notices Served by the Clerk by Email instead of by U.S. Mail: 1) EBN program open to all parties. Register at the BNC website [bankruptcynotices.uscourts.gov](https://bankruptcynotices.uscourts.gov). OR 2) DeBN program open to debtors only. Register by filing with the Clerk of Court, Local Form "Debtor's Request to Receive Electronically Under DeBN Program". There is no charge for either option. See also Local Rule 9036-1(B) and (C).

12. Translating Services: Language interpretation of the meeting of creditors will be provided to the debtor at no cost, upon request to the trustee, through a telephone interpreter service. Persons with communications disabilities should contact the U.S. Trustee's office to arrange for translating services at the meeting of creditors.

13. Discharge of Debts: Confirmation of a chapter 11 plan may result in a discharge of debts, which may include all or part of your debt. See 11 U.S.C. §1141(d). A discharge means that creditors may never try to collect the debt from the debtor except as provided in the plan. If you want to have a particular debt owed to you excepted from the discharge and § 523 applies to your claim, you must start a judicial proceeding by filing a complaint and paying the filing fee in the bankruptcy clerk's office by the deadline in #8.

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