

Supreme Court of Florida

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

Elizabeth Pines, et al.,
Petitioner(s)

SC2026-0209

v.

Ron D. DeSantis, et al.,
Respondent(s)

The Petition for Writ of Quo Warranto is denied. It seeks relief that is well beyond the traditional scope of the writ. *See Richardson v. Sec’y, Fla. Agency for Health Care Admin.*, 395 So. 3d 500, 504 (Fla. 2024) (“[T]his Court has used the writ to test separation of powers issues, especially where one branch sues another, to settle claims over entitlement to an office, and to resolve disputes over the procedural mechanics of government.” (citation and internal quotation marks omitted)); *see also W. Flagler Assocs., Ltd. v. DeSantis*, 382 So. 3d 1284, 1287 (Fla. 2024) (reasserting that the purpose of the writ is “to challenge the authority to exercise a state power rather than the merits of the action”).

The Governor has the authority to convene the Legislature in special session by proclamation. Art. III, § 3(c)(1), Fla. Const. The Secretary of State is the chief election officer of the state and has the authority to interpret the election laws. § 97.012(1), Fla. Stat. (2025).

For these reasons, the petition is denied.

MUÑIZ, C.J., and COURIEL, GROSSHANS, FRANCIS, and SASSO, JJ., concur.

LABARGA, J., concurs in result.

TANENBAUM, J., concurs in part and dissents in part with an opinion.

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TANENBAUM, J., concurring in part and dissenting in part.

The petition fails to “demonstrate[] a preliminary basis for relief,” as the order essentially notes. Fla. R. App. P. 9.100(h). Accordingly, there is no response being ordered. *See id.* When a petition (or, for that matter, any initial pleading) fails for a pleading defect, which is the case here, the proper disposition is dismissal. A denial suggests that we have considered the underlying merits of the petition, which we have not.

A True Copy

Test:


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John A. Tomasino
Clerk, Supreme Court
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