

HURRICANE DELAYS RUNOFF ELECTION

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Written By Steven Cason

To the best of anyone's recollection, this is the first time in Monroe County history that an election has been called off. The action has left city officials in somewhat of a quandary this morning.

Monroe County Supervisor of Elections, Bobby Brown, said this morning that the cancellation of today's election by Florida Governor Bob Graham late Monday was the first time that he knew of that an election had to be postponed. Brown said he received a call at 6:15 Monday evening from Dorothy Glisson from the Division of Elections Office in Tallahassee informing him that Graham had cancelled the city's municipal elections scheduled for today. Brown said only the governor had the authority to cancel an election in the event of an emergency, such as Hurricane Kate.

Under Florida Statute 101.75 the date of the election would be rescheduled by the city commission with the city having to hold the selection within the next 30 days.

At the present time this morning, Brown said he was waiting for a word from Tallahassee on the proper procedures for handling the rescheduling of the election. Brown said he was particularly concerned about whether he would be able to extend the deadline for absentee ballots for mailing out and receiving back the ballots. Brown said that the deadline for handling out the absentee ballots was 5 p.m. Monday afternoon with a deadline for them being returned at 7 p.m. tonight. Brown said he was also concerned whether candidates would be allowed to continue receiving campaign contribution. Brown has been Monroe County Supervisor of Elections for two years and said this wasn't the first time there had been problems with an election.

"I assume this will all run smoothly as soon as it's worked out."

Key West Mayor Richard Heyman said he had scheduled a special meeting for 10 a.m. Wednesday to discuss rescheduling of the election.