



MARK S. EARLEY
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

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**Leon County Supervisor of Elections Office Hires New Information
Technology Director**

Leon County, FL – Mark S. Earley, Supervisor of Elections for Leon County, announces the hiring of a new information technology director for the Elections Office. “I am happy to welcome Eric Bernard to the Leon County elections team,” said Supervisor Earley. “His years of experience managing complex IT projects will be invaluable to the voters of Leon County.”

The position of IT director is central to the operation of the Elections Office. The IT director is responsible for maintaining the systems that allow voters to register and vote in a safe and convenient manner. Critically, the IT director must ensure that election systems are secure from outside interference and cyberattacks.

Mr. Bernard comes to the Elections Office after a long career managing IT for construction companies in Dothan, Alabama. “I am deeply honored to be chosen to join this great team that supports Leon County and the Leon County Supervisor of Elections,” said Mr. Bernard. “It is with great pride that I look to support our mission to provide outstanding voter services and accessible elections in Leon County with integrity, transparency, and accuracy.”

The IT director position became available when the current director, Thomas James, announced his retirement. Over the course of his 32-year career at the Elections Office, Mr. James has helped developed tools and procedures that have revolutionized election operations throughout Florida. He was instrumental to the design of Voter Focus, a software tool now used by nearly every elections office in Florida. He helped roll out the first paper based optical scan voting system in Florida, which is now the gold standard in secure voting across the country. In recent years, Mr. James has championed election security enhancements, including the deployment of Albert sensor systems which can detect cyberattacks on election systems.

“TJ is one of the unsung heroes of Florida elections,” said Supervisor Earley. “The voters of Leon County, and throughout Florida, have benefitted from his exemplary skills and dedication to

public service. His retirement impacts not only Leon County, but all elections offices in Florida. I will miss TJ and his steady, insightful demeanor at my side. I wish he and his beautiful family a long, well-earned retirement full of travel and happiness.”

After his long career of public service with the Elections Office, Mr. James is looking forward to a well-deserved retirement. “I will be transitioning from 32 years of a very rewarding career at the Elections Office and into another that involves more family time, travel, and community service,” said Mr. James.

Voters with questions are encouraged to contact the Supervisor of Elections Office by email at vote@LeonVotes.gov, or by phone at (850) 606-8683, Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.

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