



MARK S. EARLEY
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Contact: Chris Moore, Deputy Supervisor of Elections

Email: Chris.Moore@LeonVotes.gov

(850) 606-8683

Regarding Election Integrity

A Statement by Mark S. Earley, Supervisor of Elections for Leon County

As your Supervisor of Elections, you - the voters of Leon County - have entrusted me with the responsibility of ensuring our elections are conducted fairly and accurately. I, like my counterparts throughout the nation, strive to uphold the highest principles of integrity in the performance of my duties. So, it is with a heavy heart that I am witnessing unsubstantiated statements calling into question the integrity of the election and threats against election workers and staff. In my thirty years of experience as an election administrator, I have never seen such divisive and destructive rhetoric directed at my colleagues in this line of service.

Election officials throughout the nation work with the highest levels of integrity and transparency to ensure that voters' choices are counted fairly and accurately. This work is often very difficult, full of long hours, and performed under stressful conditions. These election staff and poll workers were charged with conducting an election while risking their health and safety to ensure their neighbors and family members had every opportunity to cast a ballot. They are the true patriots in this story.

However, instead of being praised for their dedication and sacrifice, political actors are denigrating and attacking the hard-working folks who make our democracy happen. Election workers are now receiving death threats because the words of a few well-paid political manipulators are causing some people to doubt the integrity of those who worked so nobly to keep the polls open and count all the votes.

These divisive voices seek to sow doubt and discord in our nation by calling into question the results of the election. Of course, if there is any evidence of irregularities, that evidence can and should be presented in court. But in dozens of court cases filed to date, no substantiated evidence of fraud has been presented.

Simply put, there was no widespread fraud in the conduct of the election. In the words of Christopher Krebs, former Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency appointed and recently fired by the President, the "November 3rd election was the most secure in American history." Even Attorney General William Barr has stated that

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the U. S. Department of Justice has not found any fraud that could change the outcome of the election.

Feeding the rumor mill with unsubstantiated claims of fraud and unhinged conspiracy theories is irresponsible, and it undermines the democratic principles of our nation. America was founded on the idea that “we the people” choose our leaders, not the other way around. Enshrined in the U. S. Constitution, this principle is put into practice by our elections. It is the foundation upon which our great nation stands. To baselessly attack the legitimacy of our elections is to attack America itself.

With this spirit in mind, I join elected officials across our nation in condemning these attacks on our democracy and on the hardworking men and women whose public service ensures your votes are counted.

This election was the most heavily scrutinized in our history. All the evidence points to the accuracy and trustworthiness of this year’s election results. Those who continue to claim otherwise, with no evidence to back it up, are working against the foundations of our nation.

Mark S. Earley

Supervisor of Elections
Leon County, Florida

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