



MARK S. EARLEY
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Supervisor of Elections Now to be Elected as a Partisan Office

Leon County, FL – As a result of a recent Florida Supreme Court decision, Leon County is one of six Supervisor of Elections offices in Florida that will now be elected as a partisan office after previously being non-partisan contests on the ballot. The original Leon County Charter was approved by a majority of Leon County voters in the November 5, 2002 General Election, which among other items included a provision that the Supervisor of Elections be elected as a non-partisan office going forward.

Pursuant to a memorandum from the County Attorney dated June 17, 2019, it has been determined that the provisions in the Leon County Charter establishing non-partisan elections for the Supervisor of Elections have been rendered unenforceable by operation of law pursuant to the April 18, 2019 Florida Supreme Court decision in *Orange County v. Rick Singh*, 268 So.3d 668 (2019). Thus, henceforth the elections for the Supervisor of Elections office shall be partisan.

In Leon County, the decision only applies to the Supervisor of Elections office, one of six Constitutional offices. The remaining Constitutional offices are already filled by partisan elections and are thus unaffected by this Supreme Court decision. This decision also affects candidate qualifying for the Supervisor of Elections office, where a partisan candidate must maintain their party affiliation for at least one year consecutively prior to qualifying, which begins June 8, 2020. Any candidate may run in a partisan contest as a “No Party Affiliation” candidate and appear only in the General Election upon eligibility and successful qualification.

“I want to stress that although the Supervisor of Elections is now required to be elected by a partisan process, this office will continue to function in a wholly non-partisan manner as it always has been,” stated Supervisor of Elections Mark Earley.

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