



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

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1101 East First Street
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Re: Marion County Response to Lake County and Seminole County Letter
of April 18, 2025 Concerning Reassignment of Lake County to District 24

Dear Melanie and Kate:

This letter will convey the position of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners ("MARION") regarding the two options presented in the referenced letter. The context for MARION's position was set forth in the recital of the 2018 Interlocal Agreement between the District 5 Counties and Seminole County:

"WHEREAS, it is the intent of the parties to implement this Agreement without increasing the medical examiner costs of the DISTRICT 5 COUNTIES or reducing the level of service of medical examiner services to the DISTRICT 5 COUNTIES in any way."

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners' respects the wishes of Lake County and Seminole County expressed in the referenced letter. It is MARION's understanding that, even though it was not expressed in the referenced letter, if option 2 were implemented among the parties, Lake County would be seeking a "buy-out" of the current Medical Examiner facility in Leesburg. Thus, either option would result in an immediate, or near term, increase in the medical examiner costs of the four remaining DISTRICT 5 counties.

For that reason, it will be the position of MARION to affirmatively oppose Lake County leaving District 5.

Notwithstanding that, MARION proposes a conditional counter-offer by which it would *affirmatively support* Lake County leaving District 5 to join Seminole in District 24, and continue to use the Leesburg facility, as follows:

The condition is that the legislative delegations of *all six counties* would work to obtain State Funding for construction of a new medical examiner facility at the site that MARION has obtained in Oxford, to be utilized by Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter as the remaining District 5 Counties. Lake and Seminole would continue to use the current Leesburg facility for their medical examiner facility – and Citrus, Hernando, Marion and Sumter would be allowed to continue to use the Leesburg facility until State funding is received for the new facility and construction of that facility is completed.

We all recognize that local governments are entering more uncertain financial times, and we need to be as fiscally responsible as possible. Both Seminole and Marion continue to work to extract as much usable life as reasonably possible out of our dated county administration buildings. The concept of this counter-offer is to respect the wishes of the boards of Lake and Seminole counties, in a way that is consistent with the intent of the parties set out above in the 2018 Interlocal Agreement.

While I have been in some discussions with counsel for some of the remaining District 5 counties, I do not have a formal position yet from the remaining District 5 counties to this counter-offer. I committed to Melanie to provide a written statement to her today which is this letter, and I expect we will have input from the other counties in the near future.

I will be happy to respond to any questions you may have in the meantime.

Sincerely,



Matthew G. Minter
County Attorney

Cc: Members of Marion County Board of County Commissioners