**CONFERENCE SPEECH**

**FOR**

**TAMMY JONES**

To family and friends, neighbors and colleagues, business associates, clients, media, and of course, to all of my Board of Elections peers and partners representing the entire state of Florida, I want to thank all of you for being here and for supporting the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections. Today is clearly a very special day for this office. As we take the opportunity to honor the accomplishments and recognize the road map forged by our previous leaders, we all have the opportunity to reflect on past events while focusing on planning and securing effective measures that have the potential to positively impact our communities, our state, and, ultimately, our country.

I would like to recognize our outgoing president, Paul Lux of Okaloosa County. Paul, on behalf of the voters of this state, I want to extend our gratitude for your dedication and service to our association.  In 2018 we faced many hurdles... like recounts...and your leadership and demonstrated common sense through the process was top notch.  Ladies and gentlemen, as most of us know, Paul testified on various legislative committees and provided evidence on behalf of the association on legal matters that related to both the Spanish ballot lawsuit and ballot order. Paul, your insights and thoroughness provided much needed clarity. For that, and for so many other wise gestures, we thank you for your service.

I would like to thank the Supervisor of Elections from Volusia County, Lisa Lewis, and her conscientious staff, for hosting this conference. We are in a very detail oriented service sector, and it is gratifying to see that keen eye extends to just about every aspect of this organization and event. Thank you!

To my family (**Name them**): my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and my kids, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thank you for your love and support and for constantly being a source of realization of why I do what I do. I would also like to thank my terrific staff members for being here and for consistently being the sounding board and extension of me.... you know... because they are so capable, it allows me to be that much more effective... and of course, I would like to thank our Secretary of State, Laurel Lee, for swearing in myself and my fellow officers. Laurel,  I look forward to working with you and your staff as we dedicate the next year to continually upgrading and improving this state’s voter experience.

Benjamin Franklin said, “Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.” This coming June commemorates a milestone for me in service to the election process.... it will be my **TWENTY-FIFTH** anniversary working in Elections. When I began in this sector, imagine this.... if you **DARE** (**Wait for the laugh**).... we had no email.... no Internet... no social media.... and some people were just barely beginning to have and use mobile phones...Voter registration cards were **TYPED**...Microsoft Office applications did not exist in the mainstream.. and metal cans were used to hold ballots to be counted for each precinct... (**If you want to make a joke you can say**)... at least we had progressed beyond using similar tin cans ... with string connecting them... for telephones!!! (**And wait for the laugh**). Clearly times have changed, methods and safeguards have evolved, and information sharing has gotten much more advanced...

 What **HAS NOT** changed is our mission and our dedication to serve the people of the state of Florida. Remember, “We, the Supervisors of Elections, representing the sixty-seven Florida counties, do hereby adopt the following principles as our guide to inspire continued confidence and trust in our system of elections and to reaffirm our commitment to the highest standards of personal integrity, honesty and competence.”

Albert Schweitzer said, “The first step in the evolution of ethics is a sense of solidarity with other human beings.” As President of the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, I pledge my innate resources... common sense, experience, professional expertise, and most importantly, my integrity, as I serve in this capacity. I believe that we all share a common bond, and that is to be sure our voices are heard and our votes are accurately and equitably counted. To that end, I will do everything in my power to work with my colleagues to insure our mission is respected and followed. I am deeply aware that none of us operates in autonomy... we are all in this together and I value your support, encouragement, and participation. Each one of us grows stronger thanks to the connections we share and the collective experience provides growth for all. I eagerly and enthusiastically welcome your partnership as we work together to strengthen and evolve the voting experience here in Florida. Thank you all!!