

Truth in Testimony Disclosure Form

In accordance with Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5)* of the *Rules of the House of Representatives*, witnesses are asked to disclose the following information. Please complete this form electronically by filling in the provided blanks.

Committee: House Administration

Subcommittee: Elections

Hearing Date: 03/07/2023

Hearing Title :

2022 Midterms Look Back Series: Success in the 2022 Midterm

Witness Name: Chris Anderson

Position/Title: Seminole County Supervisor of Elections

Witness Type: Governmental Non-governmental

Are you representing yourself or an organization? Self Organization

If you are representing an organization, please list what entity or entities you are representing:

Seminole County Supervisor of Election's Office

FOR WITNESSES APPEARING IN A NON-GOVERNMENTAL CAPACITY

Please complete the following fields. If necessary, attach additional sheet(s) to provide more information.

Are you a fiduciary—including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent—of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing? If so, please list the name of the organization(s) or entities.

Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) related to the hearing's subject matter that you or the organization(s) you represent have received in the past thirty-six months from the date of the hearing. Include the source and amount of each grant or contract.

2022-2023 Election Security Enhancement Funds
2021-2022 Election Security Grant (Grant 4)
2021 Election Security Grant (Grant 1)
2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act
2019-2020 Federal Election Cybersecurity Initiatives

Please list any contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government and related to the hearing's subject that you or the organization(s) you represent have received in the past thirty-six months from the date of the hearing. Include the amount and country of origin of each contract or payment.

Not applicable

Please complete the following fields. If necessary, attach additional sheet(s) to provide more information.

- I have attached a written statement of proposed testimony.
- I have attached my curriculum vitae or biography.

* Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5), of the U.S. House of Representatives provides:

(5)(A) Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof.

(B) In the case of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include— (i) a curriculum vitae; (ii) a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the past 36 months by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing; and (iii) a disclosure of whether the witness is a fiduciary (including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent) of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing.

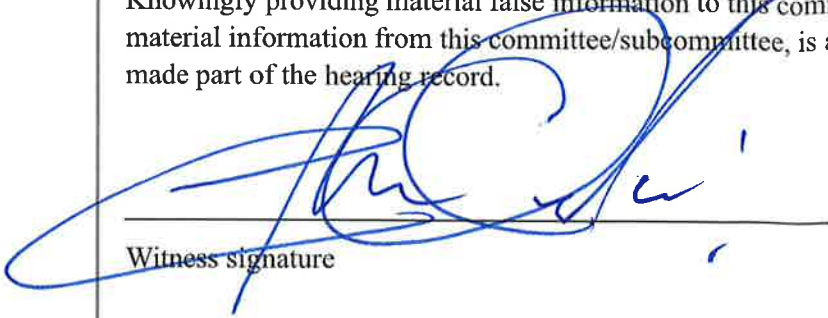
(C) The disclosure referred to in subdivision (B)(ii) shall include— (i) the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing; and (ii) the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government.

(D) Such statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy or security of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form 24 hours before the witness appears to the extent practicable, but not later than one day after the witness appears.



False Statements Certification

Knowingly providing material false information to this committee/subcommittee, or knowingly concealing material information from this committee/subcommittee, is a crime (18 U.S.C. § 1001). This form will be made part of the hearing record.



Witness signature

3/7/20

Date





The Honorable Chris Anderson Biography

After a long career serving his country in the military, where he earned a medal as a combat veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, and in law enforcement, where he was awarded the exceptional service medal, Anderson was appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis as the Supervisor of Elections for Seminole County, in January of 2019. In 2020, Anderson was elected to office as the first African American constitutional officer in the history of Seminole County. Anderson will become the first Supervisor of Elections in the history of Seminole County to graduate with his Master Florida Certification in elections administration from the nationally awarded Florida Certified Election Professionals Program (MFCEP) facilitated by Florida State University.

In this role, Chris is responsible for overseeing all election activities for the county, including managing all municipal, county, state, and national elections in Seminole County; preventing voting fraud activities and facilitating qualifying of county-wide candidates for office.

Very quickly, Chris transformed the mission of the office to working to "Ensuring Your Choice Counts." This new mission focuses on providing fair and equitable elections for all of the citizens of Seminole County, regardless of their party and background.

Growing up, there was every reason why Chris should have been in the back seat of a police car rather than in the front seat. He attributes the difference to his faith and often shares his story to inspire others - especially young people - to help them overcome their adversities.

Chris was raised by a single father who had to fight numerous internal demons while trying to raise a son on his own. He died in 2003 of AIDS. Despite his father's best efforts, they often lived without essentials such as running water and electricity due to unpaid bills. Chris vividly remembers doing homework by candlelight and going to bed hungry.

Chris was able to overcome his adversities with the help of many others, such as his beloved grandmother Ida. They stepped in to help when his father was no longer able to.

Chris persevered and, after finishing high school, he enlisted in the United States Army less than two months before the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He was deployed to Afghanistan and oversaw security details focused on clearing the forward operating Bagram airfield and providing armed escorts for Afghanistan locals providing services to the base.

Personally, Chris is focused on his family. He met his wife, Ebony, in 9th grade and are high school sweethearts that will celebrate 20 years of marriage in January 2022. He is the father of one son, C.J., and two daughters, Christiana and Christian. He graduated from Columbia College with a degree in criminal justice and is a licensed pilot. He is a member of the Church of Christ and enjoys spending time with his family at the beach and reading books on leadership when he is not at the Supervisor of Elections office.



CHRIS ANDERSON SEMINOLE COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

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House Administration and Elections subcommittee

Good morning Chairwoman Lee, and to all members of the Committee. Thank you for inviting me to testify today.

I'm Chris Anderson. I was appointed to office by Governor Ron DeSantis in 2019, and I was elected into office in 2020, as the first African American constitutional officer in the history of Seminole County as Supervisor of Elections. I will also become the first Supervisor of Elections serving the voters of Seminole County to graduate with his Master Florida Certification in elections administration from the nationally awarded Florida Certified Election Professionals Program (MFCEP) facilitated by Florida State University.

Prior to my appointment, I served in the United States Army serving in combat in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. I am a former law enforcement professional serving as a major crimes detective, background investigator, and truth verification examiner. Most importantly, I've been married for over 20 years to my high school sweetheart, Ebony Anderson. We have three beautiful children, Christopher, Christiana and Christian. It is my distinct honor to be here.

I'd like to take a moment to share some statistics from Seminole County. Currently, Seminole County has a total of 345,141 voters. There are 117,204 Republicans, 114,490 Democrats and 113,447 NPA/minor party affiliated voters, essentially, a third, a third, and a third. Of our voting population, there are 37,336 African American registered voters and 57,871 registered Hispanic voters. During the 2022 election cycle, 22,213 African Americans and 28,264 Hispanic voters cast a ballot.

As election officials across the country are presently preparing for the extremely busy 2024 election cycle, we pause to reflect on the lessons and improvements Florida has undertaken to transform itself from a punchline in 2000 to the gold standard for elections in 2022.

Over the last two decades, Florida has put the needs of the voter first, culminating in easy and accessible access to the ballot, as well as timely and accurate reporting of results.

We offer a no-excuse vote-by-mail option that has proven to be quite popular, especially in 2020, with heightened health concerns. Setting Florida apart from many other states, vote-by-mail ballots are allowed to be verified, opened, and tabulated in the weeks prior to the election. This process allows us to publish nearly complete vote-by-mail totals as soon as polls close on election night. In addition, if there is an issue with a mail ballot signature, we have more time to contact the voter, providing them an opportunity to "CURE" their ballot. This early opening process is advantageous to both election administrators and voters. As an early adopter of in-person Early Voting, Florida forged its own path, creating a model uniquely serving all 67 counties, large and small.



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All counties are required to offer Early Voting, but each county has the freedom and flexibility to determine the length of time, the voting hours, and the number of Early Voting sites that will work best for its size.

Echoing lessons learned from 2000, Florida has also revamped its laws and procedures for recounts and post-election audits. This system provides clear guidelines for election administrators and candidates, and gives certainty to voters when election results are close.

Understanding that professional partnerships are crucial to the enhancement and continued refinement of our procedures, Florida's supervisors, legislators, and stakeholders have come together to ensure that Florida's elections remain safe, secure, efficient, and accurate while facing the challenges of administering elections in the 21st century.

In recent years election security has become a top priority. Partnerships between local, state, and federal agencies have strengthened our ability to defend against cyberattacks from nation-state actors and other groups.

In 2017, the Department of Homeland Security designated elections as critical infrastructure, and the Center for Internet Security formed the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC). Through EI-ISAC, election officials have access to a cyber defense suite, including sector-specific threat intelligence products, incident response and remediation, threat and vulnerability monitoring, cybersecurity awareness and training products, and tools for implementing security best practices. Florida has used HAVA dollars to fund election security grant programs for local offices, where they have been incredibly successful.

There have also been significant efforts in raising the professionalism of election officials. Since 2000, over 1,300 election professionals have received their national Certified Elections Registration Administrator designation, with 119 of those from Florida. I am proud to say I am well on my way to gaining the Certified Elections and Registration Administrator certification as well.

Going a step further, the Florida Supervisors of Elections Association developed the nationally awarded Florida Certified Elections Professional program. The FCEP program consists of 30 core courses, renewal courses, and 120 hours of content instructed by experts on topics such as voter registration, election law, election worker recruitment, and more.

Since its inception in 2009, we have had over 800 participants, with 245 obtaining their Master Florida Certified Elections Professional designation.

I'd like to thank you again for the opportunity to appear before the Committee today, and I look forward to your questions.