

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 2023E-12

**WHEREAS**, the people of the State of Florida, by constitutional amendment, have declared that a public office is a public trust and the people have a right to secure and sustain that trust against abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida Commission on Ethics has been created to ensure that public officers and employees do not abuse the trust placed in them; and

**WHEREAS**, Thomas Hardee was at all times material hereto Supervisor of Elections for Madison County, and as such was subject to the provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, Part III of Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, and subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission on Ethics; and

**WHEREAS**, in the Final Order and Public Report No. 21-006 rendered on April 21, 2021, the Commission on Ethics adopted the Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order entered into between the Commission and Thomas Hardee and therein found that Thomas Hardee violated section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes, by using his position to arrange for the issuance of or to receive salary advances above and beyond the statutorily mandated salary of County Supervisor of Elections; and

**WHEREAS**, the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Commission on Ethics Final Order and Public Report No. 21-006 are accepted.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS**, Governor of Florida, in obedience to my constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and pursuant to the

Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, issue this Executive Order, effective immediately, declaring that:

1. Thomas Hardee violated section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes, by using his position to arrange for the issuance of or to receive salary advances above and beyond the statutorily mandated salary of County Supervisor of Elections.

2. A civil penalty in the amount of \$8,000 for the violation of section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes, is hereby imposed on Thomas Hardee, which shall be satisfied within thirty (30) days of the date of this order. Payment must be submitted with a written statement under oath that the penalty amount was not paid with public funds and will not be reimbursed with public funds.

3. Thomas Hardee is hereby publicly censured and reprimanded.



*Ron DeSantis*

GOVERNOR

DATE: November 17, 2023

By:

*Ryan Newman*

Ryan D. Newman

GENERAL COUNSEL

On behalf of and by the authority of Governor Ron DeSantis

ATTEST:

*Cord Byrd*

Cord Byrd  
SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FL

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FILED