



Secretary of State
State of Louisiana

TOM SCHEDLER
SECRETARY OF STATE

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May 1, 2018

The Honorable John Bel Edwards
Governor
State Capitol, 4th Floor
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Governor Edwards:

Since the moment I became Secretary of State in 2010, I have given everything I have to fulfilling the duties of this unique office. I felt at home being elected Secretary of State because it requires a non-partisan approach and a collaborative philosophy to execute its most basic foundational duties: elections, commercial filings, archives and museums. This has been, and will probably remain, the most important work of my life.

With the support and hard work of a dedicated staff I have been able to achieve a level of integrity for our office that many never thought possible. Louisiana's reputation for fair, honest, consistent and reliable elections is recognized across our great nation and our citizens should be proud of our work. From implementing online voter registration and protecting private voter data to reducing the number of elections to save precious tax dollars, the Secretary of State's Office has time-and-time again done the right thing.

It is now time for me to make a difficult choice in the best interest of my family, my staff and the citizens of this state. Effective Tuesday, May 8, 2018, I will resign as Louisiana Secretary of State. I leave the office knowing it is in the capable hands of my First Assistant, Kyle Ardoin, who knows the organization intimately and can, with my departure focus on the incredibly important short-term goals of selecting new voting equipment as well as perfecting the Mid-Term Congressional Elections this fall without distraction.

However, I leave office with a heavy heart knowing I have disappointed the people in my life who care for me the most. But I also have experienced from them the miraculous power of forgiveness and grace during the twilight of my career, and for that I am grateful. I have been incredibly frustrated with the tabloid approach to an incredibly serious allegation and the necessity of following the advice of counsel to not try this publicly. I trust the judicial process will fairly consider all the facts when they can be properly presented in due time.

The Honorable John Bel Edwards

May 1, 2018

Page 2

I take away from this experience many precious memories that will sustain me, and only ask that the office continue their focus on customer service and transparency so that legacy remains in place for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Tom Schedler
Louisiana Secretary of State

TS/dnn

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS FIRST DAY OF MAY, 2018



Lani B. Durio
Bar Roll No. 31631