

## J SCOTT BUTHERUS

Candidate • Hillsborough County Commission, District 1 • Ecology Party of Florida

Ruskin, Florida • 941.773.0691 • VoteButherus@gmail.com • VoteButherus.com

April 16, 2026

**Craig Latimer**

Supervisor of Elections

Hillsborough County, Florida

2514 N. Falkenburg Road

Tampa, Florida 33619

**Re:** Notice of Withdrawal of Candidacy

**Office:** Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, District 1

**Party:** Ecology Party of Florida

**Candidate:** John Scott Butherus II (J Scott Butherus)

Dear Supervisor Latimer,

Please accept this letter as my formal notice of withdrawal from the 2026 race for Hillsborough County Commission, District 1.

I entered this race as a candidate of the Ecology Party of Florida, qualifying by petition rather than by payment of the standard qualifying fee. After careful assessment of the logistical requirements of the petition process — including the number of verified signatures required, the timeline remaining before the qualifying deadline of June 12, 2026, and the resources available to a grassroots campaign operating without major donor support — I have concluded that I am unable to meet the petition threshold required to secure ballot access. Rather than continue a campaign that cannot reach the ballot, I believe it is the right and responsible decision to withdraw at this time and notify your office accordingly.

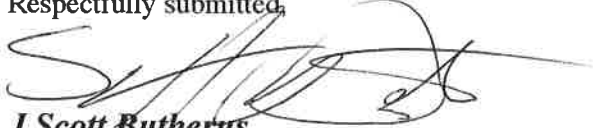
I am grateful to the residents of District 1 who engaged with this campaign, attended community events, read our materials, and offered their encouragement. Running for public office — even from outside the two-party structure, even without institutional backing, and even without success at the ballot — is one of the most instructive experiences a private citizen can undertake. This campaign deepened my understanding of how local government works, where its decisions are made, and how much depends on the people willing to show up and demand accountability. That education is not wasted.

I will continue, as a private citizen and community advocate, to speak publicly on the issues that defined this campaign: the protection of Tampa Bay's coastline and marine ecosystems; the conservation of the Floridan Aquifer; the need for infrastructure accountability before development approval; the preservation of East Bay's agricultural land; and the broader principle that Hillsborough County's decisions about land, water, and growth should serve the people who live here — not the interests that profit from building here.

The work does not require a seat at the commission table. It requires people who are willing to keep showing up regardless.

Please confirm receipt of this withdrawal and advise if any additional documentation is required to complete the process.

Respectfully submitted,



**J Scott Butherus**  
John Scott Butherus II

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