



RON DeSANTIS
GOVERNOR

February 13, 2026

Warden Randall Polk
Florida State Prison
7819 N.W. 228th Street
Raiford, Florida 32036-1000

Re: Execution Date for Michael L. King, DC# 132254

Dear Warden Polk:

Enclosed is the death warrant that I signed to carry out the sentence for Michael L. King, as well as certified copies of his judgment and sentence. I have designated the week beginning at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, through 12:00 noon on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, for the execution. I have been advised that you have set the date and time of execution for Tuesday, March 17 at 6:00 p.m.

This letter is incorporated into and made a part of the death warrant identified above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis".

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Enclosures

2026 FEB 13 PM 11:49
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
TALLAHASSEE, FL

Warden Randall Polk

February 13, 2026

Page 2

cc:

Honorable Carlos G. Muñiz
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Florida
500 S. Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Honorable Diana Moreland
Chief Judge, 12th Judicial Circuit
1051 Manatee Avenue W.
Bradenton, Florida 34205

Secretary Ricky Dixon
Department of Corrections
501 S. Calhoun Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2500

Marilyn Muir
Associate Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
The Capitol, FL-01
Tallahassee, Florida 32300-0001

Eric Pinkard
Capital Collateral Regional Counsel
12973 N. Telecom Parkway
Temple Terrace, Florida 33637

Office of Executive Clemency
4070 Esplanade Way
Building C, Room 229
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2450

Michael L. King, DC# 132254
Union Correctional Institution
7819 N.W. 228th Street
Raiford, Florida 32083

Ali Andrew Shakoor
Capital Collateral Regional Counsel
12973 N. Telecom Parkway
Temple Terrace, Florida 33637



STATE OF FLORIDA

JAMES UTHMEIER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 13, 2026

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

RE: Michael L. King

Dear Governor DeSantis:

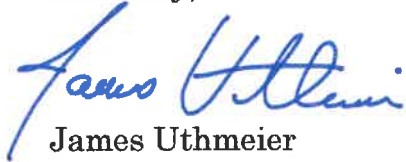
In the early afternoon hours of January 17, 2008, Michael King abducted Denise Amber Lee from her home leaving her two young children, a toddler and an infant, unattended. King took Ms. Lee to his house where he bound, raped, and sodomized her. Hours later, King drove to his cousin's house to borrow a flashlight, shovel, and gas can. Ms. Lee was alive and bound in the backseat of King's car. While captive in King's car, Ms. Lee obtained King's cell phone and surreptitiously called 911. On the recording of the call, Ms. Lee is heard crying and begging to be saved so that she could see her husband and children again. After a prolonged and torturous ordeal, King drove Ms. Lee to a remote area, shot her in the face, and buried her. King was convicted of kidnapping, sexual battery, and first-degree murder. King was sentenced to death for the first-degree murder of Denise Amber Lee.

The Florida Supreme Court affirmed King's convictions and death sentence and the United States Supreme Court denied his petition for writ of certiorari. *King v. State*, 89 So. 3d 209, 232 (Fla. 2012) *cert. denied* 568 U.S. 964 (2012).

In the decades that followed, King engaged in unsuccessful postconviction litigation in both state and federal courts. *King v. State*, 211 So. 3d 866 (Fla. 2017) (affirming the denial of initial postconviction motion); *King v. Sec'y, Dep't of Corr.*, 793 Fed. Appx. 834 (11th Cir. 2019) (unpublished) (affirming denial of federal habeas petition); *King v. Inch*, 141 S. Ct. 303 (2020) (denial of cert petition).

The record has been reviewed and there are no stays of execution issued by any court of competent jurisdiction in this cause. Based upon the above-referenced summary of litigation affirming the judgment and sentence of death imposed for first-degree murder, the record is legally sufficient to support the issuance of a death warrant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Uthmeier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

James Uthmeier
Attorney General

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

DIVISION: CRIMINAL
JUDGMENT
CASE NUMBER: **2008 CF 001087 NC**
PLAINTIFF: **STATE OF FLORIDA**
VS. DEFENDANT: **MICHAEL L KING**

STAMP FOR RECORDING

Probation Violator Community Control Violator Retrial Resentence

The Defendant, **MICHAEL L KING** being personally before this Court represented by **CAROLYN SCHLEMMER**, the attorney of record and the State represented by **LON S. AREND** and having:

(Check Applicable Provision)
 1. Been tried and found **GUILTY** by jury/by Court of the following crime(s)
 2. Entered a plea of GUILTY to the following crime(s)
 3. Entered a plea of NOLO CONTENDRE to the following crime(s)

COUNT	CRIME	OFFENSE STATUTE NUMBER(S)	DEGREE OF CRIMES	CASE NUMBER	OBTS NUMBER
1	MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE	782.04(1) (a) and 775.087(2) (a) (3)	1 st Degree Felony	2008 CF 001087 NC	5801120105

(Check If Applicable)
 and no cause being shown why the Defendant should not be adjudicated guilty, IT IS ORDERED THAT the Defendant is hereby **ADJUDICATED GUILTY** of the above crime(s).
 and having been convicted or found guilty of, or having entered a plea of NOLO CONTENDERE or GUILTY, regardless of adjudication, to attempts or offenses relating to sexual battery (ch. 794), lewd and lascivious conduct (ch. 800), or murder (\$782.04), aggravated battery (\$784.045), car jacking (\$812.133), or home invasion robbery (\$812.135), or any other offense specified in section 943.325, the defendant shall be required to submit blood specimens.
 and good cause being shown; IT IS ORDERED THAT ADJUDICATION OF GUILT BE WITHHELD.

Pursuant to the provisions of §960.29-960.293, Florida Statutes, a lien is hereby imposed in favor of the State of Florida and/or Sarasota County as follows:
 Defendant was convicted for an offense other than a capital or life felony. This lien is for liquidated damages in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day of the defendant's sentence.
 Defendant was convicted for a capital or life felony. This lien is for liquidated damages in the amount of two-hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00).

ALL LIQUIDATED DAMAGE SUMS BEAR INTEREST AT THE RATE SET FORTH IN §55.03, FLORIDA STATUTES.

DONE AND ORDERED in open court at Sarasota, Florida, this 28TH day of AUGUST, 2009.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S. Mail/hand delivery to the below listed parties. Witness my hand and official seal this 15 day of Sept, 2009.
MARLENE S. RUSHING, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
[Signature] Deputy Clerk

[Signature]
CIRCUIT JUDGE DENO ECONOMOU

CRIMINAL LAW
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2009 SEP 15 2:19 PM

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DEFENDANT
DEF ATTORNEY *Schlemmer*
STATE ATTORNEY
SARASOTA ARMY PROBATION

Case: 2008 CF 001087 NC
00074270015
Dkt: JDRR

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<input type="checkbox"/> IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA	
DIVISION: CRIMINAL	JUDGMENT
CASE #: 2008 CF 001087 NC	
PLAINTIFF	VS. DEFENDANT
STATE OF FLORIDA	MICHAEL L KING

STAMP FOR RECORDING

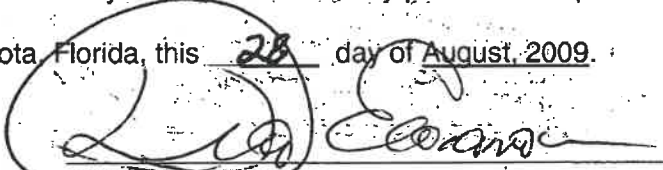
FINGERPRINTS OF DEFENDANT

1. R Thumb	2. R Index	3. R Middle	4. R Ring	5. R Little
				
1. L Thumb	2. L Index	3. L Middle	4. L Ring	5. L Little
				

Fingerprints taken by: Dep W. Castle 1285 Name Deputy Title

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing fingerprints are the fingerprints of the Defendant, **MICHAEL L KING** and that they were placed thereon by said Defendant in my presence in open court of this date.

DONE AND ORDERED in open court at Sarasota, Florida, this 28 day of August, 2009.


CIRCUIT JUDGE DENO ECONOMOU



STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF SARASOTA
I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of pages 1 through 2 of the instrument filed in this office. The original instrument filed contains 2 pages.
 This copy has no redactions. This copy has been redacted pursuant to law.
Witness my hand and official seal this 17 day of July, 2009.
KAREN E. RUSHING, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: [Signature]
Deputy Clerk

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
 IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

DIVISION: CRIMINAL
***AMENDED JUDGMENT**
CASE NUMBER: 2008 CF 001087 NC
PLAINTIFF VS. DEFENDANT
STATE OF FLORIDA **MICHAEL L KING**

STAMP FOR RECORDING

Probation Violator Community Control Violator Retrial Resentence

The Defendant, **MICHAEL L KING** being personally before this Court represented by **CAROLYN SCHLEMMER**, the attorney of record and the State represented by **LON S. AREND** and having:

(Check Applicable Provision)
 1. Been tried and found **GUILTY** by jury/by Court of the following crime(s)
 2. Entered a plea of GUILTY to the following crime(s)
 3. Entered a plea of NOLO CONTENDRE to the following crime(s)

COUNT	CRIME	OFFENSE STATUTE NUMBER(S)	DEGREE OF CRIMES	CASE NUMBER	OBTS NUMBER
1	MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE	782.04(1a1)	CAPITAL FELONY	2008 CF 001087 NC	5801120105

(Check If Applicable)
 and no cause being shown why the Defendant should not be adjudicated guilty, IT IS ORDERED THAT the Defendant is hereby **ADJUDICATED GUILTY** of the above crime(s).
 and having been convicted or found guilty of, or having entered a plea of NOLO CONTENDERE or GUILTY, regardless of adjudication, to attempts or offenses relating to sexual battery (ch. 794), lewd and lascivious conduct (ch. 800), or murder (§782.04), aggravated battery (§784.045), car jacking (§812.133), or home invasion robbery (§812.135), or any other offense specified in section 943.325, the defendant shall be required to submit blood specimens.
 and good cause being shown; IT IS ORDERED THAT ADJUDICATION OF GUILT BE WITHHELD.

Pursuant to the provisions of §960.29-960.293, Florida Statutes, a lien is hereby imposed in favor of the State of Florida and/or Sarasota County as follows:
 Defendant was convicted for an offense other than a capital or life felony. This lien is for liquidated damages in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day of the defendant's sentence.
 Defendant was convicted for a capital or life felony. This lien is for liquidated damages in the amount of two-hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00).

ALL LIQUIDATED DAMAGE SUMS BEAR INTEREST AT THE RATE SET FORTH IN §55.03, FLORIDA STATUTES.

DONE AND ORDERED in open court at Sarasota, Florida, this 28TH day of AUGUST, 2009.

***AMENDED 9/17/09 TO REFLECT THE CORRECT DEGREE OF CRIME; NUNC PRO TUNC**

CRIMINAL LAW
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 2009 SEP 1 PM 2:06
 KAREN E. RUSHING
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 SARASOTA COUNTY, FL

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
 I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S. Mail/hand delivery to the below listed parties. Witness my hand and official seal this 21 day of SEPT, 2009.
 KAREN E. RUSHING, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 Deputy Clerk

[Signature]
 CIRCUIT JUDGE DENO ECONOMOU

STATE ATTORNEY
SAL ARMY PROBATION
DEFENDANT
DEF ATTORNEY



Case: 2008 CF 001087 NC
 00033751634
 Dkt: JDR

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA	
<input type="checkbox"/> IN THE COUNTY COURT IN AND FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA	
DIVISION: CRIMINAL	*AMENDED JUDGMENT
CASE #: 2008 CF 001087 NC	
PLAINTIFF	VS. DEFENDANT
STATE OF FLORIDA	MICHAEL L KING

STAMP FOR RECORDING

FINGERPRINTS OF DEFENDANT

1. R Thumb 2. R Index 3. R Middle 4. R Ring 5. R Little

**DEFENDANT WAS PREVIOUSLY PRINTED AND
RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS
INSTRUMENT #2009114275 / Page 2**

1. L Thumb 2. L Index 3. L Middle 4. L Ring 5. L Little



"STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF SARASOTA
I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy
of pages 1 through 2 of the instrument filed in
this office. The original instrument filed contains 2
pages.
 This copy has no redactions. This copy has been
redacted pursuant to law.
Witness my hand and official seal this 17 day of
July, 2008
KAREN E. RUSHING, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: [Signature]
Deputy Clerk

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELVETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA	
DIVISION CRIMINAL	CASE NUMBER: 2008 CF 001087 NC OBTS NUMBER: 5801120105
PLAINTIFF STATE OF FLORIDA	VS. DEFENDANT MICHAEL L KING
SENTENCE AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS	

FILED FOR RECORD

2009 DEC 10 AM 9:09

KAREN E RUSHING
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
SARASOTA COUNTY, FL

STAMP FOR RECORDING

SENTENCE
(As to Count 1)

The Defendant, being personally before this Court, accompanied by the Defendant's attorney of record, **CAROLYN SCHLEMMER**, and having been adjudicated guilty herein, and the Court having given the Defendant opportunity to be heard and to offer matters in mitigation of sentence, and to show cause why the Defendant should not be sentenced as provided by law, and no cause being shown,

- (Check one if applicable)
- and the Court having on **8/28/2009** deferred imposition of sentence until this date
 - and the Court having previously entered a judgment in this case on now re-sentences the Defendant
 - and the Court having placed the Defendant on probation community control and having subsequently revoked the Defendant's probation community control

IT IS THE SENTENCE OF THE COURT THAT:

- The Defendant pay a fine of \$, pursuant to § 775.083, Florida Statutes, plus \$ as the 5% surcharge required by § 938.04, Florida Statutes.
- The Defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the **Department of Corrections.**
- The Defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the Sheriff of Sarasota County, Florida
- The Defendant is sentenced as a youthful offender in accordance with § 958.04, Florida Statutes

FILED FOR RECORD STAMP

TO BE IMPRISONED (check one; unmarked sections are inapplicable):

- For a term of natural life
- For a term of **DEATH.**
- Said SENTENCE SUSPENDED for a period of subject to conditions set forth in this Order



If "split" sentence, complete the appropriate paragraph.

Followed by a period of on probation community control under the supervision of the Department of Corrections according to the terms and conditions of supervision set forth in a separate order entered herein.

However, after serving a period of imprisonment in , the balance of the sentence shall be suspended and the Defendant shall be placed on probation community control for a period of under the supervision of the Department of Corrections according to the terms and conditions of probation community control set forth in a separate order entered herein.

In the event the Defendant is ordered to serve additional split sentences, all incarceration portions shall be satisfied before the Defendant begins service of the supervision terms.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

(As to Count 1)

By appropriate notation, the following provisions apply to the sentence imposed:

MANDATORY/MINIMUM PROVISIONS:

- Firearm** It is further ordered that the 3-year minimum 10-year minimum 20-year minimum 25 year to Life minimum imprisonment provisions of §775.087(2), Florida Statutes, is hereby imposed for the sentence specified in this count. Pursuant to the 25 year to Life minimum imprisonment provision of §775.087(2), Florida Statutes (if checked above) the court imposes a minimum imprisonment sentence of
- Drug Trafficking** It is further ordered that the mandatory minimum imprisonment provision of § 893.135(1), Florida Statutes, is hereby imposed for the sentence specified in this count.
- Controlled Substance Within 1,000 Feet of School** It is further ordered that the 3-year minimum imprisonment provision of § 893.12(1)(e)1, Florida Statutes, is hereby imposed for the sentence specified in this count.
- Habitual Felony Offender** The Defendant is adjudicated a habitual felony offender and has been sentenced to an extended term in accordance with the provisions of § 775.084(4)(a), Florida Statutes. The requisite findings by the Court are set forth in a separate order or stated on the record in open court.
- Habitual Violent Felony Offender** The Defendant is adjudicated a habitual violent felony offender and has been sentenced to an extended term in accordance with the provisions of § 775.084(4)(b), Florida Statutes. A minimum term of year(s) must be served prior to release. The requisite findings of the Court are set forth in a separate order or stated on the record in open court.
- Law Enforcement Protection Act** It is further ordered that the Defendant shall serve a minimum of year(s) before release in accordance with § 790.0823, Florida Statutes.
- Capital Offense** It is further ordered that the Defendant shall serve no less than 25 years in accordance with provisions of § 775.082(1), Florida Statutes.
- Short-Barreled Rifle, Shotgun, Machine Gun** It is further ordered that the 5-year minimum sentence provisions of § 790.221(2), Florida Statutes, are hereby imposed for the sentence specified in this count.
- Continuing Criminal Enterprise** It is further ordered that the 25-year minimum sentence provisions of § 893.20, Florida Statutes, are hereby imposed for the sentence specified in this count.
- Taking a Law Enforcement Officer's Firearm** It is further ordered that the 3-year mandatory minimum imprisonment provision of § 775.0875(1), Florida Statutes, is hereby imposed for the sentence specified in this count.

OTHER PROVISIONS:

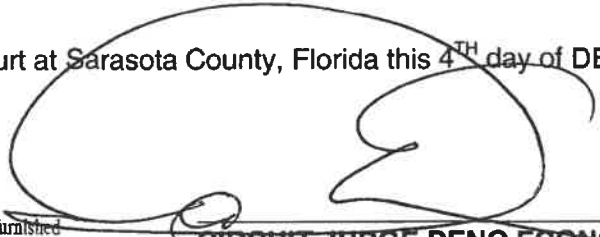
- Retention of Jurisdiction** The Court retains jurisdiction over the Defendant pursuant to § 947.16(4)(a), Florida Statutes.
- Jail Credit** It is further ordered that the Defendant shall be allowed a total of **684 DAYS** as credit for time incarcerated before imposition of this sentence.
- Prison Credit** It is further ordered that the Defendant be allowed credit for all time previously served on this count in the Department of Corrections prior to re-sentencing.
- Consecutive/Concurrent as to Other Counts** It is further ordered that the sentence imposed for this county shall run consecutive to concurrent with the sentence set forth in count of this case.
- Consecutive/Concurrent as to Other Convictions** It is further ordered that the composite term of all sentences imposed for the counts specified in the Order shall run consecutive to concurrent with the following: *(check one)*
 - any active sentence being served
 - specific sentences of **CASE #08-CF-936.**

In the event the above sentence is to the Department of Corrections, the Sheriff of SARASOTA County, Florida is hereby ordered and directed to deliver the Defendant to the Department of Corrections at the facility designated by the Department together with a copy of the Judgment and Sentence and any other documents specified by Florida Statute.

The Defendant in open court was advised of the right to appeal from this sentence by filing notice of appeal within thirty (30) days from this date with the Clerk of the Court and the Defendant's right to the assistance of counsel in taking the appeal at the expense of the State on showing of indigence.

In imposing the above sentence, the Court further recommends: **REDUCE COURT COSTS TO JUDGMENT.**

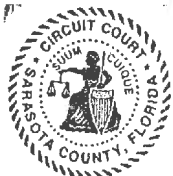
DONE AND ORDERED in open Court at Sarasota County, Florida this 4TH day of DECEMBER, 2009.


CIRCUIT JUDGE DENO ECONOMOU

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S. Mail/hand delivery to the below listed parties. Witness my hand and official seal this 10 day of 12, 2009.
KAREN E. RUSHING, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 By: K. Rushing Deputy Clerk

STATE ATTORNEY
 SAL ARMY PROBATION
 DEFENDANT
 DEF ATTORNEY Schlemmer



"STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF SARASOTA
 I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of pages 1 through 3 of the instrument filed in this office. The original instrument filed contains 3 pages.
 This copy has no redactions. This copy has been redacted pursuant to law.
 Witness my hand and official seal this 17 day of July, 2009.
KAREN E. RUSHING, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 By: K. Rushing Deputy Clerk

DEATH WARRANT

STATE OF FLORIDA

WHEREAS, MICHAEL L. KING, on or about the 17th day of January, 2008, murdered Denise Amber Lee; and

WHEREAS, MICHAEL L. KING, on the 28th day of August, 2009, was convicted of first degree murder, kidnapping, and sexual battery and, on the 4th day of December, 2009, was sentenced to death for the murder of Denise Amber Lee; and

WHEREAS, on the 9th day of February, 2012, the Supreme Court of Florida affirmed the conviction and death sentence of MICHAEL L. KING; and

WHEREAS, on the 26th day of January, 2017, the Supreme Court of Florida affirmed the trial court order denying MICHAEL L. KING's initial Motion for Postconviction Relief; and

WHEREAS, on the 5th day of February, 2018, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida denied MICHAEL L. KING's federal Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus; and

WHEREAS, on the 25th day of October, 2019, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit affirmed the denial of MICHAEL L. KING's federal Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus; and

WHEREAS, executive clemency for MICHAEL L. KING, as authorized by Article IV, Section 8(a), of the Florida Constitution, was considered pursuant to the Rules of Executive Clemency, and it has been determined that executive clemency is not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, attached hereto is a certified copy of the record of the conviction and sentence pursuant to section 922.052, Florida Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, as Governor of the State of Florida and pursuant to the authority and responsibility vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of Florida, do hereby issue this warrant, directing the Warden of the Florida State Prison to

cause the sentence of death to be executed upon MICHAEL L. KING, in accordance with the provisions of the Laws of the State of Florida.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 13th day of February, 2026.




GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL
2026 FEB 13 AM 11:48

FILED