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Election Security

Yesterday, a national media outlet published a story pertaining to a claim made in an upcoming book that, in 2016, malware was placed on the St. Lucie County election registration systems by Russian hackers. According to the news story, the book's reporting is based on classified information obtained by intelligence agencies of the Federal Government.

To be clear, my office has never been notified by any Federal or State official that our County systems have been compromised in any manner. Furthermore, internal and external audits of St. Lucie County's 2016 voting operations showed no abnormalities of any kind in our election results.

Yesterday's news story was my first time learning that the government believes St. Lucie County was affected by Russian hacking efforts. I was previously aware of media reports that hackers had placed malware on the election systems of two unnamed Florida counties during the 2016 election. As was reported in those stories, Federal and State officials apparently chose not to disclose which counties were purported to have been targeted for security reasons. The only contact that was made with my office regarding this issue was assurance from the State that all of our voting systems are safe and secure, and that the information contained on them is properly preserved in case of a data breach.

Understandably, the news story has resulted in my office being inundated with inquiries from media outlets, elected officials, and voters wishing to learn more about the report. To all who desire to seek out further information, I believe these inquiries should be directed to the members of the Federal and State government privy to the classified information described in the news story. I can only assure you that if classified information exists evidencing a hacking attempt on our voting systems, my office has never been informed of such an operation.

Furthermore, we have had an on-site visit from the Department of State Cyber Navigator team to scan our entire network for known vulnerabilities and a security assessment and audit was completed. I am confident in the security and safety of every vote that will be cast in St. Lucie County in the upcoming November election.