



**Florida Fair Elections Coalition**  
**Deland, FL**  
[www.ffc.org](http://www.ffc.org)

**PRESS RELEASE**

**October 26, 2020**

**Many Florida voting systems are vulnerable to hacking, warns former elections official**

Ion Sancho, who served for 28 years as the Supervisor of Elections in Leon County, FL, has warned his colleagues not to connect their voting systems to the internet or face the possibility of being vulnerable to cyberattacks. More than 40 Florida counties, including the 8 largest counties in the state, use wireless modems to transmit results on election night. But top computer security experts say these modems, which use Verizon, Sprint, or other 4G technology, are vulnerable to hacking. (Read [Sancho's letter](#).)

Sancho also advised the Florida elections supervisors that, despite vendor representations, the wireless modems in use in voting systems in Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois, are not federally certified due to security concerns.

In 2005, despite threats from the vendor and the state, Sancho allowed a security test of the Leon County voting system by Finnish computer security expert Harri Hursti. Featured in the Emmy-nominated documentary "Hacking Democracy," the "Hursti Hack" showed that vote totals could be altered without detection – something that the vendor had denied was possible. Sancho also appeared in the recent HBO documentary, "Kill Chain: The Cyber War on America's Elections." Sancho first came to national notice for his role in the 2000 Presidential recount in Florida.

Sancho said he debated whether to send his warning letter to the elections supervisors, with Election Day so close, but decided that it was the best thing to do. He is hopeful that election officials will take preventative measures before November 3, Election Day.

"One thing that most election officials have in common is a desire to do the right thing," he said. "Our nation's enemies are certainly already aware of this vulnerability and attempts to breach Florida's election systems have already begun."

For more information, contact:

Ion Sancho, 850-566-0930

Susan Pynchon, Florida Fair Elections Coalition, 386-804-3131