



TALLAHASSEE OFFICE
123 S. Adams Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 10570
Tallahassee, FL 32302

O: 850.671.4401
F: 850.671.4402
thesouthern.com

July 11, 2022

Steve Benton
Superintendent
Jackson County School Board
2903 Jefferson Street
Marianna, FL 32446

Dear Mr. Benton:

Thank you very much for your interest in The Southern Group of Florida, Inc. (The Southern Group). We appreciate the opportunity to provide lobbying services to Jackson County School Board in Tallahassee. The Southern Group is committed to providing the highest level of service in furtherance of your goals. This agreement will describe the terms under which that representation will occur.

You have asked that we represent Jackson County School Board before the legislative and executive branches of Florida government on issues related to funding. The entire team of The Southern Group's lobbyists will be available to advance Jackson County School Board's interests. You may wish to review in detail the qualifications of the team at www.thesouthern.com. However, in order to ensure that your needs are efficiently and fully addressed, I will be the primary contact for this representation. If I should ever be unavailable, I would encourage you to contact Clark Smith. Our contact information is reflected on the attached sheet.

In exchange for these services, Jackson County School Board has agreed to pay The Southern Group, \$4,000 per month beginning August 1, 2022. The Southern Group will send an invoice on the first of each month for the current month's services and payment is due by the end of each month. Our preferred method of payment is via ACH or wire transfer. Otherwise, all payments should be remitted to P.O. Box 10570, Tallahassee, FL 32302. This agreement will proceed on a month-to-month basis and may be terminated by either party upon receipt of 30 days written notice. Costs directly attributable to the performance of this work will be billed in addition to the monthly retainer, and these costs may include travel, lobbyist registration fees, and other expenses incurred on Jackson County School Board's behalf. No monthly costs that in the aggregate exceed \$500 will be incurred without your prior approval.

Also, by signing below, you agree that you will complete any forms necessary to comply with lobbyist registration requirements under Florida law that may arise as a result of our representation of Jackson County School Board during the term of this contract or after its termination should reporting periods overlap.

Please be aware that Florida has a lobbying fee disclosure law that requires quarterly disclosure of fees. It should also be noted that The Southern Group has affiliated offices in other states and within the state of Florida. The Southern Group has a policy of declining representation of clients when that representation would immediately create a direct conflict with other clients that The Southern Group currently represents. You have retained The Southern Group for representation in Florida, and we know of no conflicts with our current clients. In order to ensure the candor and trust in our relationship that forms the basis of effective representation, it is the policy of The Southern Group to keep confidential within each office all information about your business interests and strategies.

I believe the above reflects our understanding. If it does, please sign this agreement and return with the completed client information, which is enclosed. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you. Please never hesitate to contact me if we can assist Jackson County School Board in any way.

Sincerely,



Erin Rock

Enclosures



For Jackson County School Board

7/21/2022
Date