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**TO:** Lake County Purchasing Division  
**FROM:** Anthony Vega, Lake County Clerk

**SUBJECT:** Bid Exemption Request – DFM EIMS (Election Information Management System)

This memorandum requests approval for a bid exemption for continued licensing, maintenance, and support of the DFM's EIMS software utilized by the Office of the Lake County Clerk.

The DFM system has been in continuous use by the Lake County Clerk's Office for over twenty (20) years. It serves as the foundation of our election and voter registration operations, housing all voter records, election data, and related administrative functions required to conduct elections in compliance with state and federal law.

EIMS provides a robust and fully integrated software solution that manages every aspect of voter registration, petition filing, election management, candidate and incumbent management, and reporting. The system is deeply embedded within our operational workflows.

DFM Associates, the developer and sole provider of the EIMS software, is uniquely qualified to continue providing services for this system. No other identifiable vendor can offer comparable software that integrates with our existing election database and infrastructure without significant cost, risk, and operational disruption. It is important to note, that other vendors can only provide some of the functionality that DFM can provide and, usually, at a higher cost.

Transitioning to a new vendor would require a full data migration, system reconfiguration, and staff retraining; an extensive and costly process that could jeopardize the timely and secure administration of elections. DFM's long-term familiarity with Lake County's customized configuration ensures continuity, reliability, and compliance.

Given the long-standing relationship between DFM and the Office of the Lake County Clerk and the system's critical role in Lake County's election operations, I request a bid exemption be approved to ensure an uninterrupted, secure and compliant election management operation.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Vega  
Lake County Clerk