## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 12, 2024

## Politician Kim Barton tries to hide her \$570,229 Pension Bonus Grab from Taxpayers

Barton is suing a Church for \$50,000 instead of using County Accident Insurance



In a shocking taxpayer money grab, political greed unfolds in Alachua County as Politician Kim A. Barton, Democrat Supervisor of Elections, decided her \$296,677 Pension cash bonus, monthly pension of \$6,049 and \$168,544 salary<sup>1</sup> and approximately \$67,417 in annual benefits was not enough money. Kim Barton shamelessly exploited her Political position to pocket an outrageous \$570,229 taxpayer-funded pension bonus. Alachua County has a poverty rate of  $20.2\%^2$  which is 56.5% higher than Florida's poverty average of 12.9%. This display of gluttony sets a new low for political personal enrichment. See: https://tripledippers.org/triple-dippers-hall-of-shame/

"Sneaky Politician Kim Barton is greedy. How many gourmet meals, luxury cars, and vacation homes does one person need or can even use?" asked Dave Jaye, a Researcher at <u>www.tripledippers.org</u>, "How much, if any of Kim Barton's \$570,229 pension cash bonus will she promise in writing to donate to charity?"

On April 1, 2024 Kim Barton submitted paperwork, reneging on a previous contract promise to resign on August 31, 2024, in exchange for being eligible for the \$296,677 pension cash bonus. This cunning maneuver allowed Barton to extend her pension bonus period by an additional three years, inflating her total pension cash bonus to an indefensible \$570,229 with a monthly taxpayer-funded pension soaring from approximately \$6,049 to \$11,625. Kim Barton shamelessly avoids paying the standard 3% of her salary (\$5,056) to the Florida Pension program, shifting her personal responsibility to taxpayers.

				Fake Retirement Date	Pension Bonus Date		Pension Monthly Payment DROP Monthly	
First	М	Last	Employer	DROP Begin	DROP End	Accrual	Benefit	Email Address
MICHAEL	Р	BARTO	PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY	4/1/2023	3/31/2031	\$ 254,127	\$ 4,655	michaelbarto91@gmail.com
DALE		BARTO	HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY O	6/1/2020	5/31/2028	\$ 177,005	\$ 3,114	dbarto@co.hernando.fl.us
KATHERIN	R	BARTOLINI	INDIAN RIVER CO SCHOOL BOARD	7/1/2021	6/30/2026	\$ 158,194	\$ 4,395	katy.bart99@gmail.com
KIM	Α	BARTON	ALACHUA CO BD OF CO COMMISSIONERS	8/1/2020	8/31/2027	\$ 570,229	\$ 11,625	bbartonkim@aol.com
BRUCE	R	BARTON	DAYTONA STATE COLLEGE	9/1/2019	8/31/2024	\$ 74,021	\$ 2,371	bartonfla@gmail.com

Kim Barton and her staff tried to hide and cover up Kim Barton's Pension grab paperwork claiming she, her office and Alachua County Government didn't have copies of Kim Barton's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>http://edr.state.fl.us/content/local-government/reports/finsal23.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>http://edr.state.fl.us/content/area-profiles/county/alachua.pdf</u>

Pension bonus documents<sup>3</sup> However, the Alachua County Commissioners' Public Information officer provided Kim Barton's Pension Cash Bonus Documents: "The request <u>Request Number: PRR-2024-545</u> has been completed". See <u>https://tripledippers.org/triple-dippers-hall-of-shame/</u>

Instead of just using the Alachua County Government Accident Insurance, Kim Barton Files a \$50,000 lawsuit against a Church .<sup>4</sup> In October 2022, Barton alleges she tripped at the Gateway Christian Center Church. The Alachua County Supervisor of Elections was questioned under oath during a deposition for her personal injury lawsuit against a church in Gainesville on *Nov. 13, 2023<sup>5</sup>*. Kim Barton's personal Lawsuit against the church continues.

Kim Barton, Democrat Supervisor of Elections threw her Republican rival Judith Jenson <u>https://www.jensen4alachuasupervisorofelections.com/</u> off the November 2024 election disqualifying signatures of voters who signed Nominating Petitions for Judith Jenson to run against Kim Barton. In a clear conflict of interest Kim Barton claims that state law does not allow rival Judith Jensen to appeal Kim Barton's ruling. Kim Barton is forcing her only rival for re-election Judith Jensen to pay **\$10,112.64** to appear on the November 2024 ballot. Judith Jenson has signed a pledge not to take a pension cash bonus if elected as Alachua Supervisor of Elections. See <u>https://tripledippers.org/triple-dippers-hall-of-shame/</u>

While Politician Kim Barton takes bushels of taxpayer money, as of May 2024, the average Alachua County worker makes only \$22.53 an hour or \$46,856 per year<sup>6</sup>. The average Alachua County working men and women need to work 12.3 years<sup>7</sup> to match Politician Kim Barton's taxpayer paid pension cash bonus of \$966,038.

Barton's \$570,229 pension cash bonus would be better spent on providing 26,646 tutoring hours<sup>8</sup> for Alachua County students. Currently, 61% of Alachua County High School graduates fail basic math tests and 51% fail basic reading, leaving 51% of them not job ready, and only 37.9% college ready<sup>9</sup>.

Governor Jim DeSantis signed SB 7024 effective July 1, 2023 allowing the option for politicians and bureaucrats to extend pension bonuses by 60% from 5 to 8 years and up to 10 years for School Employees<sup>10</sup>. The Triple Dipper Pension Bonus system created \$39 billion in unfunded Florida Retirement obligations, amounting to a \$1,725 liability for every man, woman, and child in Florida.

<sup>5</sup> <u>https://www.wcjb.com/2023/11/13/deposition-held-alachua-county-supervisor-elections-injury-lawsuit/</u> <u>https://www.wcjb.com/2023/05/08/alachua-county-supervisor-elections-sues-church-after-injury/</u> <u>6</u><u>https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/-in-Alachua,FL#:~:text=The%20average%20salary%20in%20Alachua%2C%20Florida%2</u> <u>C%20as,Get%20paid%20what%20you're%20worth!%20Explore%20now.</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "In reference to the notice of election to participate in the DROP program DP-Ele, Alachua County does not have custody of this record". From: Dillon Boatner <u><dboatner@alachuacounty.us></u> Date: Thu, May 30, 2024 at 9:15 AM

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> <u>https://www.wcjb.com/video/2023/05/08/alachua-county-supervisor-elections-sues-church-after-injury/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> <u>https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/-in-Fort-Myers,FL</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> [ \$570,229/ \$21.40 per tutor hour = 26,646 hours] <u>https://www.care.com/cost/tutors/alachua-fl</u>)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/florida/districts/glades-106929

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> <u>https://thecapitolist.com/frs-double-dip-retirement-expansion-will-make-it-harder-for-private-sector-to-compete-with-state/</u>

For a comprehensive list of the names, employers and pension cash bonuses of approximately 26,000 Florida's Triple Dippers, visit https://tripledippers.org/fl-statewide-2023-june-28537-tripledippers/.

Stay tuned to see more Greedy Politicians exposed in the Triple Dippers Hall of Shame: <u>https://tripledippers.org/triple-dippers-hall-of-shame/</u>

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Exposing Public Corruption and Wasteful Spending

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