

Biography of Scott McPherson

Chief Information Officer, Florida Department of Corrections

Scott McPherson is a fifth-generation native Floridian. Born in Jacksonville on September 7, 1955, Scott was raised in Broward and Martin Counties. An international businessman at age 21, Scott was elected to the Florida House of Representatives from the south Miami-Dade County area at age 25, defeating a two-term incumbent. Scott served in the early 1980s.

Scott has been a technology and communications consultant for the past eighteen years and moved his practice to Tallahassee in 1991. His weekly column for Knight/Ridder Newspapers, "The Help Screen," went on hiatus in 2002 after seven consecutive years of production. It ran coast-to-coast and appeared regularly in such newspapers as the Boston Globe, the San Diego Union-Tribune, the Detroit Free Press, the Tallahassee Democrat and the Orange County (CA) Register.

In 1995, Scott became Director of Information Technology for the Republican Party of Florida and guided the party's IT, data collection, software production and GIS efforts through two campaign cycles – the two most successful cycles in state Party history. His legacy at RPOF includes the first state Republican Party Website and the groundbreaking "Victory Suite" software program

In 1999, Governor Jeb Bush asked Scott to leave that position to design and helm Team Florida 2000, Florida's statewide Y2K preparedness effort. The largest IT project in Florida's history, Team Florida 2000 became a national model and garnered several state and national awards. TF2K's statewide critical infrastructure survey and disaster recovery awareness programs were a precursor to Florida's best-practice homeland security efforts following 9/11.

In early 2000, following the success of TF2K, Governor Bush asked Scott to repair the ailing state Census partnership. Scott's redesigned and reenergized effort, Sunshine Count 2000, was a critical and media success, and helped Florida secure a second new Congressional district, which no political pundit thought possible.

Immediately following the Census project, Scott designed a plan for enterprise-wide information security. In early 2001, Scott created the Office of Information Security within Florida's State Technology Office. Efforts were accelerated following 9/11, and Scott won a national "Best of Breed" award from the Center for Digital Government in 2002 for the Florida cybersecurity effort. A derivative of the effort, called "SecureFlorida," was launched for the general public, local government and the private sector in 2003.

In March 2001, Scott was appointed Chief Information Officer (CIO) at the Florida Department of Corrections. He has served in that capacity four years. Under Scott's tenure, the Department's Office of Information Technology has won thirteen (13) Davis

Productivity Awards from Florida TaxWatch for technological innovation and excellent stewardship of taxpayer dollars. He also was elected by his peers as Chairman of the CIO Council of State government chief information and technology officers.

Scott is also the immediate past-president of the Corrections Technology Association, a hemispheric association of state, federal, tribal, county and municipal corrections technology professionals from the Pacific islands to Canada, the United States and Mexico. He also serves on the Article V Technology Board and the CJJIS Council.

Scott McPherson is married to the former Marta Carballo, and is stepfather to her two children. After a one-year hiatus, he returns to the microphone this season as the "Voice Of the Trojans" for Tallahassee Lincoln High School's nationally-known football program.