



## **Will Roberts Takes Oath as First Elected Tax Collector in 50 Years**

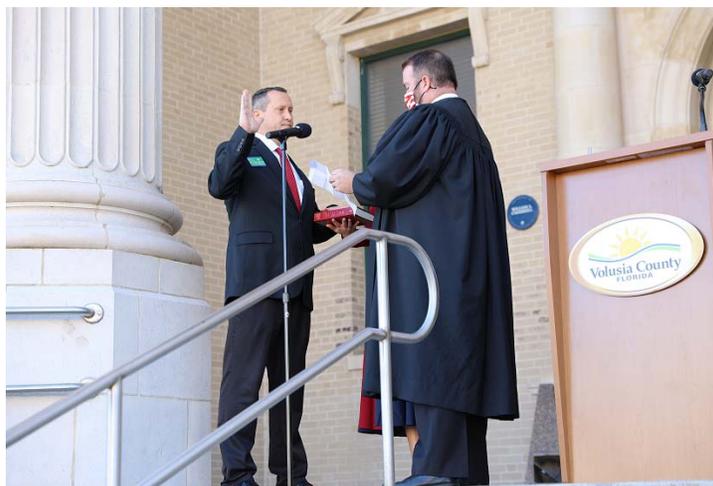
*Roberts officially takes over the Tax Collector office after being operated by county government for 50 years.*

**DELAND, Fla., Jan. 5, 2021** – At the top of the stairs of the Volusia County Historic Courthouse, a historic event took place. The event was a transition from a county-appointed and operated Tax Collector to one elected by the people and is not under the jurisdiction of county government. A 2018 ballot initiative, Amendment 10, created the elected, Constitutional office of the Tax Collector for all Florida counties. There were legal battles and debates for years about the impact of Amendment 10 and how it should be applied in Volusia County, but now the time of challenges has ended and it's time for change to begin.

"Today marks a major change for the way the Tax Collector has operated within county government – but we are still working very closely with the county," said Will Roberts, Tax Collector serving Volusia County. "We are sharing offices, IT, Finance and Human Resource services and more. This collaboration has already and will continue to help us make a smooth, fiscally responsible transition to this new model."

County Council Chair-Elect, Jeff Brower also thanked the county staff for the decades of service and dedication to providing tax collection services and doing the work needed to prepare for the transition to an elected Tax Collector.

After taking the oath of office, Roberts made remarks to the crowd of his friends, family, campaign supporters, elected officials, Tax Collector team members and county staff. He thanked them for the ways they have supported him in the past and looked forward to the work the Tax Collector's team will now take on together.



*Photo 1: Will Roberts takes over Tax Collector duties from Volusia County after taking the oath of office administered by Judge Chris Miller at the Historic Courthouse in DeLand.*

"Fifty-six people transitioning from the county to the tax collector's team have said yes," Roberts explained. "They believe that the Tax Collector's team can offer the citizens of Volusia County – better customer service, accuracy, education and transparency about the tax collection process. Those are our pillars moving forward. I want to thank them for standing with me and believing – as I do – that this model will be a success in Volusia County."

After the outdoor swearing-in ceremony, Roberts visited the four Tax Collector offices in DeLand, Orange City, Daytona Beach and New Smyrna Beach and deputized his team members as they took a similar oath to uphold the Florida and United States Constitution.



*Photo 2: Will Roberts swears in new Tax Collector team members in DeLand.*

Roberts explained he is modeling his office after the structure other Tax Collectors have built across the state. They provide convenient locations with multiple services offered under one roof, superior customer service and services by appointment to reduce wait times for customers.

"These tax collector's offices run more like businesses than governments," Roberts said. "They are self-funded, so they must earn money to pay for their operations. They are not taxpayer-funded. When there are overages or profits from the Tax Collector's revenue, those funds go back to the county."

Roberts explained the team will be taking on new services in 2021, including issuing Birth Certificates and Concealed Weapons Permits. By early 2022, he plans to have taken over the issuing of driver's licenses from the state.

Currently, the Tax Collector services include collecting property tax payments, vehicle tag and title services, hunting and fishing licenses and tax certificate sales. Many of these services can be accessed online at the new Tax Collector's website, [vctaxcollector.org](http://vctaxcollector.org). Booking appointments for services can also be made online. Roberts will retain and operate the same four offices that the county previously occupied in DeLand, Orange City, Daytona Beach and New Smyrna Beach. Residents can also get important location and educational information about the Tax Collector's office on Facebook at [facebook.com/VolusiaTax](https://facebook.com/VolusiaTax).

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