




OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

TO: All Senior Directors, Directors & Managers
FROM: Dwight Van de Vate 
Chief Operating Officer/co-Chief of Staff
DATE: August 5, 2021
RE: Knox County Health Department

It is with both gratitude and regret that I share this news. After 17 years of dedicated service, Dr. Martha Buchanan has announced her intent to retire from Knox County, effective December 31, 2021.

Dr. Buchanan began her career with the county as a physician in February 2004. She served in that capacity until 2009, when she was promoted to the position of Health Officer and has led the department with distinction ever since.

2020 was a difficult year for all of us in public service, but without question, hardest of all on the public health community. Dr. Buchanan was steadfast, strong, and uncompromising in her efforts to protect and promote public health under the most difficult of circumstances. She was a calm voice of reason in a crisis, a tireless advocate for her staff, and always committed to doing everything possible for our constituents. All of us owe her a debt a gratitude for her leadership and service throughout this difficult time.