Brookhaven supervisor announces resignation for job with Accelerate Long Island

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Brookhaven Supervisor Mark Lesko announced his resignation Wednesday afternoon.

Lesko is stepping down to become executive director of Accelerate Long Island, a nonprofit collaborative of the region's research institutions, the Long Island Association and the Town of Brookhaven that aims to commercialize technology and create start-up companies and high-tech jobs.

Lesko's resignation is effective next month, he said in a statement.

The 45-year-old former federal prosecutor was elected Brookhaven supervisor in a March 2009 special election, after former supervisor Brian Foley was elected to the State Senate. He was re-elected in November of that year and again last November, when he won nearly 60 percent of the votes cast.

As supervisor, Lesko helped develop the Accelerate Long Island strategy.

"It is my hope that Accelerate Long Island will have a profound economic impact on the entire region for years to come," Lesko said in a written statement yesterday. "I look forward to the next chapter of my career in public service and I will continue to work to develop an innovation-based economy on Long Island."

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