John Thomas “Tom” Herndon's state government career spans more than 32 years. He has served at the highest levels of management in Florida administration, including key positions in the executive branch, the Legislature and the Cabinet.

Herndon has received several state and national public service awards, including the prestigious Florida Distinguished Service Medal for Exceptionally Meritorious Service to the State in 1995. A Florida native, Herndon is a graduate of the University of South Florida and earned a master's degree at Florida State University. Herndon is very active in the Tallahassee community and currently serves on the boards of Capital Health Plan, the Claude Pepper Foundation, the Lawton Chiles Foundation and the Florida State University Foundation.