

COLLIER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS NEWS & VIEWS

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Contact "News & Views":
email electionworker@colliergov.net or call
(239) 252-8052



JENNIFER J. EDWARDS
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

Springing Forward

All of our departments are hard at work implementing new procedures, new outreach activities and projects, and we have already scheduled orientations for new election workers starting in June.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our Election Worker Open House. We hope that all who attended had as much fun as we did!

The Florida Division of Elections recently announced the dates for the 2016 elections: the Presidential Preference Primary is scheduled for March 15, the Primary Election will be held on August 30 and the General Election will take place on November 8.

During the 2012 Presidential Election Cycle, Collier County had a huge turnout including the November General Election, where 83% of registered voters cast their ballots. With that in mind, we are putting a call out for new election workers. If you have a friend or family member who is interested in working the 2016 Election Cycle, please have them visit our website at www.CollierVotes.com and fill out an application under our Election Worker page. They can also contact our Training Department at (239)252-8052 to learn more on how to become an election worker.

For more information on what our office is up to this spring, check out our entire publication of News & Views!



OUT & ABOUT

Election Worker Open House

We had so much fun re-connecting with everyone who worked the 2014 Election Cycle at our Open House on March 14! Our goal for this event was to allow workers to socialize with all of our departments and learn more about how everyone plays a role in running a successful election!

Additional thanks to all of our staff who threw such an amazing event. Without the support of our election workers and staff, elections in Collier County would not be possible!



Richard Cantania (top), Vincent Dibiasi (left) and Carol Hollander joined Jennifer in our photo booth during the Election Worker Open House.

VOTER EDUCATION

The Outreach Department began the statewide reading program in March. This program is for grade levels K-2, 3-5 & 6-8, and participating students have the opportunity to vote for their favorite book using real election equipment.

Additionally, our office will conduct the Florida SouthWestern College student government elections in mid-April and the Golden Gate High School student election in May. Don't forget to check our Community Calendar listing all of our events at www.CollierVotes.com.

We encourage you to invite us to your homeowner's association meetings where we can provide information concerning voting by mail, updates to voter records, and new voter registration information to your new neighbors.

Please give us a call (239)252-8805 to schedule a date and time.



Congratulations to John Vande Wege who guessed that there were 157,931 chads in the jar at the Election Worker Open House. We had some close guesses, but John's guess came closest to the 159,738.



Geoff Willig from our Vote by Mail Department quizzed Election Workers about voting by mail during our Election Worker Open House.

VOTE BY MAIL UPDATES

We had a blast socializing and quizzing attendees on Vote by Mail trivia while at the Election Worker Open House!

Moving forward, we are continuing to evaluate our processes in preparation for the 2016 Election Cycle. As of January 2015, the US Postal Service has changed their First-Class Mail service standards where the majority of First-Class Mail will be delivered in two days instead of one.

Our department is working to adapt to this change so we can continue to make voting by mail the most convenient method of voting in 2016.

CANDIDATE QUALIFYING

Deciding on the PPP



DAVE CARPENTER
QUALIFYING OFFICER

After flirting with the possibility of January Presidential Preference Primary Elections, the last two presidential cycles, we find ourselves beginning the 2016 Election Cycle in March. The Legislature has set the date as March 15, and Governor Scott has signed the bill into law. The Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) is used to determine which candidate the party's convention delegates should support at their national convention. March 15 is the earliest date that Florida Republicans can hold a "winner-takes-all" primary. Florida's Democratic

Party traditionally apportions its delegates based on the percentage of the vote that each Democratic candidate receives.

The selection process as to which names appear on the ballot is controlled by the parties. Each state party provides a potential candidate list to the Florida Secretary of State in the preceding November. Individual candidates then have until December 14 to request that their names be removed from the ballot. After December 14, the ballot is set for the election.

The Presidential Primary season can be very fluid and candidates who were placed on the list in December often drop from the race by March. It is up to the individual voter to keep track of who is still in the running so they don't vote for a candidate who has pulled out of the race. The Presidential Preference Primary also poses an issue for our NPA and minor party voters. Presidential Preference Primaries are closed elections in Florida and you must be registered as a member of one of the major parties to vote in these contests. The exception is that all registered voters may participate in any referenda or municipal races placed on the same ballot. Tuesday, February 16, 2016 is the book-closing date for the 2016 Presidential Preference Primary and the last opportunity to register or update your party affiliation in order to participate in the March 15 Election.



JULIO VIGIL

ELECTION SERVICES COORDINATOR

OPERATIONS DEPT

Collectively, with other departments, the Operations Department has a long list of projects to accomplish this year.

- Precinct Improvements - We are examining every polling site (Election Day and Early Voting) to determine if any sites need to be improved, relocated, added, or consolidated in an effort to accommodate extra equipment, voters, and election workers for future elections.
- Equipment Maintenance - The Operations Department continues to go through all of our voting equipment to ensure it's ready for the next election. We are repairing, cleaning, and preparing voting booths, precinct signs, corrugated signs, and adopt a precinct signs.
- Inventory Management - We are partnering with IT Fleet Management to implement a software program called AssetShadow that will enhance our existing equipment tracking and inventory system.
- Logistics Management - The Operations Department also examined our Election Day delivery routes to determine if any modifications needed to be made. After this review, we were able to consolidate from eleven to ten trucks and rearrange the routes to improve delivery and safety.



ROGER MUNZ
TRAINING DIRECTOR

TRAINING NEWS

The Election Worker Open House was held on March 14, 2015 and we were so happy to see many of our 2014 workers enjoying themselves and taking advantage of a photo op with the Tube Dude and Jennifer.

Each department presented a themed table with trivia, games and prizes. This allowed attendees to mingle and learn how each department contributes to the election process.

The Training Department has posted a list of the Election Worker Orientations for new election workers and the first sessions are on Thursday, June 18 at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

If you know someone who would like to be a part of the Elections Team, please have them visit our website at www.CollierVotes.com to fill out an application.



Thank you to the Training Dept for all their help planning the Election Worker Open House!



CUSTOMER SERVICE *List Maintenance*

Are you curious about what our office does during a non-election year? Now is the time when we review our voter rolls to ensure the accuracy of information we have on file. We began this procedure in January with a mailing to almost 10,000 voters who had not been active for the last two General Elections. Following that step, we sent a follow-up mailing to those voters who had not responded.

Mail continues to come into the office daily and as the summer approaches, we will work on an additional mailing using different criteria to help us continue with our list maintenance.

The Customer Service Department is also partnering with the Vote by Mail Department on a project that focuses on commercial addresses. Through this detailed endeavor, we are applying newly acquired software to reconfirm non-residential addresses. We will then work with our IT Department to ensure that voters are only registered under residential addresses. All of these efforts during the non-election years are crucial to Collier County having accurate data that supports our voter registration process and we appreciate all of the assistance from our staff and from our voters who are corresponding with us during this time.

It was wonderful meeting many of you at the Election Worker Open House. We hope you enjoyed our trivia game as you learned a little more about what we do in our department!

SPOTLIGHT: WILLIAM KOCSES, WAREHOUSE OPERATIONS MANGER



Our office is proud to announce the recognition of William Kocsés, who was honored with the Silver Beaver Award by the Southwest Florida Council of Boy Scouts of America at a ceremony held on March 5.

The Silver Beaver Award is a distinguished service award given at the council level to registered adult leaders who have impacted the lives of youth through service to the council.

William has been employed with the Supervisor of Elections Office since 2003 and serves as the Warehouse Operations Manger. He joined Boy Scouts at the age of 11 and has volunteered in many scouting capacities including as a Scoutmaster, Merit Badge Counselor, Camp Director and Commissioner.

The Southwest Florida Council of Boy Scouts of America was chartered in July 1929 and is a geographic area divided into four districts that include Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Hendry, Lee, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties. The Silver Beaver Award was introduced in 1931 and is awarded to those who implement the Scouting program.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Upcoming Election Dates: Everglades City Municipal: November 24, 2015

Presidential Preference Primary: March 15, 2016 Primary: August 30, 2016 General: November 8, 2016

Visit us on the web: www.CollierVotes.com

