

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS COLLIER COUNTY

MELISSA R. BLAZIER

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES & DEADLINES

2023 City of Everglades City Election

Voter Registration Deadline: October 30
Election Day: November 28

2024 Presidential Preference Primary

Voter Registration Deadline: February 20
Early Voting: March 9-16
Election Day: March 19

2024 Primary Election

Voter Registration Deadline: July 22
Early Voting: August 10-17
Election Day: August 20

2024 General Election

Voter Registration Deadline: October 7
Early Voting: October 21-November 2
Election Day: November 5

Early voting dates subject to change.



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I also had the opportunity to speak to the Florida State Association of Letter Carriers this month where hundreds of postal workers gathered for their annual meeting right here in Naples, Florida. It was a privilege to talk with them about the important role they play in the execution of our elections.

It's no secret that voting by mail is popular here in Collier County. This year, our office has the important task of reminding voters of some of the Vote-by-Mail changes that have occurred recently, including that Vote-by-Mail ballot requests from 2022 have expired. If you plan to vote by mail in 2024, you must renew your ballot requests. Visit www.CollierVotes.gov/RequestBallot to ensure your Vote-by-Mail ballot request is up-to-date.

Read on to learn more about where our staff has been this month and some important information about how you can serve on our Elections Team next year!

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

It's Back-to-School Month

It has been an active August, chock-full of community events throughout Collier County, as students and teachers head back to school.

I had the privilege of speaking to several groups including the Rotary Club Marco Island Sunrise earlier this month. This particular group has adopted one of our precincts on Marco Island since 2006, which has helped them raise thousands of dollars for charity while assisting Marco Island voters for almost two decades!



It was an honor for Supervisor Blazier to meet Ambassador Ron Johnson (third from left) during the Collier County Republican Men's Club meeting this month.

Handwritten signature of Melissa R. Blazier

OUT & ABOUT

Lipman Backpack Event

It's Back-to-School season at the elections office!

Earlier this month, the Elections Team attended the 13th Annual Lipman Backpack Giveaway event. Since 2010, Lipman Family Farms has donated school supplies to students in their home base of Immokalee. This event ensures that children and their families are prepared and have everything they need to tackle the new school year.

This year, the event had over 60 exhibitors and gave away over 1,500 backpacks filled with school supplies, over \$15,000 in gift cards, 2,700 pairs of sandals, approximately 600 pairs of shoes, 300 bicycles and food.

To discover where we will be this month, visit the Activities & Events Calendar on our website.



ELECTION WORKER ORIENTATIONS

The Collier County Supervisor of Elections office is known across the state and across the nation for conducting smooth, transparent and accurate elections. We led the state in 2020 with 90% of our voters turning out among a national health crisis, followed by a flawless election in 2022 immediately after one of the worst hurricanes to hit SWFL.

Our success would not be possible without the help from our dedicated Elections Team and volunteers who strive to serve their community.

In preparation for the 2024 elections, we are seeking civic-minded individuals to work at the polls or work temporarily in our office during each election. Interested individuals should go to www.CollierVotes.gov/HELP where they can learn more about the positions available and fill out an application. Applicants will then be invited to attend an election worker orientation.

Below are upcoming dates and times for orientations:

- Tuesday, September 12 at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 20 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 4 at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 10 at 10 a.m., 2 p.m.

BACK -2- SCHOOL

The new school year has begun, and we are ready to kick off two of our school programs: the High School Voter Registration Challenge and Art for Democracy contest.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the High School Voter Registration Challenge is a competition between local high schools to see which school can reach the highest number of voter registrations and pre-registrations by the end of the challenge. The program includes a presentation on the importance of voting, as well as a step-by-step walk-through of the voter registration form. The winning school will receive recognition and a plaque from Supervisor of Elections, Melissa R. Blazier. Students 16 and older can participate in the challenge which will take place September 13 through October 13.

Art for Democracy is an annual art contest and students grades K-12 can submit original artwork with voting and election-centric themes. Students K-8 may also enter an original design for an "I Voted" sticker to be considered for use in the 2024 elections. Winning students and schools receive recognition at an artists' reception and a monetary prize is awarded to the winning high school student, as well as the school's art department for the piece that wins Best in Show. The call for entries opens Monday, October 2.

Apart from the abovementioned, our office has other resources and opportunities for the schools in Collier County. To learn more about our fall programs and involvement in our local schools, visit the Activity & Events Calendar on our website. We wish teachers and students a wonderful new school year!

MYTH BUSTER

MYTH

The Vote-by-Mail request I made in 2022 is still valid for the 2024 elections.

BUSTED

Vote-by-Mail ballots must be requested each election year (F.S. 101.62 (4) (a)).

Get more Myth Busters - follow us on social media!

@CollierVotes | #ElectionReady



SPOTLIGHT



Jennifer Morello joined our Elections Team back in May and has hit the ground running! Jennifer serves as a Voter Services Representative at our satellite office located in the North Collier Government Services Center!

Morello comes with 20 years of customer service experience and prior to working at the elections office, she worked and served the community while working at the St. Matthews House Donation Center.

Jennifer was born in New York, but was raised in North Miami. She moved to Southwest Florida in 2021 to be closer to her family. Jennifer considers herself a DIY (do it yourself) enthusiast and has done everything from working on her car to remodeling her living room, after learning how on YouTube!

JOIN OUR DISTRIBUTION LIST!

Want to stay up to date with your Elections Team? Sign up to be on our distribution list by emailing ElectionWorker@CollierVotes.gov.