

# SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS COLLIER COUNTY

## MELISSA R. BLAZIER

### IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES & DEADLINES

**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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School Voter Registration Challenge where 1,184 students registered and pre-registered to vote; and administering the City of Everglades City Election where voter turnout was the highest since 2017.

We are proud to be in a state that is the gold standard for elections administration. In fact, in a new poll conducted last month by the Tyson Group and commissioned by Secure Democracy Foundation, 73% of Florida voters say they trust their local poll workers and elected county Supervisor of Elections. This new year, I look forward to continuing the tradition of conducting transparent, secure and accurate elections in Collier County.

Moving forward, we will kick off 2024 with the Presidential Preference Primary. Our team has been working hard to ensure that Collier voters are Election Ready! Stay engaged with our office by following our social media pages and by subscribing to our monthly newsletter. We also encourage you to sign up to receive text message alerts about important dates and deadlines. Opt in to this service by texting "COLLIERVOTES" to 91896.

Thank you all for your continued support. From our families to yours, Happy New Year!

### SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

*Happy New Year, and Thank you for your Support!*

As 2023 comes to a close, I can't help but reflect on what was a whirlwind of a year. Since my appointment as Collier County's fourth Supervisor of Elections, we have continued the legacy of running excellent elections in Collier County. Some highlights include celebrating the success of Voter Services Supervisor, Kerry Black, who obtained her Certified Elections/Registration Administrator designation from the National Association of Election Officials; hosting a record-breaking High



*Miss Blazier*

## OUT & ABOUT

### Christmas in the Community

It's been an active holiday season at the Supervisor of Elections office!

Earlier this month, the Elections Team got together and had a tree-mendous time walking at the annual City of Naples Christmas parade! Thousands of residents and visitors lined the streets of 3rd Street and 5th Avenue to see the bright and festive Christmas floats. Our office was one out of 120 groups that joined in this year's parade!

Supervisor Blazier also spread some Christmas cheer at the 34th Annual Santa Run Parade driving a float signed by our team members. It was great to see so many members of our community come out and join in on the fun. Visit our website at [www.CollierVotes.gov](http://www.CollierVotes.gov) to see where our Elections Team will be in the new year!



# BE ELECTION READY

We are less than 100 days away from the first election of 2024: the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP). Election Day for the PPP is Tuesday, March 19, 2024, and there are a few things you should know before then.

Typically, the PPP is part of the presidential nominating process for Florida's two major political parties. However, since the Democratic Party has only one candidate, the Republican Party will be the only participating party in the upcoming election. Here are a few reminders to help you BE Election Ready...

- Florida is a Closed Primary state. Voters must register to vote and/or update their party affiliation by February 20 in order to participate in this election.
- Voters who wish to vote by mail for this election must submit their Vote-by-Mail ballot request by 5 p.m. on March 7. All Vote-by-Mail ballot requests from previous years have expired.
- Early voting is March 9-16 and polls are open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily.
- Election Day is March 19 and polls are open 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Voters must vote in their assigned polling place.

To register to vote, update your party affiliation, or submit a Vote-by-Mail ballot request, visit [www.CollierVotes.gov](http://www.CollierVotes.gov).

## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF WILLIAM KOCSES

This month, we celebrated and bid farewell to Election Services Director, William Kocses who retired after 20 years of dedicated service. In 2003, then Supervisor of Elections Jennifer J. Edwards, recruited William to join the elections team as the Election Services Coordinator. During his time with our office, he learned the responsibilities of each department and never failed to support the team whenever he could.

William recalls feeling that same support from members of the office after going through some personal hardships and later adjusting to his sudden change in position as Elections Services Director in the midst of an election cycle. During that specific time, he will never forget how the team rallied around him to ensure he was ready to take on the duties of his new position, especially remembering the support he received from then Chief Deputy Melissa R. Blazier whom he worked with for over 17 years.

"We really are like family, and we've all survived different things together. Working for the voters in Collier County has been a privilege and it can be a lot of fun. After every election cycle, the voters are very appreciative of the work we do, and that is always a positive and makes all of us feel really good."

William, thank you so much for 20 incredible years. We wish you many new and amazing adventures!



## SPOTLIGHT

### MYTH BUSTER

#### MYTH

You cannot drop off your Vote-by-Mail ballot anywhere. You can only mail them in.

#### BUSTED

A Vote-by-Mail ballot may be returned by mail, express mail, at any secure ballot intake station during early voting, or in person to the Supervisor of Elections office.

Get more Myth Busters - follow us on social media!

@CollierVotes | #ElectionReady



Charles Miller joined our Elections Team back in August and has hit the ground running as our Election Worker Coordinator! From conducting orientations to recruiting new election workers, Charles has been working hard to ensure our election workers are ready for the upcoming elections.

Charles is originally from Ohio, where he graduated from The Ohio State University (yes, THE) with a degree in political science.

Before he began working for the Supervisor of Elections office, Charles was a teacher specializing in English as a second language and social studies. He enjoys hunting, fishing, being out on the water and taking in the natural beauty of Florida and Collier County!

#### 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](mailto:ElectionWorker@CollierVotes.gov).