

# 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.



MELISSA R. BLAZIER  
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

our past and current service members the respect they deserved for protecting our nation.

I was thrilled to attend the Collier County Republican Men's Club 'Salute to Veterans' Luncheon where we heard from Vice Admiral (Ret.) Sean Pybus. Vice Admiral Pybus gave an inspiring account of his career as a U.S. Navy Seal, as well as a realistic view of the challenges our country faces today. It was an honor to be among so many men and women who have made such great sacrifices for our country.

We are less than a year away from the 2024 General Election and this month our staff warmed up with the November 28 City of Everglades City Election. Overall, approximately 60% of Everglades City voters showed up to cast their ballot for Mayor, City Council and they also voted on several charter amendments.

Learn more about how we are preparing for the 2024 elections in this edition of News & Views.

### SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

#### *Thankful for our Veterans*

November is a time to give thanks and honor those who have made significant sacrifices so we can enjoy our American liberties, including the right to vote.

This Veterans Day, our staff launched a Call for Heroes inviting the community to nominate a veteran or current service member for our Vote in Honor of a Veteran program. Our goal is to encourage broad voter participation and educate our youth about the sacrifices veterans have made and continue to make every day so that we may continue to live in freedom. By exercising our right to vote, we show



Supervisor Melissa R. Blazier pictured with Michelle Borders and Vice Admiral (Ret.) Sean Pybus.

*News & Views*

## OUT & ABOUT

### *Getting our Senior Voters Election Ready!*

The 2024 elections are just around the corner, and the Supervisor of Elections office has been busy helping our senior voters get election ready!

We had the pleasure of visiting several assisted/independent living facilities and retirement communities across Collier County, including Vi at Bentley Village, Terracina Grand Senior Living, and Moorings Park Retirement Community. During each visit, we assisted senior residents with updating their voter information and submitting requests for their Vote-by-Mail ballots for 2024. Our team also helped new Florida residents register to vote and provided voter education about the upcoming elections.

If you would like an election official to visit your organization or event, please contact us at (239) 252-VOTE (8683).



# CALL FOR HEROES

Our veterans have made incredible sacrifices to ensure our rights and freedoms are always protected. As civilians, we must take our responsibilities seriously, including exercising our right to vote.

The Supervisor of Elections is proud to have our Vote in Honor of a Veteran program as a way to salute our veterans and encourage voter participation. We are currently accepting nominations to honor military men and women who have served or who are currently serving in the U.S. Military. Those who wish to nominate a veteran or wish to share their own story of their service, can submit a biography form and photo that will be exhibited on the Supervisor of Elections' virtual Honor Wall, social media channels, and at local voter outreach events.

Through this program we can personalize the voting experience for everyone and show our appreciation to those who have given so much to us all so that we may continue to live in freedom and exercise our right to vote.

Visit [www.CollierVotes.gov/VETERAN](http://www.CollierVotes.gov/VETERAN) to nominate a veteran or current service member and to view those already inducted into the program.



## KEEPING STAFF SAFE



Earlier this month, we were alerted to bad actors targeting election officials after their 2023 elections. Although the threats had not expanded to Collier County or to the state of Florida, Supervisor Blazier took immediate action working with law enforcement, the U.S.P.S. and other state and federal partners to put the necessary precautions in place ensuring the safety of our staff. She then later spoke with WINK News about how the Supervisor of Elections office takes proactive measures to ensure the safety of their employees and election workers.

## MYTH BUSTER

### MYTH

I can request my Vote-by-Mail ballot a week before the election.

### BUSTED

Requests for Vote-By-Mail ballots to be sent by mail must be received no later than 5 p.m. on the 12th day before the election.

**Get more Myth Busters - follow us on social media!**

@CollierVotes | #ElectionReady



## SPOTLIGHT

This month, we are spotlighting one of our local heroes and dedicated election workers: Sergeant Major Craig A. Layton.

Craig Layton served as Command Sergeant Major and paratrooper for the U.S. Army having served for over 30 years. During his time in the military, Craig served during conflicts in Grenada, Panama, and Kosovo. He was honored with a Distinguished Service Medal and Legion of Merit award for his exceptional service to our country.

Craig, along with his four-legged partner, Sergeant Palmer, continues to serve his community by working at the polls for the Supervisor of Elections office. He joined our elections team in 2012 as a part of the St. Williams Catholic Church Knights of Columbus. The organization is a part of our Adopt-a-Precinct program, where groups "adopt" a precinct by providing volunteers to staff elections for an election cycle, and the group uses the money earned for scholarships and other charities.

We are thankful for Craig's service to the country and are proud to have him as a member of our team!

