

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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We are less than 50 days from the first election of the year – the Presidential Preference Primary. Since the Democratic Party has only one candidate, the Republican Party will be the only party with Presidential Candidates on the ballot. Voters who live within the city limits of the City of Naples will see the Mayoral and City Council races on their ballot. For voters who live within the city limits of Marco Island, they will see two amendments to the city's charter on their ballot.

Election Day for the Presidential Preference Primary is Tuesday, March 19. Early voting for the election will take place March 9-16, and polls will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. As a reminder, all Vote-by-Mail ballot requests from previous years have expired, so voters who wish to vote by mail for the upcoming election must submit their request by 5 p.m. on March 7.

During the election season we anticipate a lot of information circulating about voting and elections in Florida and Collier County. I want to remind you that WE are the trusted source for voting and election information in Collier County.

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

News & Views

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Another Election Year!

Since the start of the new year, our team has hit the ground running as we get ready for the upcoming elections. This month, I traveled to Tallahassee and had the honor of meeting with our local representatives to discuss the future of election administration in Collier County and the entire state of Florida. Florida is the gold standard for election administration, and I am proud that Collier County has a reputation of conducting excellent elections.



OUT & ABOUT

MLK Day Parade & Voter Education Programs

It's been quite a busy month for the Supervisor of Elections office!

Our Elections Team participated in the 27th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Naples. The parade was followed by a celebration in Cambier Park where our Diplomats registered voters and provided election information to attendees.

Our office also conducted numerous Transparency Tours with local organizations and members of the public including the Democratic Women's Club of Marco Island, the Greater Naples Chamber Leadership Collier class of 2024, and residents of the local senior living community, Arbor Trace. During these tours, visitors met our team members and learned about how elections are conducted in Collier County. We also had the opportunity to host several high school students participating in the League of Women Voters of Collier County's "Know Your County Government" program. On top of receiving their own behind-the-scenes tour of our operations, participants voted in a mock election using real voting equipment and registered/pre-registered to vote ahead of the 2024 election cycle!

Visit our website at www.CollierVotes.gov to see where our Elections Team will be next month!



FSE SCHOLARSHIP

Attention College Students!

Are you a current college student looking for some financial assistance this year? We have an opportunity for you!

Every year, the Florida Supervisors of Elections offer a scholarship opportunity for students who have finished two years of undergraduate work and are majoring in political science, public/business administration, or journalism/mass communications. This year, they will award four scholarships in the amount of \$1,200 to students in Florida. The winning students are to be announced and recognized at the FSE Summer Conference in the summer of 2024.

The deadline to apply for this scholarship is March 8, 2024. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements, maintain a "C" average or above, and remain in good standing at their institution.

Students who are registered to vote in Collier County should submit their application to our office: 3750 Enterprise Ave, Naples Florida 34104. We will select one finalist from Collier County for consideration by the scholarship committee.

To learn more about the requirements and how to submit an application, visit www.CollierVotes.gov/FSE.



VOTE-BY-MAIL TO-DOS

We want to make sure YOU are Election Ready – especially if you plan to vote by mail! Our office will begin mailing Vote-by-Mail ballots on February 3 to overseas and military voters and on February 8 to domestic voters.

With the Presidential Preference Primary right around the corner, it is important that you should check off your Vote-By-Mail To-Do list:

- Submit a Vote-by-Mail Request – 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.
- Verify Mailing Address – Vote-by-Mail ballots cannot be forwarded, so it's important that voters verify where they requested to receive their ballots. Verify your address by contacting our office at (239) 252-VOTE (8683) or visit www.CollierVotes.gov
- Update Voter Signature – A voter's signature is crucial to the Vote-by-Mail process. When voters cast a Vote-by-Mail ballot, Florida election law requires each voter to sign a Voter's Certificate on the back of the return envelope. Updating a signature will prevent a Vote-by-Mail ballot from being referred to the Canvassing Board due to a non-matching signature.

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A Vote-By-Mail Ballot will automatically be sent to all registered voters in Collier County.

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Only the voter, their immediate family member, or their legal guardian may request the voter's Vote-by-Mail ballot for any election. 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. Voters can request Vote-by-Mail ballots for all elections they are eligible to vote in up to one calendar year.

Get more Myth Busters - follow us on social media!

@CollierVotes | #ElectionReady



SPOTLIGHT



Gianfranco DiCarlo (aka Franco) joined our Elections Team in October as our Election Services Coordinator! From helping with outreach events to assisting in election worker orientations and training, Franco has been a key player in ensuring our Election Services Department is ready for the upcoming elections!

Franco has lived in seven states (including Florida) and recently moved from Washington before making the Sunshine State his new home. He received his bachelor's degree in political science from Washington State University and his master's degree from Florida Atlantic University. Franco loves working out at the gym, watching sports and spending time with his family and friends.

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.