



# COLLIER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS NEWS & VIEWS

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



**JENNIFER J. EDWARDS**  
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

## SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

### Summer Planning

Our office is continuing to work on projects that focus on preparing and improving the election process for 2016. Such projects include a precinct-improvement effort, creation of new outreach activities and Election Worker recruitment.

In May, our staff made suggestions which include the creation of two new precincts to help prevent lines and increase the performance of voter flow during the 2016 elections. The Board of County Commissioners approved these items and we will now begin implementing these updates and communicating to voters affected by any changes.

Additionally, our Voter Education Department is promoting outreach services conducted by our office. If you would like to invite an election official to your next event, or host an election for your organization, please call us at (239)252-VOTE. All of our outreach services can be found on our website at [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com) under the Voter Education & Outreach page.

We also have orientations scheduled for new Election Workers and Diplomats. If you have family members, friends or peers who are looking for ways to serve in the community, please guide them to our website to fill out an application.

We are also excited to introduce three new members of our staff in this issue of News & Views! Keep reading to learn more.



I was honored to attend a dedication ceremony for Dr. Fay Biles who is a local advocate on Marco Island. Leaders like Dr. Fay and her late husband, Bedford Biles, make me proud to be a Collier resident!

## OUT & ABOUT

### Professional Development

Our office is taking time to brush up on professional development opportunities. In April, some of the staff joined me at an Election Center conference in Chicago where we heard from top election officials who provided useful information and case studies on successful elections. We also attended the 2016 Annual Summer Conference hosted by the Florida State Association of Supervisor of Elections (FSASE) where we had the opportunity to hear from fellow Supervisors in Florida and meet with some of our vendors. We will continue to attend seminars and workshops to continue sharpening our skills as we approach 2016.



Congratulations to all our fellow election professionals who were designated as Master Florida Certified Election Professionals at the FSASE Summer Conference!

## TRAINING NEWS



**ROGER MUNZ**  
TRAINING DIRECTOR

The Training Department has been busy assisting with precinct boundary changes and strategizing on Election Worker recruitment.

As Election Workers and Diplomats, we rely on you to serve as our voting advocates. How can you help? Encourage friends, family and peers to visit [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com). Our website serves as a tool to locate voting precincts, recruit Election Workers, and serves as a hub for communications on changes and events from our office.

Future orientations for new workers began in June and will proceed on July 16 and August 27. Sessions will be held at 10:00 a.m. and at 6:00 p.m. If you know someone looking to serve at the polls on Election Day, please have them visit our website to fill out an application. Once we receive their information, we will make contact to schedule their orientation.

Thank you all for your continued support in making elections work. Enjoy your summer and we will see you all very soon!

The Training Team



**JESSICA CHRONISTER**  
VOTE BY MAIL SUPERVISOR

Naples United Methodist Church where she served as the Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries.

Jessica is married to Tyler Chronister, a software engineer, and on the weekend you can find them at church, at the dog park with their English Shepherd named Penny, at the movies, or with their family and friends.

Jessica looks forward to contributing to the Elections Team and working to make your vote-by-mail experience a positive one.

Don't forget – anyone can vote by mail and it's never too early to request your ballots for the 2016 election cycle! Go to [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com) and click on "Vote by Mail" for more information.

## VOTE BY MAIL UPDATES

### *New Staff!*

Jessica Chronister joined the Supervisor of Elections Office on May 4. Jessica was born and raised in Naples.

She attended Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She then attended Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Florida where she received her Juris Doctor. She comes to us after four and a half years at East

Naples United Methodist Church where she served as the Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries.

Jessica is married to Tyler Chronister, a software engineer, and on the weekend you can find them at church, at the dog park with their English Shepherd named Penny, at the movies, or with their family and friends.

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## CANDIDATE QUALIFYING

### *Presidential Numbers*



**DAVE CARPENTER**  
QUALIFYING OFFICER

After becoming a separate county in 1923, Collier participated in its first Presidential Election in 1924. As part of the "Solid South," 148 Collier voters cast their vote for Democrat John Davis of West Virginia, 15 voted for Republican Calvin Coolidge, 5 for Progressive Robert LaFollette and 12 for various write-in candidates. Collier's 180 votes did not affect the outcome of the race. America decided to "Keep Cool with Coolidge" by re-electing "Silent Cal" with 54% of the popular vote.

Collier County did not pass the 1,000 votes cast number until the 1952 Presidential Election.

The contest between the Republican Eisenhower and Democrat Stevenson saw 2,190 voters cast their ballots with a near even split: 1,104 for Stevenson and 1,086 for Ike. This would be the last year that a Democratic presidential candidate would carry Collier.

It took us until 1968 for Collier to pass the 10,000 vote mark in the contest between Nixon and Humphrey and twenty years later we turned out over 50,000 votes in the 1988 Bush vs. Dukakis race. The pace of growth in Collier County was demonstrated in 2008 when we passed the 100,000 ballot cast mark with over 128,000 ballots counted in the match between John Kerry and George W. Bush.

In 2012 over 150,000 Collier voters turned out to vote for President, an increase of almost 850% in the 88 years since Collier became a county. The 2016 Presidential Ballot promises another milestone for Collier; a ten percent uptick in votes compared to 2012 would certainly be no surprise. Since becoming a county the most consistent thing about our participation in the Presidential selection process has been the growth in ballots to be counted.



**JULIO VIGIL**  
ELECTION SERVICES  
COORDINATOR

## OPERATIONS DEPT

Our office is currently implementing a precinct improvement project based on the growth of Collier County and voting trends during the 2012 and 2014 Election Cycles. As a result, our office has relocated a few polling locations and we have increased our precincts from 58 to 60.

Voters who live north of Golden Gate Parkway and east of Santa Barbara Boulevard may be affected by the boundary change. Precinct 324 was created in an effort to reduce lines and improve the voter flow on Election Day.

We have also added a precinct for voters who live in the Ave Maria community. Rather than voting at the Immokalee Community Park, voters will be able to cast their ballot in the Ave Maria Community Room at the new Precinct 593.

These changes were recommended by the staff of our office and approved by the Board of County Commissioners in May. Changes will affect nearly 17,000 voters, and anyone affected by this change will receive a new voter information card. Our office will also be conducting outreach in the community this fall, reminding voters to check their information in preparation of the 2016 Election Cycle.

## VOTER EDUCATION

### *New Staff!*

Hello! My name is Heather Wysocki and I'm so thrilled to be the new Education Coordinator for the Collier County Supervisor of Elections Office!



**HEATHER WYSOCKI**  
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

I moved to Southwest Florida in January of 2014 and cannot get enough of the sun and sand!

I earned my Bachelor's degree in Communications from Suffolk University in Boston, and prior to my employment at the Elections Office, I was a reporter for the News-Press.

This spring, we visited nearly 30 public and private schools for a variety of programs, including student government elections and elections for the Florida Reading Association and Sunshine State Young Readers Awards programs. All told, in April, May and June we worked with almost 6,400 students at all grade levels.

Now, we are gearing up for a very busy fall! Our calendar includes National Voter Registration Day on September 22 and our annual High School Voter Registration Challenge. As always, we will be out and about in the community, providing information about the upcoming elections.

If you are a school teacher or administrator looking for information about elections, or a community leader with an upcoming event we can attend, please call us at (239)252-VOTE. For information on all the programs we offer, visit our website at [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com) and click on "Community/Calendar."

We are also looking for energetic individuals who would like to serve as Diplomats for our office. If you are interested in joining our team, email: [heatherwysocki@colliergov.net](mailto:heatherwysocki@colliergov.net) and we will schedule you for our next orientation on August 13.



**DAVID "DUSTIN" DEBRES**  
NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

## BEHIND THE SCENES WITH IT

### *New Staff!*

David DeBres joined the Supervisor of Elections Office on June 1 as our IT Network Administrator. David is passionate about finding solutions using technology and simplifying issues to improve the quality of the work environment.

David was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, but grew up in Cape Coral, Florida. He first found interest in technology as a high school student and began his career in 2000 after joining Collier County's IT Department. David served in many capacities during his tenure with Collier County including Applications Analyst, Coding and Web Programmer and as a Project Manager.

David is currently pursuing his Bachelors Degree at FSW in Applied Science in Supervision & Management. David considers himself a "foodie" and is an avid hockey fan. In his spare time, he can be found spending time with his beautiful wife of 10 years, Jaimie, and their daughter, Sofia. He also enjoys kayaking, fishing and he has an interest in exotic and rare cars.

Welcome, David - we are so happy to have you join our office!

## SPOTLIGHT: PENNY PRICE, DIPLOMAT



Penny Price (right), pictured with Education Coordinator, Heather Wysocki

Penny Price has been a Diplomat with our office since spring of 2014 and we are so proud to feature her in the Spotlight section of our newsletter!

Penny's favorite aspect of working as Diplomat is interacting with people, and although she takes pleasure in going to the schools to teach students the importance of voting, she also enjoys the interactions she is able to have with new voters and making sure they are registered to vote in the upcoming elections.

"Voting is our right and it is such a blessing to be in a country where our voices can be heard through voting. I'm so proud to work for someone as proactive as Jennifer and the Collier County Elections Office when it comes to registering voters!"

Penny enjoys spending time with her family which includes her husband, Ken and her four children. She also owns a Christmas decorating service and is active in her church.

Thank you Penny for all you do for our office and for our voters – we are so glad to have you on our team! If you would like to become a Diplomat for our office, contact us at (239)252-VOTE.

## 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](http://www.CollierVotes.com)

