



Jennifer J. Edwards
Supervisor of Elections

Supervisor of Elections News & Views

Our Mission: Ensure the integrity of the Electoral Process

Vol I ~ 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Congratulations! As your Supervisor of Elections, I am very proud and grateful of the professional manner in which Collier County conducted the 2008 elections.

Beginning with the August Primary Election, Collier County transitioned from the iVotronic touch screen voting system to the DS 200 paper-based voting system. Due to our dedicated professional trainers and poll workers this extreme transitional challenge was successfully met. Voter registration in Collier County climbed by over 5,000 voters between the Primary Election and the General Election – 197,716 registered voters to 203,075 registered voters respectively – keeping the customer service team extremely busy.

Further preparation required the training of over 2,000 poll workers to assist during the Primary Election and General Election. Voter turnout for the Primary Election was 19%. For the General Election, voter turnout increased to 70% - down from a 77% turnout reached in both the 2000 and 2004 General Election.

During 2008, voter turnout was greatest on Election Day during the Primary Election with 9% of the eligible voters casting a ballot at their precinct. However, Election Day and early voting tied at 26% in terms of voter turnout for the General Election. A record 63% of the voter turnout in the General Election voted before Election Day – Early or by mail ballot.

For both the 2008 Primary and General Elections, 49 or 52% of the 94 precincts in Collier County were adopted through the Adopt-A-Precinct program. Of the more than 1750 trained pool workers who staffed the precincts during the Primary and General Elections, 905 were Adopt-A-Precinct partners. These partners raised over \$134,000 for the various charities or fund-raising efforts.

In honor of all the hard work and dedication demonstrated by the Collier County 2008 Election Team, a reception will be held on February 11th at the Elks Lodge on Radio Road. I look forward to seeing you there and thanking you personally for a job well done.



Supervisor of Elections Office has presence at North Collier Government Center

The Supervisor of Elections Office shares space in the North Collier Government Center in unison with the Tax Collector, the Property Appraiser, and the Clerk of Courts.

The North Collier Government Center is located at 2335 Orange Blossom Drive, and is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



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Poll Worker Orientation Classes



Linda Puchhas
Poll Worker
Coordinator

Monthly orientations classes are currently underway. These classes provide an overview of the election process and anyone who may be interested in working for the very first time as a poll worker or as a Spanish or Creole translator is invited to attend.

The hour-long class covers the various positions available and the responsibilities involved. Classes will be held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and are held at the Supervisor of Elections training center located inside the Golden Gate Community Park off Santa Barbara Blvd.

For more information contact Linda Puchhas at 252-8052 or by email LindaPuchhas@colliergov.net



Updates from the Training Department



Roger Munz
Training Officer

The Primary and General Elections were a success due to the dedicated poll workers who make each election work. It took approximately 1200 poll workers to staff the 94 precincts, the seven early sites, receiving boards, call center, runners, rovers, and trainers for the November Election alone. There were two elections conducted, August 26 and November 4, 2008. The new voting system for both the voter and the poll workers were conducted using the DS-200, "optical scanner," and "fill in the oval" paper ballot process. This new process was a departure from the January, Presidential Primary.

Voter turnout for the August primary was 19%, and November General was 70%. These percentages were inclusive of Absentee and Early Voting. The increased level of voter turnout during early voting for the General Election was due in part to the extended hours directed by the Governor for the last four days of early voting.

A special thank you needs to be given to those workers who, when asked, stepped up to work the extra time on short notice. This very dedicated group of individuals make elections work in Collier County.

This election cycle, the voters were asked to complete comment cards regarding their voting experience. The comments received about the poll workers from each of our voting locations have been:

"Very professional, helpful, cheerful, friendly, polite, competent, courteous, efficient, all had smiles, very clear directions, great assistance, the service was WOW, and BRAVO."

After each election cycle we have a poll worker recognition reception to honor our poll workers. This year the event will be on **February 11, 2009, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge**. Please watch for your invitation in the mail.

Thank you again for your commitment to making elections work and for the great job each of you provides to the Supervisor of Elections.

Preparation has already begun for the 2010 Election cycle. We will be ready for the changes that are coming and looking forward to seeing you again at the next training classes.

Roger, Linda & Kevin
The Training Department

Candidates

Collier County had a record number of 80 local candidates this year. Not all of them appeared on the ballot as 28 were unopposed and 5 withdrew; leaving 47 to fight it out on the ballot. These numbers will continue to rise in the future as more Community Development Districts become eligible for elections.

Campaigning isn't cheap. Candidates for local office raised a total of \$673,114.78 for their campaigns in Collier County. The most expensive race was for

Sheriff where a total of \$267,275.96 was raised by the three candidates competing in the primary.

At the other end of the spectrum, 34 candidates only raised \$25.00 each, enough to pay their qualifying fee for an independent district office.



Dave Carpenter
Qualifying Officer



Voter Education Highlights



Cyndi Young
Voter Education
Coordinator

Wow... what an exciting year! Along with the help and dedication of a GREAT group of Diplomats, the voter outreach department provided voter education as well as formed alliances with the business community. These business partnerships provided the Diplomats opportunities to demonstrate the DS 200 voting system across the county. These partnerships included: Lowes Home Improvement, Kmart – all three locations, Steinmart, Costco Wholesale Warehouse, Ann's Hallmark, Books-A-Million, Staples, SunSplash, Winn

Dixie, Sweetbay, Whole Foods, Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union, Bank of America, Fifth Third Bank, Orion Bank of Marco Island, Marco Island Community Bank, Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens, YMCA of Collier County, The vonLiebig Art Center, United Parcel Service, Wal-Mart, Sams Club, AC Moore and Ave Maria.

In 2008, voter registration drives and/or demonstrations were also conducted with existing partners – the Greater Naples Chamber, Marco Island Chamber, Immokalee Chamber, Immokalee Inter-Agency, CBIA, NABOR, Collier County Public Schools, Collier County Public Libraries, Collier County Sheriffs Office, Collier County Parks and Recreation, Naples City Hall, Tiger Bay, East Naples Civic Association, and Kiwanis, Rotary, and Lions Clubs. Work also continued at assisted and skilled living facilities, universities and colleges – Hodges University and Edison State College – and throughout the community-at-large.

To help promote greater voter awareness, many local Collier County restaurants, along with McDonalds and Chic-A-Filet, partnered with the Supervisor of Elections Office by utilizing the supplied election-related tray liners. Such efforts have provided more opportunities for the office to expand its outreach.

Thanks Diplomats for ALL your hard work –Bill, Joyce, Julio, Sara, Rosa, Jim, Pat, Jane, Eymy, Irma, Melody, Jane, Debbie, Carol, Janie, Jack, Pat, Chris, Jo, Shirlee, and Carl.

The Absentee Department



Timothy
Durham
Deputy
Supervisor

For the General Election 2008, 43,774 eligible voters requested absentee ballots and 37,976 ballots were returned or cast. This is a return rate of 87%,

which is exceptionally high. Of the 40,457 ballots that we were able to track for the month of October, the average time spent in the postal system per piece was only three days. None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary commitment and professionalism of Eric West, Absentee Manager; Bob Best, Absentee Coordinator; Geoff Willig, Assistant Absentee Coordinator; and our temporary help, especially Bob Goodrich and our ballot opening teams.

On a more somber note, I would like to remind voters to follow the instructions provided with their absentee ballots and sign the voter's certificate on the back of the return envelopes before mailing.

Retiring Poll Workers

The following Poll Workers worked during the 2008 elections and have recently retired after the election cycle:



GEORGIA
BRUGGEMEYER
Clerk & Inspector
1980-2008



SHIRLEY MOORE
Inspector
12 elections



BEULA PERRY
Clerk
12 elections



JOY HOFFMAN
Inspector
8 elections



MARILYN CHAMPEAU
Inspector
9 elections



ROGER RHODES
Poll Deputy
6 elections

**Thank You For Your Dedication To The Elections Office!
We Will Miss You!**

2008 Election Volunteer Poll Workers



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Supervisor of Elections
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Naples, FL 34112-4907

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