

COLLIER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS NEWS & VIEWS

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



JENNIFER J. EDWARDS
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

Spring Forward!

We hope everyone has had a great winter and holiday season. Spring is here, and in a year without major elections that means we have just finished reviewing our recent election cycle and recognizing our election workers; we are ramping up preparations for 2014; and we are closely following the Florida State Legislative session.

In legislative news, our state senators and representatives have introduced over 30 bills relating to election law. Some of the bigger changes that could be in effect at the end of this session include word limits on the ballot for legislatively-referred constitutional amendments, more choices for early voting sites, and a higher maximum number of early voting days. Our office is already planning for possible outcomes. Go to CollierVotes.com for a link to the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections website, where you can track the bills and see our legislative priorities.

Now that we have had a chance to take an in-depth look at the 2012 elections, we are looking at ways to continue improving the voting experience here in Collier. We are making improvements to our equipment, and may be purchasing new ADA voting equipment, as well as potentially changing some polling sites. We are also participating in numerous outreach activities, encouraging voter registration and voter information updates. This is particularly important with voters whose signatures may have changed. You can read all about our activities in the following pages.

We encourage everyone to "like" us on Facebook for more news and updates. And of course, feel free to contact us anytime at supervisorofelections@colliergov.net or (239) 252-8450! Until next time,

Jennifer staffs our booth
at the Martin Luther
King Jr. Day festival



OUT & ABOUT

Elections Employee Honored

Congratulations to our Customer Service Representative, Shavontae, on being named the 2013 Distinguished Alumna by Fun Time Early Childhood Academy. Shavontae has been with the Supervisor of Elections office for 17 years and we are happy to add our kudos for her exceptional service to Collier County!

Shavontae displays her "Distinguished Alumna" award



VOTER EDUCATION

School Voting Programs



CYNDI YOUNG
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Much like the weather, March came in like a lion and we continue to provide numerous outreach activities and awareness programs. This is the 11th year we have partnered with public and private elementary and middle schools to give students the chance to vote on the actual voting machines. Kindergarten through eighth grade students learn about voting as they select their favorite book in one of three statewide reading programs.

Each year, more schools and students have participated and we expect the program will continue to grow in 2013. Since the partnership began, over 30,000 students have enjoyed this hands-on voting experience.

Currently, voter registration drives and awareness programs are underway in the high schools. And in April, we will conduct the annual Edison State College student government elections. We also hold registration drives and awareness programs during this two-day Edison State College event.

To learn more about our voter education and outreach activities, visit www.CollierVotes.com and click on "calendar".



BOB BEST
ABSENTEE SUPERVISOR

ABSENTEE UPDATES

Current Signatures Help Voters

Did you know, when voting in person, by provisional ballot, or by mail/absentee ballot, state law requires voters to sign a Voter's Certificate? An exact match of a voter's signature is not required, but it must reasonably match the current signature of record.

All voters should consider periodically updating their signatures on file with our office. Ensuring that the signature on file matches the signature when voting helps alleviate delays at the polls, and prevents mail/absentee ballot disqualification due to a non-matching signature.

Voters may need to update their signatures in several circumstances, such as: signature changed over time, difficulty with the electronic signature pad at a Driver License office, name change, or an injury/change in motor skills.

To update a signature, state law requires an original signature on a Florida Voter Registration Application. Print one at CollierVotes.com or request one at (239) 252-8450. Mail or deliver the completed original to our office.

Voters who use different signature styles (for example, professional versus personal), may wish to keep a copy of the updated voter registration as a reminder. Questions? Go to CollierVotes.com or call (239) 252-8450.



DAVE CARPENTER
QUALIFYING OFFICER

CANDIDATE QUALIFYING

What is a CDD?

Community Development Districts or "CDDs" appear frequently on the November ballot in Collier County. Some of the older and better-known CDDs in Collier include Lely and Pelican Marsh.

CDDs are a financing method for developers, governed by Florida Statutes and subject to approval by the County Commission. Creating a CDD allows developers to sell bonds to pay for a development's infrastructure, such as roads and sewers. The bonds are paid by taxes on the property, and when lots are sold, new owners assume the tax liability. The infrastructure costs appear yearly on the home owner's tax bills until the bonds are paid.

CDDs also have power to exercise a limited ad valorem tax; therefore Florida Statutes require CDDs to have an elected board. Each CDD has a five-member Board of Supervisors first elected by the land owners. Over time, each CDD transitions to a board elected by the district's voters. The races are held in the General Election and candidates qualify with our office.

The success of this financing method can be seen in the large number of CDDs in Collier and around the state. While most are created to facilitate residential development, some, including two in Collier County are strictly commercial and as such will always be under control of the landowners.



ROGER MUNZ

TRAINING DIRECTOR

TRAINING NEWS

Election Workers Recognized

Everyone had a great time at the Election Worker Appreciation Reception on February 12th.

The 2012 workers attending enjoyed socializing, an address from Jennifer Edwards, and Presidential trivia. Trivia winner Karl Williams, with the "SCORE" Adopt-a-Precinct, received a gift certificate for his prize. Runners-up won a "Presidential Portrait" (two-dollar bill) and all who participated received a "Presidential Medal" (Lincoln penny).

Another event highlight was our awards ceremony. Chief Scott Salley was recognized for his 10 years of dedication to the swearing-in of every election's poll deputies. Chief Salley retired from the Collier County Sheriff's Office in January 2013.

Herb Savage was the recipient of the most senior worker from the 2012 cycle, and also lead the group in singing "God Bless America". He announced that he is 94 years young and plans to work in the next cycle.

We also recognized a variety of Early Voting and Election Day workers in categories such as Friendliest Deputy, Best Smile, and Most Flexible (see photos next page). We made a special call-out to our language translators who were in attendance and they received a great round of applause for their service.

Looking forward to 2014, our department is reviewing the election worker e-learning program, watching for legislative changes to early voting days and times, and exploring the possibility of new ADA equipment. We will contact those workers who expressed an interest in serving on the ADA Task Force hopefully by early summer. If you are interested in serving on this Task Force, email rogermunz@colliergov.net.

Later this summer, we will begin orientations for voters interested in working the next election cycle, including: City of Naples election, Primary and the General. Interested voters should complete an application at CollierVotes.com (click on "Election Workers").

As Jennifer always says, we could not conduct elections without our election workers. You are the Gate Keepers of Democracy, and our Thanks for all your help!

ELECTION SERVICES

Improvements Underway



JULIO VIGIL

**ELECTION SERVICES
COORDINATOR**

The Election Services department is always looking for ways to improve the voting experience for voters, election workers and polling sites.

We are all pleased with how smoothly the 2012 General Election was conducted. The combination of increasing voting equipment and voting booths, and great election workers, helped us process voters quickly, efficiently and professionally.

For future elections, my department is analyzing all polling sites to determine if any need to be changed or consolidated to accommodate extra equipment, voters and election workers.

Additionally, we are enhancing our voting equipment. For example, we have begun adding base strengtheners to the DS200 ballot scanners. The strengtheners protect the DS200 base and wheels and reduce damage that can be caused during shipping to polling sites.

We are also improving the EViD check-in machine hardware by labeling the location of each component. This will make it easier for election workers to set-up and put away the machines. Furthermore, the labeling of the EViD components helps our warehouse personnel verify that the all components are in stock prior to shipping the EViD to its polling site.

Finally, we have upgraded the election worker cell phones that are used during Early Voting and Election Day. The new phones have 4G capability, which will improve reception and enhance communication with our call center.

We are of course busy planning for this year's Everglades City Election, as well as the 2014 cycle, while keeping an eye on the legislative session so we can be ready to implement any election law changes.

"Like" us on Facebook

Be a fan of the Collier County Supervisor of Elections Facebook page for all our latest news!





SPOTLIGHT: ELECTION WORKER RECEPTION

Congratulations to our award winners: Paul Ciurla, Neil Curley, Lucie Smith, Linda Wallen, Elaine & Bernard Frerick, William Evans, Jean Kmon, Herb Savage, and Robert & Joan Grasso.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Upcoming Election Dates: Everglades City Municipal: Nov. 26, 2013

Naples Municipal: Feb. 4, 2014 Primary: Aug. 12, 2014 *subject to change* General: Nov. 4, 2014

Visit us on the web: www.CollierVotes.com

