Election Worker Reception

Thank you to everyone who attended our Election Worker Reception in February! We enjoyed seeing everyone post-election to thank them for their service in 2018 and to warm them up for the next election cycle.

Don’t forget we will have three elections in 2020: the Presidential Preference Primary in March, the Primary in August and the General in November. It will be a busy year for our election workers so if you have friends or family interested in serving their community by working at the polls, please have them visit CollierVotes.com to fill out an application for consideration. Once received, we will invite them to learn more about being a Collier County Election Worker through one of our orientations!
Vote-by-Mail Updates

Updating Your Signature

How important is your signature when voting by mail? VERY! Below are some common misconceptions regarding the importance of your signature in the voting process.

1. My signature hasn’t changed.

When a Vote-by-Mail ballot is received, we compare that signature to the signature on record. Some of those signatures date back to the original registration which could be years old. Even if you feel your signature has not changed, don’t take the risk. You can easily update your signature by filling out a new Voter Registration Application.

2. I can sign my spouse’s name to their ballot for them.

FALSE! As previously stated, signatures on Vote-by-Mail ballots are compared to the signature on record. If the signed ballot differs from the signature on record, the ballot will be referred as a mismatch signature. It is critical that voters only sign their own ballot.

Also, a Power of Attorney cannot legally sign for the voter by law. A ballot signed by a Power of Attorney is NOT subject to the mismatch signature cure and will be recommended for rejection.

If you feel that your signature needs an update, or have a question regarding your unique signature, contact our office at 239-252-VOTE (8683).

Candidate Qualifying

Collier County Elections History
Part 1: A Democratic County

Looking back 50 years on the state of electors and elections, Collier County was a very different county from what we see today. We would find Edna Santa, elected in 1960, serving as Supervisor of Elections with a voter roll of slightly over 14,000. We would also see the Democratic Party hold about a 3,000 voter edge in registration over the Republican Party. Voters would be voting on mechanical lever action voting machines. Approaching the 1970’s, change was beginning to come to the political dynamics of Collier, and by 1976 Republicans took the lead in registration. In 1978, when Collier abandoned the old voting machines and moved to “modern” punch card voting, the ranks of voters had swelled to almost 33,000.

Mary Morgan was elected as the first Republican Supervisor of Elections in 1980 and inherited a voter list of almost 39,000 voters. Eight years later, with the voter count now pushing 62,000, Collier voters decided by a narrow margin to elect their County Commissioners as single-member districts instead of at large. The 80’s closed with a 375% increase in voters, in just two decades, keeping pace with growth which saw Collier’s population move from 38,000 to 152,000 within that same period.
**Training News**

### City of Naples Special Election Recap

Thanks to the more than 50 election workers who assisted our office with the City of Naples Special Election. While turnout was vast in a few of the precincts activated in the election, other sites were a bit slower. Out of the seven precincts, four sites were staffed through our Adopt-a-Precinct program, which is a great way for organizations to fundraise and team build all while serving their community. Overall, our election worker teams did an excellent job and were able to provide a great voting experience for 2,789 city residents casting their ballot on Election Day.

For those who are interested in some of the numbers behind the election, we had three provisional ballots, all for “No ID” and yes, one of them was at 6:59 p.m. There were only 12 spoiled ballots, and a total of 16 voter affirmations for updates and assistance. Our call center received 19 calls throughout the day. It was also the first Election Day where we used the new EViD Edge model and all sites had them up and communicating prior to 6:30 a.m., great job!

Looking ahead to the 2020 Election Cycle, we will be reevaluating procedures, polling places, and recruiting more election workers. We know that many of you have several activities and organizations you are part of and appreciate everyone who makes a commitment to helping us conduct elections in Collier County.

We truly have the best election workers and we look forward to working with you again in the next election!

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### Customer Service

#### List Maintenance

Florida statute requires our office to perform a mandatory list maintenance activity during odd-numbered years. The objective of the activity is to maintain accurate and up-to-date voter records. It also helps our office to determine voter eligibility events triggered by activities that indicate either a change in a voter’s legal residential address or a change in the voter’s eligibility.

As part of our biennial list maintenance activity, our Customer Service Team sends address confirmation request notices to voters who have not had any activity for two years. The voter is asked to complete, sign and return the postage paid notice confirming the voter’s legal residential address. If the card is not returned, or if we do not hear from the voter, the voter may become inactive. If a voter that has been designated as inactive fails to update his or her voter registration information, does not request a Vote-by-Mail ballot, or does not vote by the second General Election after being placed on the inactive list, the voter is removed from our voter records.

Voters are encouraged to update their voter registration to ensure a smooth voting experience. To update your voter information, download and complete a Florida Voter Registration Application or use the online voter registration tool, both found at www.CollierVotes.com.

As always, voters are welcome to visit our offices and speak to a Customer Service Representative for any of their voter needs.

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**Election Services**

### Spring Cleaning & Upgrades

The Elections Services Department has been conducting some spring cleaning while servicing and inventorying all of the equipment in preparation for the 2020 cycle.

We recently completed the acceptance testing of 180 EViD (Electronic Voter Identification Device) Edge models. The acceptance testing simulates voter check-in, wireless communications and printer functionality, by ensuring the functionality and performance is 100%.

Also on the horizon are upgraded 4G modems for our DS200 optical scanners. This will allow better reception at all of our precincts which should ensure a smoother process of receiving results on election night.

This summer we will be reviewing and visiting all of our voting sites to analyze the needs of our growing voter population.

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Spring cleaning is underway in Election Services! We are constantly looking for new ways to improve efficiency by working with our movers to help make delivery, setup and retrieval of voting booths and equipment more manageable!
We sat down with Roger to discuss his tenure at the Elections Office

What do you remember about when you were first hired? 2003 was the beginning of new technology. We had just moved over from paper ballots to iVotronics. Over the next 16 years, we moved back to paper ballots and yet have still managed to increase our technology each cycle.

How many elections do you have under your belt? 31 elections – large and small!

What will you remember from your time at the elections office? The many changes. We went from paper ballots to iVotronics, back to paper ballots. Election results used to modem in by phone line and today, we receive results by a virtual private network. Collier has gone from 90 precincts to 59 and our population continues to grow. In 2003, there were only 140,000 voters – today, we are almost at 215,000!

What are some of the projects you worked on at the elections office? I helped introduce the Adopt-a-Precinct program. We borrowed the idea from Orange County and it continues to benefit not only our office, but also the community. Our department also helped introduce our Vote In Honor of a Veteran program and our Art for Democracy art contest. As someone who is a fan of the arts, I am really proud of this as it strikes a conversation with our young student artists who will eventually become voters.

Anything you’d like to add? My best wishes to everyone who will be working with the best staff! Thank you for all your support and commitment over the last 16 years. I’ve lived in Naples for over 35 years and have no plans to leave the area, so I look forward to bumping into you in the community!