Supervisor’s Message

Ensuring we are Election Ready!

The Presidential Preference Primary Election is right around the corner and we are getting Election Ready – are you?

My staff is working hard to ensure our voters have a smooth voting experience and that includes the hiring and training of hundreds of election workers.

Whether or not you are working this particular election, your participation in the voting process is critical and we encourage you to be election ready. Here are a few things you can do to help you have a quick and enjoyable experience at the polls.

• Make sure your voter registration is up-to-date. Everything from your address to your party registration affects your ballot and determines what contests you are eligible to vote in.

• Know how you are going to cast your ballot. If you are working on Election Day outside of your home precinct, our staff will send you a Vote-by-Mail ballot; however, you also have the option to vote early at one of our nine early voting locations.

• Come see our operation! We will be hosting several public meetings as we gear up for the Presidential Preference Primary and we invite you to come to our office to learn more about the measures we take to ensure our process is accurate and fair.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our office – 2020 is going to be a busy year and we cannot conduct elections without the dedication of our election workers!

Out & About

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade and Celebration

We were honored to once again participate in the NAACP’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade and celebration! We look forward to this event every year as it’s an opportunity for our staff to invite their families to honor Dr. King’s legacy by marching in the parade and allows us to host voter registration and outreach to patrons who attend the celebration in Cambier Park!

Pictured from the left is Administrative Assistant, Madelyn Harper with her son, Grayson; Training & Outreach Director, Kevin Turner (center) and his family: Leslie, Braden and Alyssa; Supervisor of Elections, Jennifer Edwards; Chief Deputy, Melissa Blazier; Outreach Coordinator, Lauren O’Connor and Public Relations Officer, Trish Robertson with her son, HD.

Congrats to Maria Correa who recently registered to vote! We can’t wait to see you at the polls this year!
The Importance of your Signature

In anticipation of the 2020 elections, the Vote-by-Mail Department would like to remind you to keep your signature up-to-date with our office. Your signature is so important to the voting process that election officials across the state recently participated in a workshop to learn more about analyzing signatures. Topics included the letter height ratio, types of individual characteristics such as spacing and baseline habits and letter connection.

When a Vote-by-Mail ballot is received, we compare the signature on the certificate to the signature of record. This is the identifying resource that helps us determine that you are who voted the ballot.

There are several common reasons that a signature can change over time including a recent hand injury, maturity in signing a legal document or growing limitations in hand dexterity.

To update your signature, voters can easily fill out an updated voter registration application form and send it into our office.

Candidate Qualifying

The Delegation Process

Florida enacted the first Presidential Primary in 1901 replacing a convention system where party chiefs from the various Congressional Districts would meet to decide which presidential candidate the state would back. The Presidential Preference Primary allowed party leaders to understand whom their rank and file membership preferred. Today's Florida Presidential Preference Primary actually binds the party's delegates to voting for the voter's choice on the first ballot of the presidential nominating convention, which has given the party's voters some say in who the nominee will probably be.

In Florida, each party has a committee of legislative leaders who determine the candidates to be placed on the primary ballot. They turn this list into the Secretary of State on November 30th to create the Presidential Preference Primary ballot. Florida traditionally has had its primary in March although other dates have been tried over the years. Each party has rules regarding the timing of the primaries to try and create some order among the states.

The results of the Presidential Preference Primary instruct delegates chosen by party caucus how to vote at the convention. The Republican Party has a “winner take all system” whereby whomever gets the most votes in the state will get all the votes at the convention. The Democratic Party divides their delegate votes among the leaders.
ART FOR DEMOCRACY

Students Express the Spirit of Democracy

In 2015, the Collier County Supervisor of Elections launched the Art for Democracy contest to encourage students, teachers and families to engage in conversation about our democratic process through art. Since its launch, Art for Democracy has seen talent from over 500 student artists across Collier County, including with over 200 students participating this year alone!

The winning pieces of art will be displayed at the Naples Art Association January 17-February 27 alongside winning artwork from past contests. Winning artwork from this year will also be distributed in election-related materials throughout 2020.

Congratulations to all the artists and thank you to our partners: Champions For Learning, the Collier County Public Schools, the Community Foundation of Collier County and Naples Art Association.
Spotlight: I Voted Sticker!

Congratulations to Gulfview Middle School student, Leslie W., who designed our new “I Voted” sticker!

The “I Voted” sticker is a staple in elections and represents a nonpartisan display of civic duty during elections. Although there isn’t a clear answer to when and how the “I Voted” sticker originated, several sources point to its rise in popularity in the 1980s. Below are some fun facts about the “I Voted” sticker we uncovered as we researched the introduction of our new design.

• Our office went through over 117,800 “I Voted” stickers during the last presidential election which were given to voters who cast a ballot during Early Voting, on Election Day and given to voters who dropped off their Vote-by-Mail ballot to the elections office.
• California has 13 different languages represented on their “I Voted” sticker including English, Spanish, Chinese and Hindi.
• Although not confirmed - the Phoenix Realtors Association claims to have created the “I Voted Today” sticker in 1985-86.

We are excited to introduce our new sticker design and we look forward to our voters wearing them with pride!

Important Election Dates

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<tr>
<th>Presidential Preference Primary Election Day: March 17, 2020</th>
<th>Primary Election Day: August 18, 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Election Day: November 3, 2020</td>
<td>#CollierVotes</td>
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Visit us on the web: www.CollierVotes.com