



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

Happy Fall Ya'll!

It is officially fall in Southwest Florida and that means we are only months away from the first election in 2016! All departments are working hard to prepare for a busy election year.

September was National Voter Registration Month and we had boots on the ground registering voters and updating voter information. Throughout the entire month, we hosted our inaugural High School Voter Registration Challenge; on September 17, we celebrated Constitution Day by holding voter registration drives at Hodges University and Florida SouthWestern State College's Collier campus; and on September 22, we partnered with Dunkin' Donuts to celebrate National Voter Registration Day, where we hosted voter registration drives at eight different Dunkin' Donuts locations throughout Collier County.

We will continue to conduct outreach events as we approach 2016. If you would like to become civically engaged in the election process, contact our office at (239)252-VOTE and ask how you can become an Election Worker or Diplomat for our office!

Learn more about what all of our departments are up to in this edition of News & Views!



Thank you to Naples Daily News for their coverage of this year's National Voter Registration Day

OUT & ABOUT

Thank You for Giving!

Fall is the time for giving and we are proud of our Elections Team members who participate in charitable activities to better our community. This includes our Adopt-A-Precinct participants! Over 60% of our precincts are staffed with Election Workers who donate the money they earn on Election Day to local charities and non-profit organizations! To learn more about our Adopt-A-Precinct program, visit our website at www.CollierVotes.com.



Jennifer and part of her "Elections Team" at United Way's annual Walk for the Way event

VOTER EDUCATION

Fall Outreach



HEATHER WYSOCKI
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Although the Presidential Preference Primary Election is still months away, our schedule has been chock-full, and we are not slowing down anytime soon.

In September, we conducted an election for the von Liebig Art Center's "2015 Your Choice Art Awards," where attendees voted for their favorite piece of artwork among 127 entries.

National Voter Registration Day was celebrated nation-wide on September 22. Here in Collier County, we celebrated by hosting registration drives and talking to voters about the upcoming election cycle at eight different Dunkin' Donuts locations throughout the county.

Keep a look out for our Diplomats every week at farmer's markets, family and safety fairs, benefits fairs and many more events.

Do you have an event you would like our Diplomats to attend? If so, contact me at: (239) 252-8805 or heatherwyssocki@colliergov.net.



Heather and one of our dedicated Diplomats, Carol Dlouhy, greeting voters at one of our many registration drives hosted on Nat'l Voter Registration Day

CUSTOMER SERVICE



OUR DEDICATED CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF

Working the Front Line

As employees of the Supervisor of Elections office, we often refer to ourselves as the "Gatekeepers of Democracy." Working in the Customer Service department, we are on the front lines of that theory.

Recent efforts have us communicating with voters about changes that could concern their voter record, reminders of the upcoming 2016 Election Cycle and notifications that affect where voters will cast their ballot next year.

On September 15, we mailed notices to more than 12,000 voters who have filed a change of address with the USPS that is different from what we have listed in their record. This mailing allowed us to make necessary changes in our system to wrap up the final steps of the list maintenance process. On October 5, we mailed a "Notice of Election" to voters which included a mail ballot request. This mailing was sent in an effort to prepare voters for the Presidential Preference Primary in March. And finally, on October 16, we sent new voter information cards to more than 17,500 voters who were affected by any changes to their precinct boundaries or polling place location.

All of these mailings have greatly increased our call volume, but with the wonderful support from our entire team, we continue to work with our voters to make sure they have a clear understanding of how these changes have affected them. As members of the front line, our ultimate goal is for voters to have a pleasant experience when interacting with our office.

CANDIDATE QUALIFYING

Petitions Large & Small



DAVE CARPENTER
QUALIFYING OFFICER

As season approaches, petition solicitors hit the streets. These industrious folks come in two types: paid and volunteer; just as petitions come in two types: Constitutional Amendment and Candidate.

The paid solicitors are usually gathering petitions for State Constitutional Amendments, whereas those gathering petitions for your local candidates are more likely to be your neighbors volunteering to help a friend that they support.

Candidates may qualify to have their name on the ballot either by paying a qualifying fee or having the required number of petition signatures checked and certified. The number of petitions needed is based on the number of eligible voters in the district. In 2016, candidates running for county-wide office like sheriff or school board will need approximately 1,880 valid signatures, while a county commission candidate who wants to run in District 1 will only need around 400. Special independent districts such as fire and mosquito control could have the petition count capped at 25.

Any petition signed by a Collier voter, whether for a candidate or amendment, is verified by our office. This process involves looking up each individual voter who has signed a petition to confirm the signature matches what we have on file and we make certain they live in the correct district for the petition. Our office receives the princely sum of 10 cents per petition for this service; with the money going to the County's general fund.

In Florida, voters are not required to be members of the candidate's party to sign a petition and may sign petitions for more than one candidate in a race. Petitions do not necessarily signify support for a candidate – only that the signer feels their name should be on the ballot. The same holds for amendments and initiatives. By signing a petition, you suggest that the voters should decide the issue by having it on the ballot. It does not reflect whether or not you actually support the issue.



JULIO VIGIL
ELECTION SERVICES
COORDINATOR

OPERATIONS DEPT

*Always on the Move
to Improve!*

The elections office is a year-round operation and when we are not actively conducting an election, we are planning for future elections and analyzing how we can better the voting experience in Collier County. Here is a recap of some projects we have been working on since the 2014 Election Cycle:

- Precinct Improvements - We relocated three polling locations and added two new precincts to better serve our voters.
- Equipment Maintenance - Our department continues to go through all of our voting equipment and precinct supplies and signs to make certain they are election ready! We have also been replacing the battery backups on the DS200's, iVotronic's, and EVID's to ensure our equipment is functional during any brief power outages.
- Logistics Management - We have contracted with Hilton Moving & Storage Company for Early Voting and Election Day equipment logistics. Additionally, we reevaluated our Election Day delivery and retrieval routes, and as a result, were able to consolidate the amount of delivery routes and trucks. Furthermore, we contracted with Kent Security Services, once again, for the secure daily retrieval of our voted ballots from all of our Early Voting sites to our main office.

We anticipate a record-breaking turnout during the 2016 Election Cycle and want to do everything possible to make casting a ballot the best experience for our voters.



ROGER MUNZ
TRAINING DIRECTOR

TRAINING NEWS

Collier County Growth

We are fast approaching the March 15 Presidential Preference Primary and training for this election will begin in February.

We have made some procedural adjustments in an effort to provide workers with a more streamlined process for both Early Voting and Election Day.

There has also been an increase of two precincts. Precinct 324, located in the Golden Gate area and Precinct 593, in Ave Maria, were created to enhance the convenience of voting in each area. With these additions, Collier is now home to a total of 60 precincts.

With the increase in precincts, we also have a demand for additional workers. Our office continues to recruit new Election Workers through our Election Worker Orientations. Our final orientations were held in October, but we will schedule more orientations after the Presidential Preference Primary Election. If you know someone who is looking to get civically engaged, please have them contact our office at (239)252-VOTE.

Thank you for your continued support in making this process work for the voters of Collier County.

Roger, Kevin & Trish

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY!

Thank you to our staff & Diplomats who made National Voter Registration Day so successful!

“The right to vote is a cornerstone of what it means to be a free people: It represents the bedrock tenets of equality and civic participation upon which our Nation was founded. Throughout American history, courageous patriots of every background and creed have fought to extend this right to all and to bring our country closer to its highest ideals. Voting is vital to a principle at the core of our democracy -- that men and women of free will have the capacity to shape their own destinies. On National Voter Registration Day, we recommit to upholding this belief by encouraging all eligible Americans to register to vote and exercise this essential right.” -President Barack Obama





SPOTLIGHT: PALMETTO RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Winners of the third annual High School Voter Registration Challenge!

The students of Palmetto Ridge High School have done it again! More than 190 students became registered and pre-registered to vote during this year's High School Voter Registration Challenge.

Throughout September, the Supervisor of Elections office challenged students from 12 high schools to register and pre-register for future elections.

Our office received approximately 850 registration applications collectively and Palmetto Ridge High School (top photo), who previously won the challenge in 2013, came out on top with 193 registrations!

The other contenders were: First Baptist Academy, Gulf Coast High School, Community School Naples, Golden Gate High School, Seacrest Country Day School, Lely High School, Barron Collier High School, Immokalee High School, Lorenzo Walker Technical School, Everglades City High School and Marco Island Academy (bottom photo), which was recognized for having the largest percentage of students participate.

Congratulations to all of the schools who participated in this year's challenge!



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Upcoming Election Dates:

Presidential Preference Primary: March 15, 2016

Primary: August 30, 2016

General: November 8, 2016

Visit us on the web: www.CollierVotes.com

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Jennifer J. Edwards
Supervisor of Elections
Collier County

