



COLLIER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS NEWS & VIEWS

Volume XXVI ~ Issue 3

IN THIS ISSUE

- SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE** 1
- OUT & ABOUT** 1
- VOTER EDUCATION** 2
- VOTE-BY-MAIL UPDATES** 2
- CANDIDATE QUALIFYING** 2
- ELECTION SERVICES** 3
- TRAINING NEWS** 3
- CUSTOMER SERVICE** 3
- SPOTLIGHT** 4
- IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES** 4

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



JENNIFER J. EDWARDS
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

We're Election Ready - Are You?

The big day is almost here! Presidential elections are one of the most exciting times for our office and this election is an important one. When voters cast their ballot, they are becoming a part of history!

Our office's priority right now is to be ready. We are anticipating an 80-85% turnout which means, more voter registration, more election equipment maintenance and more election worker training.

Our office began sending Vote-by-Mail ballots on October 4, and as of this writing, we have already received nearly 30,000 voted ballots. Voting by mail is easy and voters seem to be catching on to the convenience of casting their ballot by mail.

Early Voting started on October 24 and will continue through November 5 at nine different locations in Collier County. Polls will be open 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. daily and voters can visit our website at www.CollierVotes.com to view wait times for each location.

Election Day is on November 8 and is the last opportunity for voters to voice their choice during the election. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and voters must vote in their polling location at their assigned precinct.

This is an exciting time for all of us in the elections arena and we cannot thank our Election Workers enough! Some have worked all three elections this year, while others are just now getting into the game. Either way, your dedication to the electoral process is very much appreciated not only by me, but by my staff and the entire county. I love talking to our voters about the friendly interactions they have with our workers at the polls, so thank you again and good luck during this election!

We could not conduct elections without you!

OUT & ABOUT

National Voter Registration Day

September 27 was National Voter Registration Day and our office was out in the masses registering new voters, updating voter records and educating Collier citizens about the upcoming General Election.

This year, we were stationed at libraries, DMV offices and we even partnered with Lee County at Hertz Corporate to register newly relocated citizens.

We encourage voters to make updates to their voter record prior to voting at the polls to help eliminate delays during Early Voting and on Election Day.

Please contact us at (239) 252-VOTE to update your voter record.



VOTER EDUCATION

Getting Our Voters Election Ready



HEATHER WYSOCKI
VOTER EDUCATION COORDINATOR

This fall, Collier County celebrated National Voter Registration Day on September 27. Diplomats from our office were stationed at sites across the county to offer voter registration and answer questions about the upcoming election. National Voter Registration Day is a great example of the Voter Education Department's year-round goal: to make sure Collier's voters are election ready.

Even our future voters received an opportunity to be election ready by participating in mock elections at schools across the county.

In addition to the presidential mock election ballot used by several public schools, we conducted elections for St. Elizabeth Seton School, where more than 200 pre-K through 8th grade students picked from Abraham Lincoln and George Washington for president; East Naples Middle School, where around 1,200 students picked their student council leaders; and a group of 100 Girl Scouts from across Southwest Florida had a chance to choose their favorite Girl Scout Cookie (Thin Mints were a runaway favorite).

We love visiting groups of all ages! Please contact us if your school or community group would like for our office to host a mock election with a customized ballot: heatherwysocki@colliergov.net or (239) 252-8805.

VOTE-BY-MAIL UPDATES



JESSICA CHRONISTER
VOTE-BY-MAIL
SUPERVISOR

Voting Has Never Been So Easy!

More voters are choosing to vote by mail, and we are election ready! Are you? Here are some important dates and deadlines for Vote-by-Mail ballots for the November 8 General Election:

September 24 is when we began sending mail ballots to our overseas voters.

October 4 is when we began sending mail ballots to domestic voters.

November 2 at 5:00 p.m. is the deadline to request a ballot to be mailed by our office.

November 8 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m. is the deadline to return ballots to the Supervisor of Elections office.

If you vote by mail, please allow plenty of time for your ballot to reach our office. The USPS recommends planning for a week for mail delivery. We also accept ballots in person at our office. Check your ballot status by going to www.CollierVotes.com or contact our office at (239) 252-VOTE.

CANDIDATE QUALIFYING



DAVE CARPENTER
QUALIFYING OFFICER

What Are Poll Watchers Watching?

Florida law allows candidates and political parties to nominate individuals to observe procedures at polling places during Early Voting and on Election Day. Under the law, the candidate or political party submits a list of names to the Supervisor of Elections. It is up to the candidate or party to train these watchers and ensure that they only have one poll watcher at a time assigned to each polling place.

Poll Watchers serve as the candidate's eyes and ears in the voting room. Their role is strictly to observe the voting area. Poll Watchers may not talk or interact with voters inside the polling place or interfere with the voting process. Poll Watchers are allowed to ask the Clerk procedural questions, but cannot interact with other election workers. A Poll Watcher will be asked to leave if they fail to follow the Clerk's instructions or disrupt the orderly conduct of the polling place. If a Poll Watcher wishes to contact their supervisor, they must call from outside the voting room. Poll Watchers may challenge a voter, but they must have personal knowledge to file a challenge. If a voter is challenged they will be required to vote a provisional ballot.

In the past, Poll Watchers had a different role to perform for the campaigns and were instrumental in getting out the vote on Election Day. Before the arrival of Early Voting and "No Excuse" Vote-by-Mail, Poll Watchers arrived at their precinct with a list of supporters and checked them off as they came into vote. During quiet periods, the poll watcher would then leave the polling place and relay his/her information to the candidate's phone bank so they could call those who hadn't yet voted. Today, campaigns can receive the list of those voting on Election Day as a file from our office, thanks to the data that flows from our voter check-in equipment. The data is up to the minute and accurate.

Most supporters of candidates find their time better spent campaigning during the election, but those who are interested in being a poll watcher can contact their local party or candidate to volunteer.



JULIO VIGIL
ELECTION SERVICES
DIRECTOR

ELECTION SERVICES

Getting Our Facilities Election Ready

On August 30th we were able to complete another successful election. 23.88% of registered voters in Florida voted in the Primary Election and in Collier County 32.38% voted. To our election workers, polling places, and staff - thank you for another successful election.

Over the past few weeks, the Election Services Department has been preparing for November 8.

Our office is anticipating an 80-85% turnout for this election and voters will see a two-page ballot when they cast their vote. In order to manage the lines at our polling sites more efficiently, more equipment will be deployed to each of our precincts.

Early Voting kicked off on October 24 and we are thankful for all of the help we received from Hilton Moving Company. Our team expands from a two-person operation to a 20-person team when we set up our polling sites.

It is our mission to serve our voters with integrity and we cannot accomplish that without great teamwork from our community partners, election workers and staff. Thank you for your service!

TRAINING NEWS

Getting Our Workers Election Ready!

The August Primary served as a great trial run leading up to the November General. Mother Nature did not dampen the spirit of our voters. A special thanks goes out to our deputies who took extra steps to assist voters between the rain drops all day!

We are in the throws of Early Voting and training hundreds of election workers to serve on Election Day. Because our office is anticipating such a high turnout for this election, and voters are casting a two-page ballot, we are deploying more workers and equipment than what we did during the primaries earlier this year.

As a reminder to our Election Workers, if you are working outside of your precinct ON Election Day, you will automatically be mailed a Vote-by-Mail ballot. You also have the option to vote early. We encourage you to use your sample ballot if you decide to vote in person, which will help move the voting process along more quickly.

Thank you to everyone for your dedication to elections this year. We are looking forward to another successful Election Day on November 8!



ROGER MUNZ
TRAINING DIRECTOR

CUSTOMER SERVICE

We're Making History!

Are you Election Ready? All citizens have a right and responsibility to vote. We want to encourage you to participate in the democratic process. Voting provides a path for change. The leaders you elect will make decisions that will have a direct impact on you, your family and the future.

Our Customer Service team has been working diligently to make sure everyone is ready for the General Election. If you have any questions in reference to your voting status or any other election concerns, do not hesitate to contact our office at (239) 252-VOTE where you will be greeted by one of our friendly customer service representatives. It is our commitment to ensure that all your voting needs are met and that your interaction with us is a positive one.

Be election ready! Make sure your voice is heard...and VOTE!



— 2016 General Election —

Are you #ElectionReady? Check out our Fiction vs. Fact webpage at CollierVotes.com which debunks some of the common myths that surround this coming election!

SPOTLIGHT: GOLDEN GATE HIGH SCHOOL

Winners of the High School Voter Registration Challenge!



Principal Dr. Tobin Walcott and Student Government Advisor, John Krupp were presented with an award of achievement from our office on October 17.

The results are in and with 175 voter registrations and pre-registrations received, Golden Gate High School is the winner of the fourth annual High School Voter Registration Challenge.

The elections office received 670 registration applications collectively from all of the participating schools during this year's challenge.

"This is an important year for us to conduct this challenge. Pre-registered voters who turn 18 before or on November 8 will have an opportunity to cast a ballot in this coming election." – Jennifer J. Edwards, Supervisor of Elections

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

General: November 8, 2016

Early Voting: October 24-November 5 9:00 am-6:00 pm

Visit us on the web: www.CollierVotes.com

3750 Enterprise Avenue
Naples FL 34104-9811

