ExpressVote

We have been anticipating an upgrade to our ADA-compliant voting equipment for years, and the time is nearly here!

Out with the iVotronic and in with ExpressVote! Over the next few months, our office is upgrading all of our iVotronic ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) voting machines to comply with state law, which requires all voting machines to have a paper trail by the year 2020. We are staying with our current voting system vendor, Election Systems & Software (ES&S), and will be implementing the ExpressVote voting system for voters who may have a disability. The ExpressVote system utilizes touch-screen technology that produces a paper-based record for tabulation. In other words, the voter will make their choices on the ExpressVote screen and once done, it will print a ballot card reflecting their choices. The voter will then bring the ballot card to the DS200 where the ballot will be inserted and recorded.

Stay tuned for additional information related to this upgrade in the coming months!
Online Voter Registration

As of October 1, the Florida Department of State launched online voter registration. Voters can now securely register to vote by visiting: www.RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov. This secure website provides you with a convenient way to register to vote or update your existing voter record.

The online registration application is available in English and in Spanish, and is also ADA-compliant. To complete and submit the voter registration application electronically, you will need your Florida Driver License or Florida identification number and the last four digits of your social security number.

If the information is not validated, you will be prompted to print out the application, fill it out, and sign it. You can then either mail the voter registration application or hand-deliver it to one of our offices. If you have any questions about online voter registration or about your voter registration status, please contact us at (239) 252-VOTE!

Candidate Qualifying

Getting Issues on the Florida Ballot

Florida voters – despite party affiliation – may see new amendments to the Florida Constitution in 2018. There are three ways in which an amendment to Florida’s Constitution may be placed on the ballot: by petition of the electors, by the Florida Legislature, or by presentation from a 37-member Constitutional Revision Commission, which is established every 20 years.

In order for an amendment to appear on a ballot by petition, the committee backing the amendment must secure 766,200 valid petition signatures. This method is certainly no easy task, but it was used by the Medical Marijuana Amendment backers to gain ballot position in 2016. This year, an amendment calling for the automatic restoration of voting rights for felons (excluding murderers and sex offenders) appears to be the only measure with potential to make the ballot by petition with approximately 178,000 petitions already obtained.

Amendments being added by the Florida legislature is the most often used method of securing ballot position. In order for this to occur, a 60% vote of each house of legislature must be obtained.

When amendments are added through the Constitutional Revision Commission, it’s after several meetings of the 37 members who are appointed by the Governor, Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, President of the State Senate and the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives. The current Commission is holding meetings now and should have its proposed amendments ready by May. In 1998, the Commission placed nine amendments on the ballot – eight of which were passed by Florida voters.
ELECTION SERVICES

Everglades City Election Day

Although Hurricane Irma left a mark of destruction in Collier County, the City of everglades City Election will move forward! Our office has been closely working with Everglades City officials to ensure that their Election Day runs smoothly. Due to the hurricane, the Everglades City Hall sustained damage and there is now a temporary City Hall set up which will also house our polling room on November 28. The temporary City Hall is located at 205 Buckner Avenue in Everglades City.

With approximately 260 active voters within the Everglades City limits, we will stage two EViDs to check in voters, three voting booths, an iVotronic ADA-compliant voting system, and two DS200s for tabulation. We will also be using wireless technology to check in voters – a new practice we are looking forward to carrying over in the 2018 Election Cycle.

Our team is ensuring that the City of Everglades City Election kicks off smoothly without a hitch.

TRAINING NEWS

Gearing Up for 2018

This has certainly been a very unusual quarter for everyone! We hope everyone was safe and did not sustain too much damage from Hurricane Irma. The September orientations were rescheduled for October and we will continue to host additional orientations as we dive into 2018.

We will be receiving our new ADA-compliant voting equipment this quarter. ExpressVotes will make their debut during the City of Naples Election in February, replacing the iVotronics.

Please be sure to mark your calendars for the 2018 Election Cycle including the Primary Election on August 28 and the General Election on November 6. Also, please keep your contact information up-to-date! Just like we remind our voters, updating your information can be done in a S.N.A.P. Keep our office updated on any changes to your address so we can make sure our voter rolls are up-to-date.

We look forward to seeing all of you soon!

VOTE IN HONOR OF A VETERAN

Reasons to be Thankful

The sacrifices our veterans have made protecting our rights and freedoms stand as examples that emphasize the importance of taking our responsibilities as Americans seriously, including the right to vote. As we approach the holiday season, our Vote in Honor of a Veteran program reminds us of all the reasons to be thankful.

If you know a veteran or someone actively serving in the military, please contact our office to honor them through our Vote in Honor of a Veteran program. The next time you vote, Vote in Honor of a Veteran!

Follow us on Facebook where we will be showing our thanks to our honored veterans: @CollierVotes
SPOTLIGHT: NEW STAFF!

Justin Vacca, Vote-by-Mail Coordinator

Justin Vacca joined the Supervisor of Elections office on May 8, 2017. A native New Jerseyan, Justin spent most of his childhood in Naples before graduating from Barron Collier High School.

He went on to attend the University of Florida in Gainesville (Go Gators!) and received a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology. He spent the next 10 years in management at Sam’s Club before joining our team as the Vote-by-Mail Coordinator.

Justin spends most of his free time riding or repairing his motorcycle. He is also a saltwater aquarist and certified S.C.U.B.A. diver.

Justin is looking forward to making a positive impact on our community while working in elections.

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

City of Everglades City Election: November 28, 2017  
City of Naples Municipal: February 6, 2018

Primary Election: August 28, 2018  
General Election: November 6, 2018

Visit us on the web: www.CollierVotes.com