On Friday, March 25, our office officially certified the 2016 Presidential Preference Primary. During this election, more than 49 percent of Collier County's voters turned out, superseding our forecast by nearly 10 percent. As a swing state, Florida is one of the most critical states during federal elections and we are proud to report that Collier County received the second highest turnout in the State of Florida during the Presidential Preference Primary.

Florida still has two more elections in 2016 including the August 30 Primary and the November 8 General Election – two very important elections for Florida.

As a reminder, training must take place prior to each election. Availability notices for the August Primary will be sent by our office in June.

We want to thank all of our dedicated election workers who worked so hard during the March 15 election! Your patience with voters and dedication to the day is why elections are so successful here in Collier County. We truly have the best election workers in the state!

We’re Moving!
Enterprise – here we come!

It has been a long process, but the Collier County Supervisor of Elections office staff is finally coming together and moving into our new facilities on Enterprise! For years, we have worked across three different locations, which creates challenges when staging elections. More than 800 workers must be trained prior to each election and equipment has to be moved over 20 times to various locations.

Beginning with the August Primary, our elections headquarters will be located at: 3750 Enterprise Avenue, Naples 34104. Election worker training, canvassing board meetings and early voting will take place at this new location.
More voters are choosing to Vote-by-Mail, and we are election ready! Are you? Here are some important deadlines for Vote-by-Mail ballots for the August 30 Primary Election:

- August 1 is the last day to register to vote or change your party affiliation.
- August 24 at 5:00 p.m. is the deadline to request a ballot to be mailed by our office.
- Election Day, August 30, 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 standard delivery time for the USPS is 2-5 days. 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.

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Now that the Presidential Primary has concluded, we are often asked: “What’s on the August Primary Ballot?” The simple answer is “A lot!” The top of the ballot will be the United States Senate seat held by Marco Rubio, where both major parties will have hotly contested primary races to choose their nominees. Collier has parts of two Congressional Districts and it is possible that each may see a partisan primary on the August ballot.

Locally, all of the Constitutional Offices are up for election this year. These include Sheriff, Clerk of Courts, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser and Supervisor of Elections. Currently, it looks like we will have primary races for Clerk and Property Appraiser. County Commission Districts one, three and five are up for election and – as of this writing – three and five appear to be headed toward the primary ballot.

Federal, Constitutional, and county offices are all partisan races and Florida’s ‘closed primary’ laws will apply to them. Voters who are not registered with a party, or who are registered with a minor third party, will have a voice in deciding the non-partisan offices on the ballot such as school board and judicial seats. If no candidate gets over 50% in the Primary Election, the top two candidates must face off in the General Election. School Board Districts two and four are both up this year and will be contested in August. We have one county judge and eight circuit court judges whose terms are also up and they must run this year. If any of these judges are challenged for re-election, the race will be on the primary ballot.

When does this all stand still? Qualifying for judicial offices closes at noon on May 6. For all other offices, the deadline is noon on June 24. Until these dates, candidates can appear and disappear, but nothing is officially set until qualifying closes.
ELECTION SERVICES
Post-Election Mode

Our office ran another great election and we could not have done it without you – our gatekeepers of democracy.

With the Presidential Preference Primary behind us, the Election Services Department is focusing on two main tasks:

1. Post Election Clean-up
   • We collect your feedback and the feedback of our voters to determine how the Election Services Department can improve the electoral process for all.
   • We conduct a thorough functionality test on the equipment used during the election.
   • We perform inventory, organize and clean all the items that were utilized during the election, and prep it for future elections.

2. Moving to our new office on Enterprise
   • We are completing tasks to ensure an easy and efficient move to our new operations building on Enterprise Ave.

Once again, thank you for your service!

Training News
Thank You!

Congratulations to our election workers for another successful election on the books! We are proud to report that Collier County had the second highest turn out in the entire state and we could not have done it without each and every one of you!

As many of you are aware, our biggest struggle this election was managing voters who did not fully understand that this election was a “closed primary.” Everyone who worked in March did a great job in assisting those voters and we could not thank you enough for your patience. With another Primary Election on the horizon, our office will continue to push information to educate the community so they are “election ready” for August.

The next election is scheduled for August 30, 2016. Training will begin towards the end of July through the month of August. Please plan ahead and mark your calendars. Trish will send availability notices for that election as we approach the summer.

Thank you to each and every one of you who make the elections work for the Collier County voters!

New Staff!

Aixa Capizzi has been a resident of Naples, FL for over 17 years. Aixa is fluent in both English and Spanish and holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management and Elementary Education and a Master’s in Administration.

Prior to joining the elections staff, she was a Civilian Deputy Sheriff for the Collier County Sheriff’s office for 14 years. In her free time, Aixa serves as a community outreach volunteer with the sheriff’s office and has been recognized by community leaders for her involvement. She also enjoys spending time with family. Aixa is happily married to a law enforcement officer and is a proud mother of three sons, including an active-duty Marine.

Kerry Black has been a resident of Marco Island for 25 years and originally hails from Rockville, MD. Kerry has an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and she obtained her Juris Doctor degree from Ave Maria School of Law.

Prior to joining the Supervisor of Elections office, Kerry spent the majority of her career as a Property Manager for condominium and homeowners associations.

Kerry is married to Chris Black who is a media specialist at Lely High School. Their son Brandon is a proud Lely graduate and currently attends NC State. In her free time, Kerry enjoys reading, cooking, Sundays at the beach and shopping.

Please join us in congratulating both Aixa and Kerry who thrived during their first election in March!
SPOTLIGHT: FUTURE VOTERS
Spring Reading Program & School Elections!

We are excited to work with our local teachers and media specialists who are hosting elections for the Sunshine State Young Readers Award & Florida Reading Association! Between March and May, we will attend more than 30 schools where 2,500+ students will learn about the importance of voting through books!

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

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<tr>
<th>Election Type</th>
<th>Early Voting Dates</th>
<th>Book Closing Date</th>
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<td>Primary</td>
<td>August 20-27 10:00 am-6:00 pm</td>
<td>August 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>October 24-November 5 9:00 am-6:00 pm</td>
<td>October 11</td>
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Visit us on the web: www.CollierVotes.com