



# COLLIER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS NEWS & VIEWS

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**JENNIFER J. EDWARDS**  
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

## SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

*All Hands on Deck for 2018!*

The City of Naples Election was a great kick-off to a busy year of local elections! Our staff continues to plan for the upcoming Primary and General Elections and remains busy in all departments.

The Vote-by-Mail Department recently sent a notice of elections to all 203,000+ voters and, with some help from the Customer Service Department, they are fielding incoming calls about voter registration and Vote-by-Mail ballot requests. Candidate Qualifying Officer, Dave Carpenter, is still catching his breath from incoming petitions and is now looking forward to the qualifying period for U.S. Senate, U.S. Representative, Judicial, State Attorney and Public Defender, which runs noon April 30-noon May 4.

The Training Department is conducting recruitment for new election workers to join the Elections Team, and the Voter Education Department is out in our schools hosting reading elections which allows thousands of students to vote for their favorite book using real election equipment! Read more from all of our departments including a special section from our IT Director about election security, in this edition of News & Views!



Top: Jennifer speaking at the Historic Palm Cottage in January. Bottom: Jennifer and Billy Hackett, a Youth Leadership Collier graduate on a tour of our office.

## OUT & ABOUT

### Collier Votes Local!

The ballot for the Primary Election is starting to take shape as candidates begin to file for very important positions that affect our community directly. Our "Collier Votes Local" campaign serves to remind voters how critical their participation is during these local elections.

There is something for everyone to vote on during the Primary and General Elections and in order for our government to respond to the needs of the people, citizens must play a role in determining it.

The leaders elected this year will serve as our decision makers in the community and our voices in Tallahassee and Washington D.C. When

# VOTE 2018

HomesLibrariesRoadsEnvironmentSchoolsTaxes  
 JobsEducationSecurityParksConservationLocal  
 EconomyBusinessesGovernmentCourtSystem  
 HealthWorkForceSafetyHomesLibrariesRoads  
 EnvironmentSchoolsTaxesJobsEducationSecurity  
 ParksConservationLocalEconomyBusinesses  
 GovernmentCourtSystemHealthWorkForceSafety  
 HomesLibrariesRoadsEnvironmentSchoolsTaxes  
 JobsEducationSecurityParksConservationLocal  
 EconomyBusinessesGovernmentCourtSystemHealthWorkForceSafety  
 HomesLibrariesRoadsEnvironmentSchoolsTaxesJobsEducationSecurityParks  
 ConservationLocalEconomyBusinessesGovernmentCourtSystemHealthWork  
 ForceSafetyHomesLibrariesRoadsEnvironmentSchoolsTaxesJobsEducation  
 SecurityParksConservationLocalEconomyBusinessesGovernmentCourtSystem  
 HealthWorkForceSafetyHomesLibrariesRoadsEnvironmentSchoolsTaxesJobs  
 EducationSecurityParksConservationLocalEconomyBusinessesGovernment  
 CourtSystemHealthWorkForceSafetyHomesLibrariesRoadsEnvironmentSchools  
 TaxesJobsEducationSecurityParksConservation  
 LocalEconomyBusinessesGovernmentCourtSystem

#CollierVotesLocal

we do not take full advantage of our right to vote, we also give away our ability to shape our community's future. Therefore, during voter registration drives and at other outreach events, we are asking voters: "What do you care about in 2018?" Join the conversation on social media: #CollierVotesLocal

## VOTER EDUCATION

### Reading Elections



HEATHER DOANE

VOTER EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Every spring our office has an opportunity to partner with Collier County Public Schools to conduct elections for their Sunshine State Young Readers Award and Florida Reading Association Children's Book Award programs. These programs allow students (K-8) a real-life voting experience while voting for their favorite book!

These programs allow thousands of Collier County students to get excited about reading and to participate in an election to pick their favorite books. At the end of the program, results are then compiled with others from across the state.

How does it work? Typically, students in kindergarten through 2nd grade have books read to them by teachers, while older students independently read a certain number of books to participate in the election. Some schools go even further with rewards such as giveaways, book raffles, field trips and pizza parties!

For us, the goal is to introduce the election process to the students and connect that experience to what they are learning in their classrooms.

My favorite part about these elections is how excited the students get when they learn they are using real election equipment - and it gets even better when they recognize the equipment is the same used by their parents when they voted in 2016.

As of this writing we have already visited more than 20 elementary and middle schools and have several more visits scheduled.

If you know a young Collier County student, ask them whether they voted for their favorite book, and encourage them to read enough to get involved next year!

## VOTE-BY-MAIL UPDATES



JESSICA CHRONISTER

VOTE-BY-MAIL  
SUPERVISOR

### Have You Requested Your 2018 Ballots?

Have you requested your Vote-by-Mail ballots for the 2018 Election Cycle? Visit our website [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com) to request your mail ballots today! Here are some important dates to remember for the 2018 Primary Election:

- July 30 is the deadline to register to vote or to change your party affiliation.
- August 22 is the last day to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot.
- Election Day, August 28, at 7 p.m. is the deadline to return your Vote-by-Mail ballot to the Supervisor of Elections office.

If you vote by mail, please allow plenty of time for your voted ballot to reach our office. The earlier you mail your ballot back to us, the better. If you have any questions that cannot be answered by our website, please email us at [MailBallot@CollierGov.net](mailto:MailBallot@CollierGov.net) or call us at (239)252-VOTE.

## CANDIDATE QUALIFYING

### Primary Ballot Predictions



DAVE CARPENTER

QUALIFYING OFFICER

Federal and Judicial candidate qualifying officially ends at noon on May 4 and the local and state qualifying period shuts down at noon on June 22. These dates mark the official closing of the ballot, but we have a pretty good idea right now as to what to expect for the August 28 Primary Election.

At the Federal level, we can expect Republican Rick Scott and Democrat Bill Nelson to face little or no opposition in the Primary as they get ready to go head to head in November. Likewise, Congressmen Francis Rooney and Mario Diaz-Balart probably won't face opposition until November. Within the Democratic Party, there may be a

Primary contest between Todd Truax and David Holden for the right to carry the Democratic banner against Francis Rooney.

State contests are headlined by the fight within both parties to replace outgoing Governor, Rick Scott. Those running for cabinet positions in Florida always seem to have to scrap for the monetary leftovers of the candidates for Governor, but expect to see all three positions contested in the Primary. The partisan office of State Attorney for the 20th Judicial District (Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee) looks like it will be decided in a "Universal Primary" where all voters may choose between Republicans Chris Crowley and Amira Fox to see who follows retiring State Attorney, Steve Russell.

Judicial contests are always nonpartisan so all of Collier voters will have a say in selecting new judges.

With qualifying getting closer every day, it appears we will have one contested circuit judge seat and one contested county court seat on the ballot. Currently, there are two candidates for the circuit judgeship and five possible contenders for the county seat.

Collier has two county commission seats up in 2018: Districts 2 and 4. Three school board seats are also up this year: 1, 3 and 5. School board races are open to all of our voters and candidates run countywide. The decision of incumbents Erika Donalds and Kelly Lichter not to run again means that we will have at least two new faces on the school board.

Marco Island voters will have a referendum regarding ambulance service on the island and there are still rumblings from two fire districts about potential ballot issues. There will be candidates and issues on the ballot for all of our voters, not just party registrants and as usual, the Primary will do much to shape local governance for the next two years, so participation in August is increasingly important!



ROGER MUNZ  
TRAINING DIRECTOR

## TRAINING NEWS

### *City of Naples Recap*

We saw a smooth Election Day for the City of Naples Election on February 6. Approximately 25% of voters cast a ballot either by mail or on Election Day. Among the seven precincts that were staffed for this election, five were staffed by Adopt-A-Precinct groups. The money raised by those precincts will go directly to their non-profit's scholarship or charity fundraisers.

This election also provided a great run-through for new equipment and procedures including the ExpressVote ADA-compliant machines and our new wireless transmission of results. So far, we have received positive feedback from workers and staff regarding ease of use and quick turnaround of results on election night.

Availability notices were emailed to established workers in the form of a survey on March 1. The notices request information about available dates and positions of interest for the August and November elections. Please keep your email address and phone numbers updated so you don't miss information about training.

We continue to host orientation sessions for NEW election workers. If you have friends or family members who are interested in becoming part of the Elections Team, visit our website to complete the application: [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com).

We look forward to seeing our returning workers and meeting new members of our Elections Team in the coming months!



ERIC ZIMMERMAN  
IT DIRECTOR

## IT DEPARTMENT

### *Election Security*

More than a year after the 2016 General Election and security is still a hot topic with our office, our constituents, the media and our voters.

Protecting the integrity of our elections is top priority among election officials and even though we continue to take proactive measures to protect your vote, we also want to make it clear what did and did not happen in 2016 because often times, we receive inquiries that stem from misinformation.

- Russians did not access Collier's networks. There was an attempt to interfere with our system through an email phishing scheme which we were able to identify before there was any risk of it affecting our system.
- Our election results were never in jeopardy. Election results are transmitted via our secure tabulation room that is not connected to the internet. Only six employees within our office have access to that room at all times.
- Florida has an audit trail. If our election results were ever in jeopardy, we have paper ballots to fall back on. You can't hack paper.
- We have and continue to train staff about election security which includes both physical and cyber security.
- We have robust security measures in place and we work with County, State and Federal officials to ensure the integrity of our elections. We will continue to work with them to see how we can continue to provide accurate and honest elections in the future.

We appreciate the support we receive daily from our community and hope that you will share the above information with friends and family who may have concerns about their vote.



AIXA CAPIZZI  
CUSTOMER SERVICE  
SUPERVISOR

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

### *Important Voter Registration Updates for the Primary Election*

The Customer Service team is busy preparing for the Primary Election by making updates to voter records and maintaining an accurate voter list in Collier County. Your voter information is incredibly important and we encourage all of our voters to check their registration status to ensure that their name and address is up-to-date. Equally important during a Primary Election, is your party affiliation.

Florida is a closed primary state which means that voters may only vote within their party during the Primary Election. There is no limit to how often you can change your party affiliation; however, the change must occur at least 29 days before the election. For the 2018 Primary Election, the voter registration and party affiliation deadline is July 30.

If you are a current resident of Collier County and would like to register to vote or update information, you may complete an Online Florida Voter Registration Application form found at [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com). You may also download an application from our website if you prefer to print and mail in your registration.

Do you have any questions on how to become a registered voter or how to update your voter registration information? Give us a call at (239) 252-VOTE and one of our friendly Customer Service members will be happy to assist you!



# SPOTLIGHT: WOMEN IN ELECTIONS

## National Women's History Month

In March, we were excited to celebrate Collier County's rich history of female leaders in elections!

Did you know that the first Supervisor of Elections was a woman? Edna Cribb Santa served as Supervisor of Elections from 1965-1981; prior to that, she was the Supervisor of Registration beginning in 1961. Following Santa was Mary Morgan who served as Supervisor of Elections between 1981 and 2000, and following Morgan was Jennifer J. Edwards who took office in 2000.

A lot has changed in elections since 1965, but the passion for voting and the democratic process continues with the strong women who make history every day on our Elections Team!

Top photo: Three generations of Supervisor of Elections, Mary Morgan, Jennifer J. Edwards and Edna Cribb Santa.

Bottom photo: Current employees of the Collier County Supervisor of Elections office making history every day!

## IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Primary Election: August 28, 2018

General Election: November 6, 2018



 #CollierVotesLocal

Visit us on the web: [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com)

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