



COLLIER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

NEWS & VIEWS

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Contact News & Views:
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JENNIFER J. EDWARDS
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

Learning & Sharing Best Practices

It never slows down here in the elections office! When we are not conducting elections, we are brushing up on our skills by sharing our successes from 2016 with other election officials, and planning for the next election cycle.

Several members of our staff are participating in professional education programs and some are even leading seminars sharing best practices with other elections professionals from 2016.

In this edition of News & Views, you will learn more about some of the measures we are taking to expand our success into the 2018 elections. We will also introduce you to some of our new staff members and discuss our outreach efforts to keep voter records updated.

If you need to make adjustments to your voter record due to a name or address change, please contact us at (239) 252-VOTE and we will make updates in a SNAP!

Keep up with all of us in this edition of News & Views!



Congrats to Dave Carpenter, who was recently designated as a Master Florida Certified Elections Professional at our FSASE Annual Summer Conference!

OUT & ABOUT

Professional Education & Training



It was a pleasure to join several of my election peers at iGO's Annual Summer Conference!

Over the summer, several members of our office joined other elections professionals both statewide and nationwide to learn best practices from the 2016 elections and sharpen our skills for the 2018 Election Cycle.

Professional education is the cornerstone of our office and we encourage all of our employees to learn as much as they can to help improve the electoral process!

To date, we have 10 Master Florida Certified Elections Professional (MFCEP) designees who have completed three levels of FCEP training; seven Certified Elections/Registration Administrators (CERA); three Leadership Collier graduates; and several other staff members who have participated in leadership programs and have received accreditations through other professional associations.

We are so proud of those who have made these accomplishments during their tenure with our office and we will continue to strive to have the most educated office in Florida and in the nation!

VOTER EDUCATION

From Youngest to Bravest



HEATHER DOANE

VOTER EDUCATION COORDINATOR

One of my favorite annual projects is visiting our elementary and middle schools each spring for their Florida Reading Association and Sunshine State Young Readers Award elections. During this program, students who read a required number of books have a chance to vote for their favorite book using real election equipment. We are proud to report that throughout this year's program, we visited 23 schools and helped nearly 4,300 students cast their ballots.

Another group we are honored to work with is our veterans. Collier County is home to thousands of veterans and we host our Vote in Honor of a Veteran program to honor them for their service. Honored veterans are featured in our online gallery and at outreach events across the county. If you have someone you would like to honor, please visit www.CollierVotes.com to learn how!

We will be in attendance as this year's annual Greatest Generation Breakfast in August, where attendees can have their military photos scanned and preserved on our website. This is one of our favorite events of the year and we are so thankful for the opportunity to meet local veterans and thank them for their service.

The next time you vote, Vote in Honor of a Veteran!

VOTE-BY-MAIL UPDATES



JESSICA CHRONISTER
VOTE-BY-MAIL
SUPERVISOR

What's in a Signature?

The signature in your voter record is critical if you are planning to cast your ballot by mail. In the 2016 General Election, staff compared more than 56,000 signatures! This comparison is required by Florida Law and ensures the integrity of the electoral process.

This spring, Florida's Legislature passed a bill that will now allow voters to update their signature if the Canvassing Board votes that it doesn't match the signature we have on file.

Although this new law will take effect in 2018, we want to remind all of our voters how important their signature is and encourage them to keep all of their voter information current including their autograph! This will help avoid delays in casting your ballot.



DAVE CARPENTER
QUALIFYING OFFICER

CANDIDATE QUALIFYING

Voter Information as Public Record

Voter information including names, dates of birth, addresses, phone numbers, party affiliation and voting history has always been accessible to candidates, political committees and parties – and since 2004, this data has also been available to the general public. Don't be confused by the term "voting history." All this information entails is where and when voters voted in

past elections. In no way does it mean we know who or what you voted for or against since Florida voters cast a secret ballot

What doesn't reside in the public domain? Driver license numbers, social security numbers (neither partial nor full), and voters' signatures have never been accessible to candidates or to the public as mandated by Florida Law.

Also protected is information of voters who are entitled to protected status. Individuals who seek protected status include law enforcement, judges and victims of domestic abuse or stalking.

Interestingly, information obtained through the Vote-by-Mail ballot request process, including email addresses, is still restricted to only candidates, political committees and political parties. Voter registration information from Vote-by-Mail files are dealt with in a separate statute from voter registration files and the restrictions have yet to be challenged in court.

With the latest records request sent to the Secretary of State from the Presidential Advisory Commission, our office has been busy fielding calls from alarmed voters. Voters are able to remove themselves from the voting rolls by filling out a form from our office or by sending us a letter, but that doesn't prevent their information from being turned over to the commission. All it does is make them ineligible to vote until they re-register. If you have questions about your voter information, give our office a call at (239) 252-VOTE.



Introducing the newest members of our Elections Team!



Joseph Hudak, IT Specialist

Joseph Hudak joined the Supervisor of Elections office in February. He was born and raised in Prosser, Washington and moved to Florida this past year.

He attended Colorado State University - Global Campus where he received a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. He comes to us after seven years serving in the United States Army as a Nodal Network Systems Operator-Maintainer.

Joseph is married to Julia Constantine, and they have two wonderful boys, Noah and Gabriel. On the weekend you can find them at the beach or by the pool with family and friends. They also are avid fans of the Chicago Cubs and you can catch them watching a game during baseball season.

Joseph looks forward to contributing to the elections!



Israel Hernandez, IT Specialist

Israel Hernandez joined our office in March and has been a resident of Southwest Florida for the past four years. His roots extend to Albuquerque, New Mexico where he was born and raised, and he speaks fluent English and Spanish.

Israel studied computer hardware and software at the Albuquerque Technical and Vocational Institute and prior to joining the IT Department, Israel spent several years working as the IT Manager for Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging, which is based in Fairfield County, Connecticut.

Israel lives in Fort Myers and is the proud parent of three Pekingese pups, one Siamese cat, an Indian Ring Neck and a rambunctious Harlequin Macaw, who rules the roost.

In his spare time, Israel enjoys projects around the house and creations in the kitchen. He also enjoys exploring the local eateries with his family and friends and traveling.

We are excited to have Israel's talent in the Supervisor of Elections office!



Victor M. Orozco Zuelta, Customer Service Representative

Victor M. Orozco Zuelta earned his dual degree from Furman University, a private school located at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Greenville, South Carolina. He moved to Los Angeles, California after he received his Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Psychology and Art. Victor served two years as a full-time volunteer for AmeriCorps stationed at St. Margaret's Community Center of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. and he was later hired as their Nutrition and Health Educator.

Victor speaks fluent English and Spanish and some French. He enjoys traveling through the United States and his native country, Colombia with family and friends. Victor also enjoys exploring Southwest Florida's notorious food spots, nature parks and preserves, and famous landmarks.

Victor joined our office in March after working as a temporary employee in our Vote-by-Mail and Customer Service Departments during the 2016 Election Cycle.

Please join us in welcoming all of our new staff members!

WE WANT YOU

to work at the **POLLS**

Join today!
www.CollierVotes.com
(239) 252-VOTE

Jennifer J. Edwards
Supervisor of Elections

Be a Part of the Elections Team!

Do you know someone who wants to help Collier County voters participate in democracy?

Our office will be hosting new election worker orientations in September and October for voters who are interested in working at the polls in 2018.

Qualifications:

- Be a registered voter in Collier County
- Be able to read and write in the English language
- Complete a new election worker orientation and trainings
- Must be available to work a 12-14 hour shift

Translators Needed:

Do you speak multiple languages? We are looking for individuals who can help voters whose first language is Spanish or Creole.

Groups Welcome:

An hour-long orientation is the first step to becoming an election worker. This orientation will familiarize you with our processes and the responsibilities of becoming an election worker. After the orientation, you will complete a skills assessment which will help us determine the most appropriate position for you during the next election cycle.



AIXA CAPIZZI
CUSTOMER SERVICE
SUPERVISOR

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Make Updates in a SNAP!

In order to ensure a smooth voting experience, it is very important to keep your voter information up to date. Updating your voter information including voter signatures, name, address and party affiliation can be done in a **SNAP!**

Signature Update - Complete and sign the Florida Voter Registration Application, which can be downloaded from our website: www.CollierVotes.com, picked up at our elections office or at any public library.

Name Change - Can be done in a written request or by filling out a Florida Voter Registration Application. If updating by written request, you must include your signature, date of birth or voter registration number.

Address Change - Can be done in person, in writing, via email, via website, or by phone. If done by written request or email, please include your date of birth or voter registration number.

Party Change - Can be done by completing and signing a Florida Voter Registration Application.

When you update your voter registration information, you will automatically be mailed a replacement Voter Information Card reflecting the new changes.

As always, if you need any help or have any questions, please contact us. Our customer service team is dedicated to serving you.



ROGER MUNZ
TRAINING DIRECTOR

TRAINING NEWS

What's to Come in 2017

The Training Department has been actively looking for new ways to improve the training process and the voting experience for both Early Voting and Election Day.

We will introduce new EViD technology for Early Voting next year, and will be upgrading our ADA-compliant voting equipment to replace all iVotronics with ExpressVote machines. The ExpressVote is a touch-screen ballot marking device that produces a paper-based record for tabulation. We are currently making updates to training materials, including the online course, and in our manuals to reflect the new information our election workers will need to be successful in the transition to the new equipment. More information and public demonstrations will be offered as we approach the 2018 Election Cycle.

In September, we will begin orientation sessions for new election workers. If you have a friend or family member who is interested in giving back to their community, please guide them to our website to apply: www.CollierVotes.com.

Thanks from your training team,

Roger, Kevin and Trish

ELECTION SERVICES

Improvements for 2018

In between elections, our office performs important reviews of how we can improve the voting experience. Several areas from population growth to feedback from our election workers and voters are assessed.

This summer, the Election Services Department is reviewing our facilities that serve as polling locations on Election Day. Voter flow, wireless capabilities and ADA accommodations are all taken into consideration during our analysis.

We have come a long way in technology advancements over the past 17 years, and we continue to look for ways to improve the electoral process.



JULIO VIGIL
ELECTION SERVICES
DIRECTOR



Check out how far we have advanced in technology since the 2000 Election Cycle!

SPOTLIGHT: OFFICE MILLENNIALS



Office millennials from left: Joseph Hudak, Justin Vacca, Jessica Chronister, Victor Orozco Zuelta, Trish Robertson, Alex Breault and Heather Doane.

Millennials (born between 1981 and 1997) are now the largest generation surpassing Baby Boomers. They are also considered the most educated and tech-savvy generation to date.

For the first time in documented history, today's workplace employs individuals across all five generations - and that includes the Collier County Supervisor of Elections office.

Collier County is home to nearly 33,500 millennial voters as of July, and our office is dedicated to ensuring this growing population knows how important their vote is!

Stay tuned to learn what we are doing to get the Millennial vote out in 2018!

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

Everglades City Municipal: 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

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