Earlier this year, our office launched our “Collier Votes Local” campaign that serves to remind our voters of how critical their participation is during the 2018 elections.

As we approach the Primary and General Elections, we are working with community partners to help us share the importance of voting this year.

We also created a 30-second video where several local leaders provide some important reasons for Collier County voters to have a voice this year.

Whether you are a small business owner, a stay-at-home parent, or enjoying retirement, there is something for everyone to vote on in this election cycle and we want to know “What do you care about in 2018?” Join the conversation on social media: #CollierVotesLocal
**Vote-by-Mail Updates**

**Helpful Tips for Voting by Mail**

If you cast your ballot by mail, here are a few tips to ensure you do not have any problems with your ballot:

- **Vote-by-Mail ballots cannot be forwarded by the USPS.** Check the status of your ballot at www.CollierVotes.com. This system will tell you the address to where your ballot is delivered, and if we have received it back after you voted and returned it to our office.

- **Vote your ballot timely.** The USPS standard for delivery is 3-5 days for mail delivery. The earlier you send in your voted ballot, the better! All ballots must be back to our office by 7 p.m. on Election Day, August 28th and postmarks do not count!

- **Make sure you sign the return envelope.** This is the oath swearing you are a registered voter of Collier County and that you are only voting once. Make sure your signature matches the signature you used when registering to vote. A good way to check this is to look at your signature on your driver license and use that signature when signing your ballot.

If you have any questions, please send us an email at MailBallot@colliergov.net, and thanks for voting by mail!

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**Customer Service**

**Voter Registration Reminders**

It is important to exercise your right to vote. Voting gives you the power to choose leaders that represent your values and will work on issues that you care about. Voting gives you a voice and the means to create important change in your community.

To qualify as a voter, you must meet the below requirements:

- You must be a United States citizen.
- You must be at least 18-years-old; or you may pre-register if you are 16 or 17-years-old.
- You must have no current court judgment(s) of mental incapacity with respect to voting in Florida or another state.
- You must have no felony conviction(s), or your civil rights must have been restored by law if ever convicted of a felony.
- You must be registered only in this county and state.

The Supervisor of Elections office encourages voters to participate and make your voices heard. Our Customer Service staff is professional, friendly and readily available to assist you in your voting needs.

Please save these important dates:

- **July 30, 2018**  Last day to register and change party affiliation for the Primary Election
- **August 28, 2018** Primary Election
- **October 9, 2018**  Last day to register for the General Election
- **November 6, 2018**  General Election

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**Voter Education**

**Outreach to get you Election Ready**

We often hear from voters that it can be challenging to know what going to the polls will be like. We get questions such as, “How do I use the tabulation machines?” and “How will I know what is on my ballot?”

Every election year, we work with community organizations across Collier County to help remind voters about the upcoming elections and ensure they are election ready. Look out for us at straw polls and candidate forums where we will be helping voters register to vote and supplying them with voter guides and other resources to prepare them for voting. Attending these events is a great way for voters to get a handle on the voting process and learn about some of the items that could be on their upcoming ballots.

On July 9, we conducted our first straw poll of the year for an event put on by the Golden Gate Civic Association and Collier County chapter of the NAACP. This event, held at Golden Gate Community Center, included a candidate forum and a straw poll that 370 voters participated in. The organizations chose the races that appeared on the ballot, and our office provided all election-related support including ballot creation and staffing the “polling place.”

Our next straw poll will be held July 31 as part of the annual Politics in the Park event at the Naples Conference Center.

We also provide voter education and registration at numerous candidate forums each election season. You can check our Community Calendar on www.CollierVotes.com for more details on events we are scheduled to attend, and if your organization is organizing a forum we would love to attend! Email HeatherDoane@colliergov.net to make an appointment for us to be there.
**Electon services**

**Precinct Improvement**

Our office completed precinct improvements for 2018 a few weeks ago. As a result, our office mailed approximately 25,892 new voter information cards to those affected by a precinct boundary or a polling location change.

We don’t take the decision to make changes lightly. Our office goes through a rigorous process to examine growth in Collier County and voting trends to anticipate what locations will be the best for our voters on Election Day.

We encourage everyone who plans to vote on Election Day to check their voter information at www.CollierVotes.com. You can easily review your Election Day precinct online, view a photo of the front of the building and access a map that will provide directions from a location of your choosing.

Thank you to everyone for their cooperation through this process!

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**Candidate Qualifying**

**Florida Campaign Finance - Following the Money**

On the surface, Florida Campaign Finance laws are very simple. An individual can donate up to $1,000 to a campaign per election. The candidate must report where the money came from and where it was spent. The same set of rules apply if you are running for Mosquito Control or Governor. All candidates must follow the reporting schedule established by the State Legislature. As usual, the devil is in the details. Space and patience prohibits an in depth discourse on Florida Campaign Finance, so this is an attempt to touch on some of the high points and answer a few questions.

Although individuals are limited to $1,000 contributions to a campaign, the candidate may contribute to his own campaign without limit. Candidate contributions are shown as loans and the candidate may repay themself from their campaign account whenever he/she chooses. While an individual is limited by the $1,000 max for reporting purposes, a spouse, friend or family member can count as an individual as well if they happen to own a business it is also considered an “individual.”

The limit is also based on each election so you can contribute $1,000 for the Primary and another $1,000 for the General. When a candidate receives a contribution in excess of $100 they are required to list the occupation of the contributor along with their name and address.

Basically, a candidate can spend their campaign money on almost anything that they feel will further their candidacy. However, spending money on personal living expenses or clothing are forbidden as are paying for the privilege of speaking at an event or contributing campaign money to another candidate.

There are other ways to receive money on the campaign trail including Political Committees (PCs) and Electioneering Communications Organizations (ECOs), but we probably won't see these groups enter at the local level too much during the Primary Election.

Federal Candidates, like those for Congress or Senate, fall under the rules of the Federal Elections Commission which differ substantially from the State's.
Spotlight: Local Voting Advocates
Collier Votes Local Video

We want to send a special thank you to our friends at Guerilla Media and our five local influencers who helped us create our Collier Votes Local video to help shed light on the importance of voting in the 2018 Election Cycle!

Important Dates & Deadlines

Primary Election: August 28, 2018
Voter Registration Deadline: July 30

General Election: November 6, 2018
Voter Registration Deadline: October 9

Visit us on the web: www.CollierVotes.com