



COLLIER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

NEWS & VIEWS

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JENNIFER J. EDWARDS
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

Cheers to the New Year!

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are ready for another exciting year!

Collier County reached several milestones during this past election cycle including a new record for Early Voting turnout and an overall turnout of 87% during the General Election. This election season was one of the busiest for our county and we could not have done it without your dedication to the process!

As we begin 2017, we have several projects on the books including voter registration drives, education in our local schools and election worker recruitment for 2018.

In this edition of News & Views, we will recap our successes from this past year and cover what everyone in our office is doing post-election. Also included in this edition is a special feature of the winners from our award-winning Art for Democracy art contest where students expressed the spirit of democracy.

We are so proud of our accomplishments from 2016 and you should be too! By working and voting in this election cycle, you were a part of history! Many thanks again from all of our staff – we could not conduct elections without you!



Congrats to the winners of the 2016 Art for Democracy art contest!

Jennifer

OUT & ABOUT

Early Voters

We are so proud of our achievements from this election cycle! During the General Election we offered 13 nine-hour days of Early Voting – the most in Collier County history – and nearly 75,000 voters took advantage of casting their ballot early. Many of these voters also let us know about their positive experiences on social media!

Reviews left on our Facebook page:

"Just want to say that I appreciate all your hard work that many folks take for granted. Collier exemplifies how an election should be organized. Thank you to your fantastic team who go unnoticed behind the scenes" - Matt Hoover

"Very nice facility with great people working. I walked right in voted and walked right [out]" - Ashley Bailey

Thank you for leaving a positive impression with our voters!

VOTER EDUCATION

Gearing up for a busy 2017



HEATHER WYSOCKI

VOTER EDUCATION COORDINATOR

The 2016 Election Cycle may have just ended, but our 2017 calendar is already filling up with voter registration drives, school programs and other voter education events across Collier County!

Our packed schedule may come as a surprise to some, but our goal is to make voting convenient, easy and secure as we approach future elections.

During the 2016 General Election, over 1,600 voters were required to make changes to their information at their polling location which often caused delays during Early Voting and on Election Day. We know our voters lead busy lives and sometimes it can be too late to make important changes when an election is on the horizon. Our goal is to make elections a priority and we serve to remind voters that they have an important civic responsibility coming up.

Over the next few months, our Diplomats will be participating in events across the county to help you update your voter information and be "election ready" for future elections. Check out our full outreach schedule at www.CollerVotes.com, and if you would like to have us at an event, please contact me at heatherwysocki@coliergov.net or (239) 252-8805.

VOTE-BY-MAIL UPDATES



JESSICA CHRONISTER
VOTE-BY-MAIL
SUPERVISOR

Recapping 2016

2016 was a great year for the Vote-by-Mail Department. Here are some statistics for what we accomplished:

Presidential Preference Primary:

44,593 ballots mailed
30,644 ballots tabulated

Primary Election:

54,195 ballots mailed
34,798 ballots tabulated

General Election:

70,108 ballots mailed
56,686 ballots tabulated

As Collier County continues to grow, and the number of active voters increases, our department is looking for ways to improve our processes and will be applying best practices to gear up for 2018. We look forward to serving you in the future!

CANDIDATE QUALIFYING



DAVE CARPENTER
QUALIFYING OFFICER

Looking Ahead

The next election is just around the corner! Well – not exactly, but sometimes it seems that way in Collier County. Our next scheduled election will be the City of Everglades City municipal election in November 2017 followed closely by the City of Naples municipal election in February of 2018. The Supervisor of Elections contracts with these two municipalities to run their elections under an inter-local agreement. The next scheduled countywide elections will be held in August and November of 2018.

Our election years are usually referred to as "Presidential" or "Gubernatorial" which makes 2018 a gubernatorial year, featuring the races for Florida's Governor and Cabinet. Governor Scott and the entire State Cabinet will be out by reason of term limits so we will see an entire new set of faces running for Governor/Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture and Chief Financial Officer. Our entire state legislative delegation will also be up including our State Senator and three State Representatives. Federally, Senator Bill Nelson will be up for re-election as will Congressmen Francis Rooney and Mario Diaz-Balart.

A special addition to the ballot in November will be a collection of amendments to Florida's Constitution which will be placed on the ballot by the soon-to-be-created Constitutional Revision Commission that is assembled every 20 years to offer revisions to the constitution.

County races in 2018 will feature County Commission Districts 2 and 4, as well as School Board Districts 1, 3 and 5. In addition, there will be three county judgeships decided in 2018 and we will vote on an array of seats for Fire Districts, Mosquito Control, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, as well as a large group of Community Development Districts.

We are looking forward to a busy year in 2017 and every year candidates seem to start campaigning earlier, so don't be surprised if you see people announcing in the next few months.

2016

ART FOR DEMOCRACY

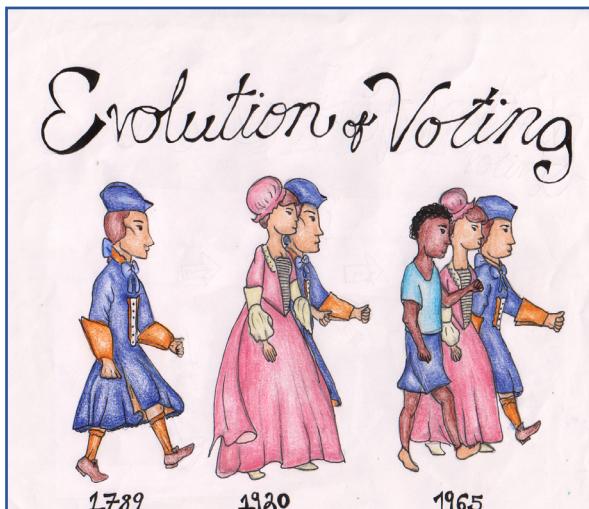


Mo P., of Palmetto Ridge High School, was the winner of the \$500 scholarship award for her beautiful artwork featuring the Constitution atop Mount Rushmore.

To create her art, Mo used pencil shading techniques and drew the lettering of the Constitution by hand.

"Mount Rushmore, to me, represents the faces of democracy. We visited there on vacation not long ago." - Mo P.

Mo enjoys exploring anything artistic and loves to sketch. She revealed to us that she hopes to someday work in the fashion industry.



Tess M.'s artwork was this year's "Best of Show" as she depicted the evolution of voting representing both the women's suffrage movement and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Tess noticed that several classmates were creating representations of the American Flag and wanted to focus her entry on something that would stand out. She used colored pencil in creating her artwork and admits that she even received a little history lesson through its creation.

"I really admire leaders who stood for equality like Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks." - Tess M.

The "Best of Show" award was given to Gulfview Middle School's art department where Tess attends.



Congrats to scholarship winner Mo P. (center) joined by her family and Lisa Church from Champions For Learning!



Congrats to "Best of Show" winner, Tess M. (center-left) joined with Gulfview Middle School's Assistant Principal, Kristina Lee!



Valerie O., pictured with her art teacher from Naples Christian Academy, was one of our Honorable Mentions in this year's contest. She chose to depict how advancing technology and social media has an effect on the election process.

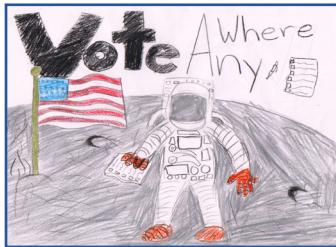
She used a combination of paint, stickers and pencil to create her artwork.



Alexa G., of Poinciana Elementary, was another Honorable Mention in this year's contest.

"The history of our country starts with the flag and I wanted to show how our flag was created." - Alexa G.

Alexa used a combination of colored pencils and colored Sharpies to create her entry.



Congrats to our artists who were awarded as Honorable Mentions (from left): Ginger G. of Gulfview Middle School, Alexa G. of Poinciana Elementary School, Valerie O. of Naples Christian Academy and Monica G. of Palmetto Ridge High School!



Fig. Brett Lethbridge, Better Angels Free, Mary Martin Gallery of Fine Art

Program Overview

The vision for the "Art for Democracy" program is to obtain, showcase and judge artwork that expresses what democracy means to our student artists in Collier County. There can be several facets to this expression including the many faces of democracy, preserving and promoting the democratic process or expressing the spirit of democracy.

A call for entries took place between October 6 and November 17, 2016 and students were challenged to create a piece of artwork that expresses the meaning of democracy. Among the 134 submitted works of art, six winning entries were selected to appear in election publications between 2017 and 2018.

The \$500 awards for the scholarship winner and "Best of Show" entry were provided by Champions For Learning through the Chuck Mohlke Endowment Fund of the Community Foundation of Collier County. Mr. Mohlke left a legacy of respect, charity, kindness, and a commitment to civic engagement and passion for learning.

Special gratitude is owed to our judges and partners during this year's program including Collier County Public Schools, Champions For Learning and the Mary Martin Gallery of Fine Art.



JULIO VIGIL
ELECTION SERVICES
DIRECTOR

ELECTION SERVICES

Teamwork Equals Success

Another successful election is in the books for Collier County! Nearly 75% of registered voters in Florida voted in the General Election and in Collier County alone, 87% of voters voted in the General Election – the highest in the state!

2016 was a very busy year for our office with three elections and the relocation of our office, and 2017 is shaping up to also be packed with projects.

It is our mission to serve our voters with integrity and we cannot accomplish that successfully without teamwork.

From the bottom of our hearts, we want to thank you for being on our team!



Thanks to our partners at Hilton Moving for their hard work during the General Election!

TRAINING NEWS

What's to Come in 2017

This past election cycle was one to remember! Voter turnout was the highest in the entire state and staffing was increased during both Early Voting and on Election Day during the General Election. Your patience and dedication to the process is outstanding and without you, we could not conduct elections. The voters' feedback regarding customer service, friendly attitudes and helpfulness was expressed many times throughout the entire cycle.



ROGER MUNZ
TRAINING DIRECTOR

As we enter 2017, the Training Department will begin election worker recruitment for future elections. If you know someone who would like to serve their community by working at the polls, please tell them about your experience in 2016 and guide them to our website to apply.

Don't forget that groups are welcome too! During the 2016 General Election, more than \$50,000 was raised for local charities and non-profits through our Adopt-A-Precinct program. You can learn more about how to join a group by visiting our website at www.CollieVotes.com.

Did you work at the polls in 2016?

You're Invited!

Election Worker Open House

on
February 11



AIXA CAPIZZI
CUSTOMER SERVICE
SUPERVISOR

CUSTOMER SERVICE

What to Expect in 2017

We get back to work!

Our goal in the Customer Service Department is to provide consistent and excellent customer service. Our top priority is to ensure the integrity of the electoral process, making sure that voters feel comfortable participating in elections. In the coming months, our department will be reviewing processes and procedures and utilizing best known practices in order to improve existing functions.

One of our objectives for 2017 is to advance and standardize training for our Customer Service Representatives which will allow staff to continue providing assistance to voters that is reliable, timely and effective.

Don't forget to update your voter information if you have moved recently! It's our pleasure to help you through that process.

Thank you for your confidence and thank you for voting!

SPOTLIGHT: FIRST-TIME VOTERS

2016 was a very important year for more than 1,400 young voters who cast a ballot for the first time in Collier County after their 18th birthday! We want to thank all of those first-time voters for voicing their choice this year including (from left) Craig Schwerin, Tori Mann and Alexandra Velez!



2016 GENERAL ELECTION STATS

Voter Registration: 200,707 registered voters

24% (47,514) Democrats 51% (102,287) Republicans

25% (50,906) NPA/Minor Parties

Voter Turnout: 174,500 (87%) voted in the General Election

33% (56,686) Voted by Mail 43% (74,932) Voted Early

24% (42,681) Voted on Election Day

Visit us on the web: www.CollierVotes.com

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Jennifer J. Edwards
Supervisor of Elections

