



COLLIER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS NEWS & VIEWS

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Contact "News & Views":
email electionworker@colliergov.net or call
(239) 252-8052



JENNIFER J. EDWARDS
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

From Our Summer to Yours

We hope you all have been enjoying your summer! In June our office hosted the Florida State Association of Supervisor of Elections (FSASE) 2013 Annual Summer Conference on Marco Island. We had a great time networking with other election offices and attending workshops to learn more on what other counties are doing to improve their election processes!

All of our departments are currently working on projects to assist in adapting to the new legislation (House Bill 7013) and to make the voting experience as smooth as possible for Collier County voters. Since the new legislation allows more flexibility in regards to our early voting locations, our Election Services Department is currently looking into new possible locations that are ADA compliant and also meet our technological requirements.

Also adapting to new changes are the members of our IT Department. They are currently cross-training in their areas of expertise to better prepare them to respond to and assist in any tech-related issues or needs in the Office and for our voters.

Some other modifications we have made include internal changes with the hiring of our new IT Director, Eric Zimmerman, and our Election Communications Coordinator, Trish Robertson. Eric comes to us from Ave Maria School of Law where he served as their System-Network Operations and Project Manager, and Trish most recently held a position as the Client Relations Administrator for Trace America, LLC located in Estero. Please join us in welcoming them to the team!

You can read more about our new employees in our "Spotlight" article and also learn more about what the entire SOE team is doing to prepare for our upcoming Municipal, Primary, and General Elections in this issue of News and Views!



Jennifer (center) and our Customer Service and Absentee Director, Eric West (center), being awarded at the MFCEP Designation in June.

OUT & ABOUT

What happens during an off election summer?

You may be asking yourself what we do during a time when there is not a major Primary or General Election...well, we stay active! After successfully hosting the 2013 FSASE Annual Summer Conference, we are diving right into election worker orientations, education & outreach programs, and are also participating in community engagement events. To learn more about what our office is doing, check out our Community Calendar on our website for details!

VOTER EDUCATION

Summer Programs



CYNDI YOUNG
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

We have had above-normal rainfall, but it has not dampened the enthusiasm of the Voter Education/Outreach Department. Voter awareness programs and voter registration drives are provided year-round and especially throughout the summer months. Most recently we attended the Veterans Fair and the Tropical Fruits Workshops & Tree Sale.

Some future events scheduled include: the Collier County public schools new teacher orientation program, Naples Chamber Annual Trade Show, Naples Area Board of Realtors (NABOR) Expo, the von Liebig Art Center's 6th Annual Show of Shows Exhibition, and Goodland's Annual Holiday Show. To learn more, visit our Community Calendar at: www.colliervotes.com.

We are always looking for new opportunities to conduct educational and outreach programs. If you are aware of an event or forum that may allow our office to provide such services, please call (239) 252-8450.



BOB BEST
ABSENTEE SUPERVISOR

ABSENTEE UPDATES

Staying Current with Absentee Voting

The Absentee Department is busy preparing for the upcoming elections in 2014. As a reminder, each election worker working outside of their precinct on Election Day will automatically receive an absentee ballot if they are working during an upcoming election cycle. Absentee ballots will be mailed approximately 30 days prior to Election Day.

All absentee ballots must be received in the Supervisor of Elections office by 7p.m. on Election Day. You may either hand-deliver the ballot or mail it to the main office. Please keep your information current with our office by contacting us with any changes at: (239) 252-8450.

If you are interested in learning more about absentee voting, please visit our website: www.colliervotes.com.



DAVE CARPENTER
QUALIFYING OFFICER

CANDIDATE QUALIFYING

Campaign Finance

The Florida Legislature overhauled the State's Campaign Finance laws during the 2013 Legislative Session. The goal was to increase campaign contribution limits in return for more transparency regarding contributions.

The legislature also eliminated Committees of Continuous Existence (CCE's). These statewide committees often served as a middle man for political money and it was often difficult to see the source of funding by the time it appeared in local or state campaigns. There was little statutory control over other expenditures made by these organizations, and the apparent misuse of funds seemed widespread. Groups formerly using CCE's must turn to Political Committees to advance their political goals. The money trail is much clearer and more transparent.

Contribution limits have been raised from \$500 per election to \$1000 per election for all candidates except for those running for statewide office which is now \$3000 per election. In return, the legislature increased the frequency of campaign finance reports. Candidates will now report monthly, and then weekly, and eventually, ten days before an election, candidates running for state office will need to report their contributions daily.

Left untouched by legislation are the Electioneering Communication Organizations. These are the groups that carefully avoid directly telling you who to vote for, but leave a clear impression of their stand. In recent years, they have become more attractive for those wishing to donate major funding to influence the outcome of an election.

How do the changes affect Collier? Don't be surprised to see the cost of campaigning take another jump.



ROGER MUNZ
TRAINING DIRECTOR

TRAINING NEWS

Training to Adapt

The Training Department has been busy implementing changes brought on by the 2013 Legislative Session via House Bill 7013. HB 7013 has resulted in allowing the Supervisors of Elections some flexibility in site locations, but they must

maintain, at a minimum, the same number of early voting sites for the upcoming General Election that it operated in the 2012 General Election.

Also, early voting times will expand hours of operation to a minimum of eight hours and a maximum of 12 hours per day. Early voting days may also increase; the period may begin on the 15th day before Election Day, but as a minimum must begin on the 10th day. This allows each county to adjust according to their voter turnout projections. Collier is currently in the analysis and decision process.

Additionally, there are procedural changes in affirmations and absentee balloting. These changes will become a part of your updates in training classes. Our new Communication Coordinator, Trish, will be reaching out to our workers within the next three to four months to begin scheduling those trainings.

We are also in preparation for the upcoming 2014 elections. The dates for those elections are as follows:

- City of Naples: February 4, 2013
- Primary: August 26, 2014 (new date)
- General: November 4, 2014

Finally, a reminder that any new workers will need to attend an orientation session in order to qualify to work. Orientations are scheduled on the third Thursday of the month. You may visit our website: www.colliervotes.com for more information and availability.

ELECTION SERVICES

Maintenance and Prep

Summer is here, and the Election Services Department is continuing to look for ways to improve the voting experience for all.

Due to the passing of House Bill 7013, we are no longer limited

to using only city halls, libraries, and our main office for early voting sites. Therefore, we are currently searching for facilities that meet the new law requirements and also follow our regular standards to be considered as an acceptable voting site (size, availability, ADA compliant, etc.).

While continuing to analyze each of our polling sites, the Election Services Department is also going through all of our voting equipment in order to prepare them for the next election. This October, the manufacturer of our voting equipment, Election Systems & Software (ES&S), will be performing preventative maintenance to our tabulation machines, optical scanners, and our ADA touch screen units. During this maintenance, ES&S repairs, tests, and cleans every piece of equipment in order to make sure it is ready to go for the next election.



JULIO VIGIL
ELECTION SERVICES
COORDINATOR



ERIC ZIMMERMAN
DIRECTOR OF IT

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH IT

Bettering Our Team with Cross-Training

The IT Department for the Collier County SOE consists of a dedicated team of four IT professionals. While we each have our areas of expertise, our team is currently cross-training to allow for breadth of knowledge. This effort will pay off by allowing our team to be more effective and efficient in responding to the needs of the employees at the SOE office. Moreover, it will allow us to better serve the citizens of Collier County by permitting us to respond to their election needs and expectations.

Our mission is to provide a robust and stable computer system and network for the SOE that will benefit the citizens of Collier County. In an effort to achieve this, we are conducting numerous projects. One project we are undertaking is a Data Management Project where we are evaluating how we manage, store, secure, and access our data. As you can well imagine, this and our other projects are quite in-depth and require a lot of planning in order to be successful!

SPOTLIGHT: NEW STAFF!

Eric Zimmerman, IT Director

The IT Department has a new leader. Eric Zimmerman officially joined the SOE Team as the IT Director on May 13. Eric was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, but moved to Naples in 1993 and is excited to receive his “honorary native status” as he approaches 20 years in the area.

Eric graduated Magma cum Laude from Baldwin Wallace College and recently served as the System-Network Operations and Project Manager for Ave Maria School of Law. Eric is the proud father of two daughters and enjoys motorcycling, scuba diving, home remodeling projects, and of course, technology!



Eric Zimmerman

Trish Robertson, Election Communications Coordinator

Trish Robertson joined the Supervisor of Elections Office on July 8. Trish is originally from Indian River County, and is a graduate of FGCU. She is also an active member of the Florida Public Relations Association and she is an enthusiastic Chicago Bears fan. She previously served as the Client Relations Administrator at Trace America, LLC in Estero, FL.

Trish will be working closely with Roger Munz and Kevin Turner in our Training Department and will be reaching out to all our active election workers as we begin the training process for the 2014 election cycle.



Trish Robertson

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Upcoming Election Dates: Everglades City Municipal: November 26, 2013

Naples Municipal: February 4, 2014 Primary: August 26, 2014 General: November 4, 2014

Visit us on the web: www.CollierVotes.com

