

# COLLIER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS NEWS & VIEWS

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## IN THIS ISSUE

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE ..... 1

OUT & ABOUT ..... 1

VOTER EDUCATION ..... 2

ABSENTEE UPDATES ..... 2

CANDIDATE QUALIFYING..... 2

ELECTION SERVICES ..... 3

TRAINING NEWS ..... 3

CUSTOMER SERVICE ..... 3

SPOTLIGHT ..... 4

IMPORTANT REMINDERS ..... 4

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



**JENNIFER J. EDWARDS**  
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

## SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

### Big Plans for 2014

Since our last publication, our office has been preparing for the upcoming election year and also tending to regular business to wrap up 2013.

We held a Municipal Election for the City of Everglades City on November 26. Of the 246 eligible voters, 131 cast their ballots to select members of their city council. Thank you to all of the staff and to our Everglades City election workers who helped make this election such a success!

Earlier this fall, we were excited to announce the promotion of our former Assistant Supervisor of Elections. Melissa Blazier, CERA, MFCEP, was promoted to Chief Deputy Supervisor of Elections. Melissa is a huge asset to our office, and we look forward to working under her leadership moving forward into 2014!

As we enter the new election year, the Collier County Elections Team is preparing for three elections: the City of Naples Election, and both the Primary and General Elections for Florida's Governor, and other state, federal, and local contests.

The online training for the City of Naples Election became available to workers on January 2, and our hands-on training classes have been scheduled for the last week in January.

We still need election workers for the 2014 Election Cycle. If you or someone you know would like to work at the polls, please visit our website at [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com) and fill out an Election Worker Application. Someone from our office will contact you after the application is received to schedule an Election Worker Orientation.

You can read more on Training News and hear from some of our other departments in this edition of News & Views.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!



**Top:** Elections team at the United Way "Walk for the Way"

**Right:** Melissa Blazier & Jennifer Edwards serving at the Farm City BBQ

**Bottom:** Jennifer pictured with Kathleen Passidomo, Senator Richter & Commissioner Fiala at a local event



## OUT & ABOUT

Our office had quite a busy fall! The Elections Team participated in various events including the United Way "Walk for the Way" in September, the Stone Crab Festival in October, the Veterans Day Flag Retirement and Farm City BBQ in November, and the Santa Paws Salute to Veterans Program in December.

"Like" us on Facebook or "follow" us on Twitter to stay updated on what our office is doing around the community!



# VOTER EDUCATION

## Outreach in our Schools



**CYNDI YOUNG**  
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

The Education and Outreach Department has had a busy fall starting the school-year off by educating students on the importance of voting.

In October, we visited with seventh graders at Pine Ridge Middle School to educate them on the importance of their voting rights and the logistics of how an election is conducted. We then lead a mock election where 302 students received hands-on experience voting a paper ballot. We also conducted student council elections for Golden Gate Elementary and Golden Gate Middle Schools where over 1,000 students had the opportunity to vote for their class officers.

Currently, we are in the process of reaching out to our residents in assisted living and nursing home facilities within the City of Naples in an effort to prepare them for the 2014 election cycle.

Also on the agenda is our annual reading program, where our office partners with Collier County elementary and middle schools encouraging students to read and vote for their favorite book. This program begins in March and we currently have 22 schools scheduled to participate.

If you or someone you know is interested in our office visiting a school, please give us a call at 252-VOTE.

Also, be sure to check out our Community Calendar for upcoming events at [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com).



**BOB BEST**  
ABSENTEE SUPERVISOR

**Don't Forget**



# ABSENTEE UPDATES

## Absentee in 2014

As 2014 approaches, the Absentee Department has been gearing up for the legislative changes that are effective January 1.

The installation of new software, the programming of smart tools, and the creation of better methods and practices has kept our department busy this year

Don't forget to notify us if you have made any recent changes to your residential address. You can either visit our website at [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com) to update your address or give us a call at 252-VOTE.

We would like to wish all our voters and our election workers the very best for the New Year!

# CANDIDATE QUALIFYING

## Amending Florida's Constitution



**DAVE CARPENTER**  
QUALIFYING OFFICER

As election workers, we are all familiar with the gaggle of amendments placed on the ballot in November 2012. Those proposed constitutional amendments all had one fact in common: they were placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature. We have two major efforts to place amendments on the ballot through the petition process this year. The first amendment seeks a dedicated tax to fund the purchase of conservation and recreation lands, and the second, seeks to legalize marijuana for medical use in Florida.

To gain the ballot, the committees for these amendments must submit valid signatures of at least 8% of the number of Florida voters who voted in the 2012 Presidential Election.

For the 2014 election, that means they must have 683,149 valid signatures. These signatures must be collected and submitted to each Supervisor of Elections Office for verification. The deadline for the Supervisors to certify their counts to the state is February 1, 2014.

The petitions usually arrive to us in batches of a few hundred to a thousand, and are accompanied by a check, covering the cost to verify each signature. We are allowed to charge 10 cents for each signature we check. Out of each batch, usually 70% to 80% are actual Collier County voters. To give you an idea of where these two proposed amendments stand, we have processed over 5,000 petitions for the Conservation Amendment and over 2,000 for the Marijuana amendment as of this writing.

While many committees seeking petitions use volunteers to gather them, the majority of the petitions we receive come from companies with whom the committees contract to obtain petition signatures. The same firm is soliciting petitions for both the Conservation and Marijuana amendments and they are actually headquartered in California.

Once an amendment makes the ballot, it still takes 60% of the votes to pass it.



**JULIO VIGIL**  
ELECTION SERVICES  
COORDINATOR

## ELECTION SERVICES

### **No Solicitation vs. Exit Polling**

Our department has been preparing for the City of Naples Election by ensuring all polling sites, equipment, and supplies are election-ready.

As we solidify our precincts and begin to train our election workers for the upcoming election year, the topic of "exit polling" may arise.

As outlined under FS 102.031, no person or group may solicit voters inside the polling place. In addition, no person or group may solicit voters within 100 feet of the entrance to the polling place or early voting site, which may include asking for a voter's opinion or campaigning for a candidate.

The only exception to the no-solicitation law is exit polling, which many may be familiar with the media conducting. Exit polling is when voters are asked to reveal which candidate they voted for after they exit the polling place. Often, members of the media will conduct these polls in an effort to understand which candidate is in the lead during an election.

In previous elections, exit polling has taken place on Election Day at Pct 464, Moorings Presbyterian Church, and at Pct 205, Community Congregational Church. We encourage the media to notify our office ahead of time if they will be conducting an exit poll, which allows us to notify our precincts and election workers to better prepare for the event.



Julio Vigil (right) appeared on D'Latinos to provide some insight on how our office operates an election.

## TRAINING NEWS

### **Updates from the Training Dept**

Preparation for the 2014 election cycle has begun starting with the City of Naples Election on February 4, 2014.

The Training Department has been busy revising the online training materials with new videos and updates based on the legislative changes. The online training will be distributed 45-55 days prior to each election. Please be sure to contact us if you have recently updated your email address in order to receive your trainings timely.

We also want to remind you that new workers will need to attend a one-time Election Worker Orientation. These sessions will begin February 20, 2014 and continue on the third Thursday of each month. For more information including a complete listing of orientation dates, please visit our website at [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com).

Additionally, we are looking for Creole and Spanish translators. If you know of any individuals who would be willing to help in select precincts, please have them contact Trish Robertson at (239) 252-8052 or [TrishRobertson@colliergov.net](mailto:TrishRobertson@colliergov.net).

We wish you all a Happy New Year and we are looking forward to reconnecting with all of our experienced workers and meeting some new ones for this upcoming election cycle.

Roger, Kevin & Trish



**ROGER MUNZ**  
TRAINING DIRECTOR



**MICHELLE FORD**  
CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERVISOR

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

### **Working with an Amazing Staff**

As the "newbie" to the Elections Office, I already have so many positive things to say about our team! I am so fortunate to be working with an amazing staff, particularly the ladies in the Customer Service Department.

Coming into a new job in a new industry can be a challenge, which is why I am so thankful to work with Darlene, Shavontae, and Katie. All three have an extensive history in our office, and I am so happy to work with kind and patient individuals.

Recently, Shavontae and Katie celebrated their anniversaries with our office and were recognized for their outstanding dedicated service. Thank you to the Customer Service staff for all you do, and thank you to everyone in the Elections Office for such a warm welcome!

**Happy New Year from the Customer Service Department!**



**Top:** Shavontae Dominique-18 yrs.  
**Bottom:** Katie Collins-6 yrs.

# SPOTLIGHT: COLLIER COUNTY VETERANS

## *Vote in Honor of a Veteran*

In November, our office launched a new program: Vote in Honor of a Veteran. This program is intended to connect voters to Collier County veterans and also serves as a reminder to exercise our freedom to vote, honoring veterans who fought to protect this liberty.

More information can be found on our website at [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com). If you would like to nominate a veteran or military man or woman currently serving, please contact us at [electionworker@colliergov.net](mailto:electionworker@colliergov.net) or 252-8052.



**CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3 TIMOTHY S. FORD**  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
1985-2007  
DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM, OPERATION  
IRAQI FREEDOM/OPERATION ENDURING  
FREEDOM



**SGT. ZACHARIAH WILLIAM KOCSSES**  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
2000-2005  
OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM/  
GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM



**LIEUTENANT COLONEL DONALD M. FORD**  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
1959-2003  
VIETNAM CONFLICT



**LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
CHRISTOPHER MATTHEW QUIMBY (RIGHT)**  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
1994-PRESENT  
IRAQI FREEDOM/ENDURING FREEDOM

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**Upcoming Election Dates:** City of Naples: February 4, 2014

Primary Election: August 26, 2014    General Election: November 4, 2014

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



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