

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
- SPOTLIGHT4
- IMPORTANT REMINDERS 4

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



JENNIFER J. EDWARDS
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

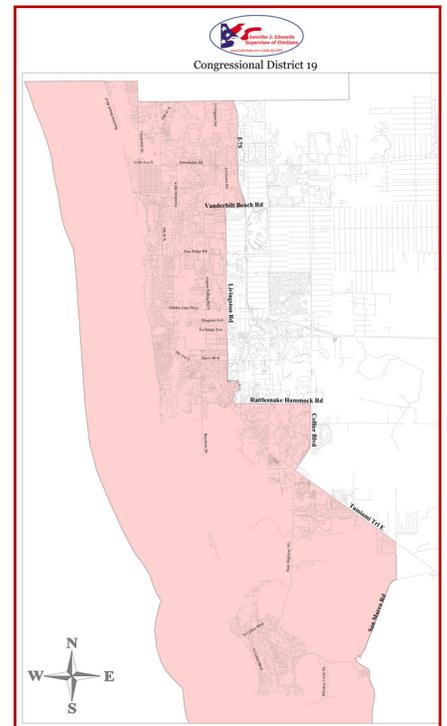
SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

Springing into the Special Elections!

Our election year has kicked off with a Special Election to fill the open seat for US Congressional District 19. The Primary Election is scheduled for April 22 and the General Election will be held on June 24. Four Republican candidates will appear on the ballot in April and the elected candidate from the Primary will face a Libertarian, a Democratic and a write-in candidate during the General Election in June.

We are so fortunate to have had an overwhelmingly positive response of available workers and we thank everyone who is willing to work these dates outside of the "typical" election cycle. Without our election workers, these elections would not be possible. Thank you!

As preparations for the Special Elections proceed, our staff is continuing to prepare for the Gubernatorial Elections which will be held in August and November of this year. We would also like to remind everyone to check out our website at www.CollierVotes.com for all election-related materials and to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for updates on what our office has planned in the community. You can read more about what each department is doing during this busy time in this edition of News & Views!



OUT & ABOUT



Jennifer at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade in January

Parading Around the County!

Some of our favorite events to participate in are our local parades! This spring we marched in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade in January and the Marco Island St. Patrick's Day Parade in March.

We often have diplomats stationed at these events to register voters and answer any questions about upcoming elections. If you have an upcoming event and would like a representative from our office to attend, give us a call at 252-VOTE!



Trish Robertson and Cyndi Young at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade



Jennifer at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in March

VOTER EDUCATION

2014 Spring Events



CYNDI YOUNG
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Our 2014 partnership with the Sunshine State and the Florida Reading Association programs kicked off in March. Student elections for these programs are scheduled at 25 elementary and middle schools across Collier County and we anticipate a voter turnout of approximately 5,000 students.

Other community outreach and registration events have taken place at farmers markets, Chamber events, cars shows, homeowner association meetings, festivals, employee orientations, and candidate forums.

On Thursday, June 26th, the Voter Education Department will conduct Politics in the Park – a straw ballot election for the Collier Building Industry Association (CBIA). The event is open to the public and will be held at St John the Evangelist Catholic Church at 625 111th Avenue N.

To learn more about our outreach activities, visit our Community Calendar located at:
www.CollierVotes.com.



March is considered National Women's History Month. Here are just a few of the great women who help make elections possible in Collier County!

ABSENTEE UPDATES



Getting the Word out to Voters

The Absentee Department has been busy these past few weeks sending a Notice of Election for the Special Primary and Special General, to all affected voters in US Congressional District 19. Shortly thereafter, a Notice of Election was also sent to all Collier County voters for the Gubernatorial Primary and General Election.

As always, we encourage our voters to vote by mail. It is easy and convenient. Voting by mail allows you to research the candidates and make clear educated decisions from the comfort of your own home.

Remember, vote by mail ballots are the first to be tabulated, and the first results reported on Election Night.



DAVE CARPENTER
QUALIFYING OFFICER

CANDIDATE QUALIFYING

Primary Colors

Primary Elections are often a source of confusion for voters, even long time voters. The purpose of a Primary Election is to narrow the field of candidates before an election to office. For partisan offices, the major political parties use the Primary to determine a single candidate to represent the party in the General Election. For nonpartisan offices, such as school board members or judges, the Primary serves the function of narrowing the field to the two most popular candidates.

Not all elected offices in Florida have Primaries. Special Districts, such as fire and mosquito control districts, do not have Primary Elections. These elections are conducted on a simple plurality basis: one election and whoever gets the most votes takes office. State Supreme and Appellate Court Judges are appointed and only appear on the ballot for voters to decide if they should retain their seats.

While all voters can vote in our nonpartisan Primaries, our Primaries for partisan office are strictly a closed affair. In Florida, you must have been a registered member of a political party for at least 30 days to vote in their Primary. This differs substantially from other states where you may choose your party on Election Day, or states such as Washington and Louisiana where the candidates of all parties appear on the same ballot and the top two (regardless of their party) appear on the November General Election ballot. Voters who have moved to Florida from other states often assume that rules are the same all over, which can lead to confusion on Election Day.

Florida's exception to closed partisan Primary Elections is when all of the candidates who have qualified for a partisan office are all from the same political party. This situation means that the contest will end at the Primary Election and the candidate with the most votes will take office. In this case, the law in Florida allows for a Universal Primary, which is when all voters—regardless of party affiliation—will have the race on their ballot. This change was voted into law in 1998 and it allows even a write-in candidate to close a Primary.



JULIO VIGIL
ELECTION SERVICES
COORDINATOR

ELECTION SERVICES

Precinct Changes

Our office implemented a precinct consolidation project in the fall of last year and as a result, the Collier County SOE Office has reduced the amount of precincts from 62 to 58. The following precincts have been consolidated: 157, 221, 345, and 592.

There has also been a change in polling locations for voters in Precinct 251. On Election Day, voters will now vote at Library Headquarters located at 2385 Orange Blossom Drive, Naples FL 34109, rather than at St. Katherine Greek Orthodox on Airport Pulling Road.

This change affects approximately 5,790 voters who are eligible to participate in the US Congressional 19 Special Election.

For the Special Election, we will also have the following Early Voting sites active: the Supervisor of Elections Office, Library Headquarters, Marco Island Library and Norris Center.

Collier County voters who saw a change in their precinct were sent a new Voter Information Card. If you have questions or concerns regarding your precinct, please contact us at 252-VOTE!

TRAINING NEWS

ATTENTION Election Workers!



ROGER MUNZ
TRAINING DIRECTOR

The addition of the US Congressional District 19 Special Election has kicked off our election cycle earlier than expected.

This election is to select the candidate to complete the remainder of the term for former Congressman Trey Radel. The Primary (closed) includes four Republican candidates and the winner of that election will then move forward to the Special General, scheduled for June 24, 2014.

One of the challenges our office faces is the timing of this election. During this time, many of our election workers take the summer off for vacations or move back to their summer homes. Fortunately, only 35 of the 58 precincts will be activated and we have already received responses from several workers who are available and willing to work with us.

Workers who have already committed to working this election should have received their online training on March 10 and will later attend a hands-on training beginning March 31 through April 18, depending on their position and availability.

Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to work for all the 2014 elections. As you know, without your help, we would not be able to conduct elections. Don't forget, there are still more elections coming this year for a total of four in 2014.

**Please be sure to keep your email address updated to receive the latest news and availability notices for the upcoming elections.*



Congrats to Roger Munz who celebrated 11 years with our office in March!



MICHELLE FORD
CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERVISOR

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Don't Forget to Update!

In the Customer Service Department, we are busy preparing for both the Special Elections in April and June and the Gubernatorial Elections in August and November. Our work includes the processing of new registration applications, record updates (including party affiliation and address changes), and we are assisting with requests for absentee ballots.

Of all of these items, address updates have the largest impacts on our voters and election workers. A voter's address determines where they vote, who they vote for and ultimately what ballot they receive. Voters can update their address by calling our office at 239-252-VOTE (8683) or by following the prompts on our website www.CollierVotes.com. Voters can also stop by our main office in the Collier Government Complex or our Orange Blossom location.

For questions or additional information, you can contact any Customer Service Representative at 239-252-VOTE!

SPOTLIGHT: NEW STAFF!

Jessica Klinko

Jessica joined the Supervisor of Elections Office on February 18 as the Assistant Supervisor of Elections. She is originally from Cleveland, OH where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from Notre Dame College. She worked at National City Bank and the Cleveland Clinic before relocating to Southwest Florida in 2011 and joining the Accounting Department at Health Management Associates.

Jessica enjoys reading, traveling and studying martial arts, but her main passion is baking. She is very happy to join the Elections Team and looks forward to the excitement of the upcoming 2014 election season. Please join us in welcoming our new Assistant Supervisor of Elections!



TUBE DUDE

The Collier County Supervisor of Elections Office welcomes the newest staff member to the Outreach Department!

Currently, our office is searching for a name for this (not so little) guy. He was born and raised in Sarasota, Florida and is of the exotic species called "Tube Dude." This guy stands at approximately seven feet tall and is a true patriot, as he clearly shows off in his attire. Activities he enjoys most include waving, holding signs and flags, and you can always count on getting a smile from him!

Please help us in naming our newest member of the Elections Team by emailing electionworker@colliergov.net and we will provide a formal introduction in our next newsletter!



Upcoming Election Dates: US Congressional District 19 Special Election: Primary - April 22, 2014 General - June 24, 2014
Florida Gubernatorial Election: Primary - August 26, 2014 General - November 4, 2014

Visit us on the web: www.CollierVotes.com

