



# COLLIER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS NEWS & VIEWS

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Contact News & Views:  
ElectionWorker@CollierVotes.gov  
or (239) 252-8052



JENNIFER J. EDWARDS  
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

## SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

### Springing into the 2022 Elections

The 2022 Election Cycle is just around the corner, and our staff is focused on their departmental needs in order to conduct another round of successful elections. We are looking for engaged citizens to help us implement these elections including members of our Training Department who are holding monthly new election worker orientations. If you are interested in joining our Elections Team, visit [www.CollierVotes.gov/HELP](http://www.CollierVotes.gov/HELP) to learn how!

As we see our seasonal residents head north for the summer, we want to remind them of some important dates approaching. The deadline to register to vote or update your party affiliation for the Primary Election is July 25. The deadline to request your Vote-by-Mail ballot is 5 p.m. on August 13; remember to include the address where you will be in August so we can send your Primary ballot to the correct location. Ballots are unable to be forwarded by the USPS so if you have a forward on your home here in Collier this summer, it will be returned to our office rather than sent to your summer residence. You can complete all of these actions on our website: [www.CollierVotes.gov](http://www.CollierVotes.gov).



In this issue of News & Views, you will learn more about the mailings we are sending to voters and we will discuss the process of how candidates get their name on the ballot. Enjoy!

## OUT & ABOUT

### Sunshine State Young Readers Awards

Every spring, our office collaborates with the Collier County Public Schools to conduct elections for their Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA) program. How does it work? Typically, students in kindergarten through 2nd grade have books read to them by their teachers, while older students in grades 3-8 independently read a certain number of books to participate in the election. Some schools go even further with rewards such as giveaways, book raffles, field trips and pizza parties! At the end of the program, election results are compiled across the entire state and announced by the SSYRA.

For us, the goal is to introduce the voting process to the students and connect that experience to what they are learning in their classrooms. This year, our Outreach Team visited 14 schools and over 3,200 students had the opportunity to vote for their favorite book using our voting equipment!



# TRAINING NEWS

## Collier Helps Local



KEVIN TURNER  
TRAINING & OUTREACH DIRECTOR

Thank you to everyone who assisted our office during the City of Naples Election! This was the first time since 2006 that the City of Naples offered early voting for their municipal election. Voter turnout was higher than expected during early voting which saw 1,184 voters while Election Day precincts had 2,273 voters cast a ballot. Seven precincts were activated during this election and five of those sites were staffed by our Adopt-a-Precinct volunteers. The Adopt-a-Precinct program is a great way for organizations to fundraise and team build while serving their community.

With the Primary Election approaching, we have started our new election worker orientations. An orientation is required for anyone interested in serving as an election worker who has not previously worked at the polls. This is a good opportunity to help recruit your friends and neighbors to be part of the process and work with you at the polls. Also, with the anticipated changes brought on by redistricting, we will be opening up a few new precincts to groups interested in the Adopt-a-Precinct program.

**What is the Adopt-a-Precinct program?** Local nonprofit organizations “adopt” a precinct, during an election, by providing volunteers to staff the polling place. The Supervisor of Elections then writes a check to the organization, rather than paying the workers individually. Organizations can earn up to \$2,500 depending on the election and the precinct adopted.

For more information on becoming an election worker or to find out if your organization would be a good fit for the Adopt-a-Precinct program, please visit our website at [www.CollierVotes.gov/HELP](http://www.CollierVotes.gov/HELP).



ORLANDY GODINES  
OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Each spring we collaborate with Collier County Public Schools’ Media Specialists on the Sunshine State Young Reader Awards program where students read a variety of books and vote for their favorite using our election equipment.

In addition to working in the schools, our diplomats have attended several events this past spring. From the Swamp Buggy Championships to Immokalee’s Cattle Drive, they are ready to register voters and answer any questions about the upcoming elections.

If you would like to join our Elections Team, visit [www.CollierVotes.gov/HELP](http://www.CollierVotes.gov/HELP) to learn more about becoming a Diplomat with our office. Diplomats attend scheduled events throughout Collier County in order to register and educate voters.

If you are interested in giving back to the community, contact me: (239) 252-8805 or email [Orlandy.Godines@CollierVotes.gov](mailto:Orlandy.Godines@CollierVotes.gov).

# VOTER OUTREACH

## Springing Into Action

Spring was as busy as ever for the Outreach Department. We continued to build partnerships with different organizations around town, including our schools.

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BONNIE KELLY  
CUSTOMER SERVICE  
SUPERVISOR

# CUSTOMER SERVICE

## Election Mail

This year, election officials across the state are going through a redistricting process, and in Collier County, many of our voters will see changes to voting districts and precinct assignments. Once the new maps are signed off by the legislature and the Governor, our office will get to work creating and mailing new Voter Information Cards to our voters ahead of the August Primary.

In addition, we will mail a Notice of Elections in early May which provides important dates, deadlines and reminders for the 2022 Election Cycle.

As you may be aware, all voter registration information is public record including your name, address, date of birth, party affiliation, phone number and email address. As the election season gears up, you may begin to receive mailings from third-party organizations that are not associated with the Supervisor of Elections office. Mailings from our office will always include the Supervisor of Elections logo and we display the Official Election Mail – Authorized by the U.S. Postal Service trademark on the front.

It is our pleasure to support the citizens of Collier County. If you have any questions please contact us at (239) 252-VOTE (8683).





KERRY BLACK  
VOTE-BY-MAIL SUPERVISOR

## VOTE-BY-MAIL UPDATES

### Interested in Voting by Mail?

Since the 2020 elections, we have seen a growing interest in voting by mail including how it works from the time a ballot is requested to when and how it is counted.

First, you must request a Vote-by-Mail ballot. State law only permits our office to send a Vote-by-Mail ballot to those who have requested one. There are several ways to request a ballot, but the most convenient way is to order your ballot online at [www.CollierVotes.gov/RequestBallot](http://www.CollierVotes.gov/RequestBallot).

Our office will send your ballot approximately 30 days in advance of Election Day. Once you vote your ballot, it is important to sign the ballot return envelope before mailing it back to us. That signature will be verified by elections staff who compares it to your signature of record.

Once we receive your ballot, it will then be processed through our high-speed sorter which – among other things – takes an image of your signed returned envelope. That image is then uploaded to your voter record and the image of your signature is used during the verification process.

After the logic and accuracy testing of our election equipment, our staff will receive permission from the Canvassing Board to begin opening and tabulating Vote-by-Mail ballots. Once your signature has been verified, the ballot return envelope goes through our extractors and your ballot and privacy sleeve is then removed. This ensures the anonymity of your ballot keeping you voted for a secret from everyone, including our staff. Ballots are then handed off to the Ballot Layout Team who unfolds and flattens the pages so they can be tabulated and added to the vote count.

The first round of election results published on Election Day consists of Vote-by-Mail ballots and Early Voting ballots. You can track the status of your ballot on our website at [www.CollierVotes.gov/TrackMyBallot](http://www.CollierVotes.gov/TrackMyBallot).



WILLIAM KOCSSES  
ELECTION SERVICES DIRECTOR

## ELECTION SERVICES

### Redistricting

This spring we are completing the redistricting work that started in 2021. New lines have been drawn due to the tremendous growth in Collier, which lead us to adding new precincts across the county.

Six new polling places for Election Day and two new early voting sites will be activated in 2022. The new Heritage Bay Government Services Center will now serve as an early voting location this year as will the South Regional Library.

Our office will soon send new Voter Information Cards to each voter. These cards list your Election Day polling place and will include all the voting districts in which you reside in, such as county commission and fire district. If you plan to vote on Election Day, I encourage you to reference your Voter Information Card to know exactly where you need to go and what to expect on your ballot.

## CANDIDATE QUALIFYING

### Getting your Name on the Ballot



DAVE CARPENTER  
QUALIFYING OFFICER

Interest in local government is extremely high this year and we are seeing a myriad of engaged citizens interested in running for office.

Individuals become candidates by filing the required paperwork with our office or the Florida Division of Elections. The Collier County Supervisor of Elections handles county and special district offices while the state handles federal, legislative and multi-county offices. Once someone has filed as a candidate, they can begin to raise and spend money and begin the process of qualifying in order to appear on the ballot.

To qualify, every candidate must file an oath and statement of financial interests. The law also requires that candidates either pay a qualifying fee or gather a sufficient number of petitions, as required for each office. The fees are based on a percentage of the salary paid for the office and the petitions are a percentage of the number of voters in the voting district (county commission runs by single member district whereas school board runs countywide). Candidates for special districts, such as fire and mosquito control, have an easier path by only needing to provide 25 petitions or \$25.

Individuals who choose to run as a “write-in” candidate are not required to pay a fee or submit petitions; however, they are still required to file an oath and financial statement. Although they are a legal candidate, their name will not appear on the ballot and voters must write their name in on the appropriate space during the General Election.

Candidates running for state attorney, public defender and judicial seats have a deadline of noon, April 29 to qualify. All other seats up for election including US congressional, state and local seats have until noon on June 17, 2022.

# SPOTLIGHT: IT DEPARTMENT

Security is a top priority for election officials across the state, and in Collier County, we could not be prouder of our staff in the IT Department who help us fulfill our mission to ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

This team is responsible for building elections, designing the ballot and implementing security measures that excel industry standards.

The public does not get a lot of face time with our IT staff, but that is because they are working behind the scenes to keep the integrity of our elections intact. Thank you to IT Director, Eric Zimmerman (top right) and to the entire IT team: Joseph Hudak, Ken Monroe, Israel Hernandez and Robert Rodriguez!

Learn more about our staff and their qualifications on our website: [www.CollierVotes.gov](http://www.CollierVotes.gov).

## IMPORTANT 2022 ELECTION DATES

### Primary Election

Voter Registration Deadline: July 25

Early Voting: August 13-20 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Election Day: August 23 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

### General Election

Voter Registration Deadline: October 11

Early Voting: October 27-November 5 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Election Day: November 8 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Visit us on the web: [www.CollierVotes.gov](http://www.CollierVotes.gov) #CollierVotesLocal | #ElectionReady



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Jennifer J. Edwards  
Supervisor of Elections

