



Jennifer J. Edwards
Supervisor of Elections

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News & Views

Our Mission: Ensure the integrity of the Electoral Process

Vol I ~ 2010



Message From The Supervisor of Elections

Happy New Year. Since my last communication, staff has been actively working on the general registration process known as list maintenance. In compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, during every odd numbered year, each Florida Supervisor is required to conduct a biennial process to protect the integrity of the electoral process by ensuring the maintenance of accurate and current voter registration records. The list maintenance process allows registered voters an opportunity to update their voter information (changes in legal residence, mailing address, name changes, party affiliation, and signature updates) and serves as a reminder for them to do so.

In November, the office conducted an election for Everglades City. Nearly 42% of the registered voters cast a ballot in this vote-for-three race for city council. For the first quarter of 2010, plans are underway for two elections. On January 26, 2010, registered Marco Island voters will have an opportunity to vote-for-three in the city council election and vote on seven City Charter Amendments in a Mail Ballot Election. On February 2, 2010, the City of Naples will conduct its city council election. Only registered voters living within the boundaries of these two areas will be eligible to vote.

Traditionally used during early voting, the elections office plans to use EViDS – Electronic Voter Identification Units – during the Naples City election. Recent upgrades to the EViD software will help streamline the verification process for election workers who must verify a voter’s eligibility, address, and signature, before printing a voter pass. To determine a voter’s eligibility, a state issued Florida Department of Motor Vehicles driver license or identification card is swiped through the EViD which reads the magnetic strip. If a voter provides another acceptable form of identification, a manual search is conducted.

Staff is also working to enhance the current Website and create a more user friendly environment. Visit www.CollierVotes.com to view changes made to enhance the look of the Website and help visitors navigate more quickly in and around each area of interest. You will find one noticeable change under the Election Information tab, under Current Elected Officials, hyperlinks to the websites of elected officials.

As always, I look forward to seeing our election workers and those who will be returning to help with the City of Naples Election.

Jennifer J. Edwards



Supervisor of Elections Office has presence at North Collier Government Center

The Supervisor of Elections Office shares space in the North Collier Government Center in unison with the Tax Collector, the Property Appraiser, and the Clerk of Courts.

The North Collier Government Center is located at 2335 Orange Blossom Drive, and is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



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Election Worker Orientation Classes

Linda Puchhas
Election Worker Coordinator

Monthly orientation classes are currently underway. These classes provide an overview of the election

process. Anyone interested in working for the very first time as an election worker or as a Spanish or Creole translator is invited to attend.

The hour-long class covers the various positions available and the responsibilities involved. Classes will be held the 3rd Thursday of each month beginning in February and will run through the month of June at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the Supervisor of Elections training center located inside the Golden Gate Community Park off Santa Barbara Blvd.



For more information regarding orientation classes, please contact:

Linda Puchhas
252-8052

LindaPuchhas@Colliergov.net



DIPLOMATS NEEDED

In preparation for the 2010 Election cycle, the elections office will be recruiting and training Diplomats to assist with voter outreach and education activities – voter registration drives, voting equipment demonstrations, and more. If you are interested in working as a Diplomat for the elections office, please contact Cyndi Young, Voter Education Coordinator at 252-8805.



Updates from the Training Department



Roger Munz
Training Director

In a recent effort to update computer files with current addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses, the training department contacted hundreds of election workers. To participate in election scheduling and avoid missing important training, please remember to keep Linda informed of any changes in your address or contact information. She may be reached at 239-252-8052 or by email: LindaPuchhas@colliergov.net. We will be communicating our newsletter and e-learning training program by email so it is important we have your current information.



The newest e-learning program has been in process for several months, with the help of an election worker task force, who reviewed and recommended enhancements to the on-line training program. We anticipate the courses will be ready by the August 2010 election cycle. This program will allow election workers to complete part of their training courses on-line. Upon successful completion of

the courses, election workers will be scheduled to attend hands-on equipment use training at the training center. Those who do not have computer access will be scheduled for training in the training centers computer lab. Course schedules will be sent to the email address on file. Again, please remember to keep your information updated with our office.



Congratulations to Kevin Turner, Training Officer. Kevin received the designation of “Certified Elections/Registration Administrator” from the Professional Education Program Certification Board of The Election Center, a program offered by Auburn University. He is one of only 544 graduates in the country to obtain this honor and the 5th member of our office.

At the end of 2009, we conducted the Everglades City Election on November 24, 2009. We are now preparing for the City of Marco Island Election on January 26, 2010 (mail ballot), and the City of Naples Election on February 2, 2010.

Remember: Primary Election, August 24, 2010
General Election, November 2, 2010

Remember, training is held 30 days before each Election Day.

Prior to each election, Linda will be sending availability notices to the email address we have on file. Notices will be sent regular mail to election workers without an email address. You are all valuable members of our election team so please let us know if updates need to be made to your information – we would not want you to miss any of the elections. And if you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming an election worker, please have them contact us to attend one of our monthly orientation classes.

Roger, Linda & Kevin
The Training Department





Candidates



Dave Carpenter
Qualifying Officer

The contest for United States Senator will lead off the ballot in 2010. The seat is currently held by George LeMieux (who replaced Mel Martinez). At the Federal level, the two congressional districts which serve Collier County will also be up this year. Currently, our two congressmen are Connie Mack (District 14) and Mario Diaz-Balart (District 25). The governor and state cabinet are all up for election in 2010, as well as the five State Representative districts which are either all or partly in Collier County. These partisan races will all begin in the Primary Election with the winners moving on to the General Election.



At the county level, County Commission District Seats 2 and 4 are both up for election this year. Our School Board has three positions on the ballot this year: District 1 (Incumbent Pat Carroll), District 3 (Incumbent Steve Donovan), and District 5 (Incumbent Richard Calabrese). The non partisan School Board race begins on the Primary Election ballot and, if no candidate receives 50% + votes, the top two finishers face off on the General Election ballot.

Every General Election also features a wide variety of special district offices on the ballot including: Fire Districts, Mosquito Control, and Community Development Districts. All 2010 Election contests are listed on our website ~ www.CollierVotes.com

On June 18th, we will know with certainty which races will actually appear on the ballot, this is the deadline for candidates to qualify for office. Shortly thereafter, we may expect the usual barrage of political advertisements to begin filling the airways.



The Absentee Department



The Absentee Team's newest member, Elizabeth Shields, Customer Service/Absentee Coordinator, is a valuable asset capable of multi-tasking in research and reporting as well as other assigned tasks. Geoff Willig, Absentee Coordinator, has been on our Absentee Team since 2007 and has been a driving force of new technologies. Robert Best, Absentee Supervisor, has been with the Elections Office since 2002 and Eric West, Customer Service/Absentee Director has been leading the Team since 2005. The Team has helped thousands of voters receive and vote their Absentee Ballots throughout the years. We ask all the Absentee Voters to remember to follow the directions provided and sign the Voter's Certificate on the back of the return envelope prior to mailing the ballot to us.



Voter Education Highlights



Cyndi Young
Voter Education
Coordinator

Greetings from voter education. Since the last newsletter, I had an opportunity to join other voter education coordinators across the state at a workshop hosted by the Polk County Elections Office. The workshop provided a forum for the exchange of ideas and Best Practices used in other Florida counties as well as an opportunity to network with other voter education professionals.

Over the past few months, we have continued to host voter registration drives, classroom presentations to high school and college students, student government elections, an art exhibit election, and, again this year, the homecoming election for Lely High School. Some of these activities took place during Chamber trade shows, senior health fairs, during the 2009-2010 induction of new Collier County school teachers, the United Way walk, and at the von Liebig Art Centers 'Show of Shows' exhibition.

Plans are underway for the 8th annual student reading elections which will take place in March and April of 2010. As of this writing, 14 schools have scheduled a 2010 election date. Over 4,000 elementary school students voted during the student reading elections in 2009 and 34% were kindergarten to 2nd grade students.

2009 Retiring Election Workers

Louis Albenga	R Dibiasi	H I Horn	Michael McNicholas	Louis Prigge	Sue Smith
Francine Albino	Vincent Dibiasi	Michael Horn	Ramona McNicholas	Lynn Radi	Arleen Soldano
Sharon Bailey	Mary Dix	James Hunt	Jane Meyers	William Reaney	Salvatore Soldano
Patricia Ballard	Barbara Donovan	George Hussey	Saverio Miele	Judith Reich	Kelly Spinelli Moll
Barbara Barnes	Asia Elsbree	Mary Ihnat	Janice Miller	George Reuling	Dorna Strafford
Beth Barth	Joan Farson	Nancy Jarrett	Susan Modlin-Chatterton	Nancy Reynolds	John Sweda
Sharon Beckstrom	Anne Fitzgerald	Damaris Kearns	Charles Molander	William Reynolds	Jack Taffe
William Bender	Jane Ford	Bobbie Jean Kelly	Priscilla Molander	Jerolee Richards	Ruth Taffe
Lea Bendes	David Freeland	Mike Kendrick	Marguerite Morash	Penelope Rist	Pamela Tate
William Bergen	Barbara French Frey	Linda Keutmann	Kathryn Mullen	Kenneth Rote	Shirley Taylor
Cheryl Blackburn	Harold Gaertner	Sylvia Kirlew	Sharon Nantz	Herbert Round	H W Timrud
Marion Blodgett	Kay Gaertner	Betty Kirtley	Carla Nazzaro	Marlene Round	Carolynn Tomin
Sylvia Booker	Victoria Giacco	Jimerly Kroenung-Manjarrez	Melaine Norris	Dwayne Russell	F J Vee
John Boutwell	Manuel Gonzalez	James Lackey	Linda Olbrych	William Ryan	Charles Vitale
Ann Brown	Rhonda Gregory	Sara Lackey	Nancy Palvino	April Salinas	Marilyn Von Seggern
Diana Brubaker	Katherine Gresham	Harriet Lancaster	Gabriele Paul	Ruben Salinas	William Von Seggern
Lidia Camp	Phyllis Hale	Heather Lerner	Rosemarie Pellegrino	Stefanie Sanders	Anthony Walter
Florence Chandler	Dorothy Harkness	Mary Lettieri	Priscilla Penn	Frederick Saunders	Allan Westrom
Eugene Chapman	Lee Harkness	Thomas Lisa	Shirley Perrett	Jim Scarbrough	Nancy Whiteman
Clifford Chatterton	Gloria Holbrook	D A Loftus	Thomas Perrett	Shirley Scarbrough	Calvin Whitney
Patricia Cicogna	Walter Holbrook	Jeffrey Macasevich	Betty Peters	Linda Schanner	Mary Witzke
Alfonse Cinotti	Lucille Harrington	Adam Mackey	Keith Philippi	John Schibik	Mary Wolff
Kathleen Cinotti	Coleta Hatfield	Anne Madsen	Richard Plummer	Debra Schomburg	Betty Worrell
Patricia Clancy	Kathleen Hawryluk	David Malakoff	Scott Plummer	Diane Schramm	Robin Wright
Judith Cleverly	Mike Hawryluk	Charles Marshall	Cheryl Poirier	Arthur Sehlin	Ann Zelasko
Kenneth Cleverly	Ricardo Haylock	Millicent Marshall	Elizabeth Poole	Zana Sehlin	Frank Zelasko
Catherine Curione	Suzanne Herman	Barbara McDowell	Thomas Porter	Joan Sherman	
Lenice De Luca	Erlynee Hixon Holley	Cynthia McLaughlin	Barbara Prigge	James Smith	



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