



What does an elections' staff do when there are no elections?

There is a concept that many of you are familiar with ... what does an elections' office staff do when there is no election? After all, you only work two days every two years, right?

Answer ...**not right!**

There has not been much "downtime" as we have transitioned from 2016 election cycle to 2018 election cycle. My staff and I are already extremely busy with preparations for 2018. Here are just a few highlights of what has been done for the first 6 months of 2017. Candidates have filed paperwork to run for office in 2018 and submitted petitions for verification. Our second list maintenance mailing of the year is on deck. Pollworker training manuals are being completely rewritten. Pollworker orientations are ongoing. The mail ballot materials are being redesigned in hopes of making the process easier for voters. Additional early voting sites have been secured. Polling locations have all been reviewed to determine if they are still adequate for the individual precincts. Preventive maintenance on the voting equipment has just been completed. Petitions are being received and verified for constitutional amendments.

With all that said, there is much yet to be done. Pollworker training videos, on-line training platform for pollworkers, candidate manuals, forms to be redesigned, education and outreach events for the public and schools as well as elections in six municipalities in April are just a sampling of what we have yet to accomplish before next summer arrives.

However, we are not the only ones that have been busy. Reports of robocalls are happening. Two activist groups have notified us that they will be conducting voter registration mailings to Florida residents in September. And, we have been given the "heads up" that Floridians for a Fair Democracy have been actively seeking petition signatures that we will be receiving soon for verification.

One other thing that happens between election cycles is continuing education for the staff and additional internal cross training. Besides attending the Florida Supervisors of Elections summer conference in June, several staff members have been attending Florida Certified Elections Professional (FCEP) classes, a nationally-awarded program organized by Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections. The program provides Florida elections officials, along with their staff, the opportunity to receive continuing education that fosters the highest level of professionalism.

As you can see, we are well on our way to another successful election cycle, and truthfully, we wouldn't have it any other way. We will be ready in 2018! Let us know if there is any way in which we can further serve you.