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People are always asking those of us in the elections office what we do when elections are over. Well, it's time to tell you! With the odd-numbered years always comes many opportunities to enhance and improve our procedures so that the next election cycle will be better than the last. To give you a snapshot of what lies ahead for us in 2009, please read on.

Municipal elections ... We are in the process of preparing for them right now. We have 6 municipalities in Pasco County ... 5 of which could potentially have elections this year. Qualifying week is February 10-17. Election day is April 14.

Updating of our website ... this is an on-going work in progress. There have already been some enhancements; others are yet to come. So keep watching!

Cost saving measures ... one of the first areas we have cut in our office is that of mailing out our quarterly publication called "Pasco Votes". We will be providing this publication now electronically. Check out our website to sign up for your copy.

List maintenance ... by law we are required to perform biannual list maintenance. Anyone who has not voted in two federal general elections must be notified to update their voter registration with our office in order to not be made inactive. If they fail to respond, their voter registration could eventually be purged.

Partnership with the Clerk/Comptroller to prevent felons from registering to vote ... we will be matching our file up to their file of convicted felons to remove those who may be already registered and to keep future felons from registering.

Budget preparation ... All staff has been mandated to look for ways to "cut" the budget and yet maintain the excellence in election administration on which Pasco County voters have come to rely.

Ongoing voter registration/registration update drives ... many events are being scheduled throughout the year to give residents of Pasco County every opportunity to not only register but keep their registration current.

Procedures updated ... staff is already divided into work groups looking at every aspect/task of this office. Changes will take place as we head toward 2010. Even as good as we are, there are always changes that will make us even better.

Watch our website – www.pascovotes.com – for updates on what's happening!