



Brian E. Corley

Pasco County
Supervisor of Elections

Military and Overseas Voting

With nationwide reports indicating many military and overseas voters didn't have their votes counted in the 2008 election cycle, there has been much discussion recently in Congress addressing overseas voting reform. In an effort to educate our overseas voters (many of which are members of the military) and to be proactive regarding pending federal legislation, the Pasco County Supervisor of Elections' Office recently sent informational letters to over 600 overseas military and civilian voters currently on file.

The informational letter is intended to prepare our overseas voters for the 2010 election cycle by outlining voting options available to them and by providing instructions. Overseas voters who still consider Pasco County their legal residence have the option of voting by mail or fax. Requests can be made for a specific election or all elections through two regularly scheduled general elections. Ballots may be requested by mail, telephone or e-mail at pascovotes.com. Because

requests can now remain on file for multiple election cycles, it is imperative that voters retain a current overseas address with the elections' office. Overseas voters should also insure that an updated signature is on file. For security purposes and to ensure the integrity of the voting process, the signatures on returned vote-by-mail ballots are compared to the signature that is on file at the elections' office.

The letter also unveils a new service our office will be offering commencing in the 2010 election cycle (for all voters), which will allow the voter to track the "status" of their ballot on-line. Regardless of where the service member is stationed or where the overseas voter resides, a simple query will inform them when the ballot was sent from the elections' office and if the voted ballot was received back. This additional step of communication is beneficial to both the elections' office and the overseas voter by insuring that ballots sent have been received on both ends.

This same information was recently distributed to the Guardsmen with the 2nd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery Regiment, based at the Dade City Armory, at a community dinner in their honor before their second deployment early next year. Their assignment as part of a force of roughly 3,500 providing convoy security as U.S. Forces "redeploy" from Iraq will most likely put them overseas during the 2010 election cycle. My staff and I are committed to ensuring that these brave men and women serving our country know their voting rights, voting options and procedures to ensure that their vote counts during their deployment. We believe strongly that "Freedom Requires Responsibility." Because of the sacrifice of our brave men and women in uniform, we live in the land of the free and home of the brave. May God be with these heroes as they continue to give so much for the United States of America.