

Pollworker Points...

February 2006

NEW POLLWORKER POSITION

We have created a new pollworker position for the 2006 election cycle. This worker will be an ATTENDANT and will work strictly with the voting equipment under the supervision of the Voting System Supervisor (VSS). The attendants will have a separate classroom training session.

On election day, the attendants will accept the voting authority slips from the voters and activate the ballots. The attendants will no longer rotate with the inspectors.

Precinct Supervisors and VSS's should contact their pollworker coordinators to offer their recommendations for this position. We will evaluate this position at the conclusion of the 2006 election cycle to determine its effectiveness and to decide if this will become a permanent pollworker position.

The precincts will have the following positions in each location: Precinct Supervisor, Technician (laptop operator) OR Specialist, VSS, Attendant, Inspector, Deputy.

PASCO COUNTY FAIR

Visit the Supervisor of Elections' booth at the 59th Annual Pasco County Fair, 36722 State Road 52, Dade City. The fair will be in town from February 20th – 26th. The elections' office participates in the annual event and has won the Exhibitor's "Best in Show" for the past three years. This year, the elections' office will be demonstrating the EViD, an electronic identification system designed to streamline voting at the polls on election day and during early voting.



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2006 ELECTION CYCLE

It is hard to believe that another election year is upon us!! Please mark the following dates on your calendar:

April 11, 2006	Municipal Elections	(City Precincts ONLY)
September 5, 2006	Primary Election	(Countywide)
November 7, 2006	General Election	(Countywide)

At the beginning of every election cycle, the elections' office maps out a training schedule used to train its workers. This year is no different and although the training dates have not been finalized, the general calendar information is listed below. Please plan accordingly.

Municipal Elections Trainings	Week of April 3, 2006
Primary Election Trainings	Throughout the month of August, 2006
General Election Trainings	Throughout the month of October, 2006

Each pollworker chosen to work or be an alternate will be mailed a training schedule specific to their position as soon as it becomes final. We anticipate mailing the municipal election schedules early March. The approximate mail date for the fall elections are early July and late September.

Workers will still be required to complete two (2) separate training sessions. The first session is the Mandatory Overview which covers general information and the legislative requirements regarding disability training, problem solving and conflict management tools. The second session will be job-specific including any hands-on training required by the position.

Please note: If you are **NOT** available to work any of the elections, please contact your pollworker coordinator as soon as possible. We always try to schedule workers who will be available for both elections in the upcoming election cycle.

ON-LINE ELECTION TRAINING for FALL ELECTIONS

We are very pleased to announce that Pasco will be the first county in Florida to offer on-line pollworker training! The program is an "On-line Training Platform" or OTP. Mr. Browning has been proactive in the development phase with our OTP vendor, SOE Software. Being the first to develop the program afforded us the opportunity to mold the training to our specifications.

The OTP will allow pollworkers to complete one of their trainings from the convenience of their own home at a time that fits their schedule. Another benefit of the OTP is that it reduces the time away from other jobs and commitments while eliminating the need for pollworkers to travel to multiple trainings.

At this time, we will be using the OTP for the Mandatory Overview only. You will still receive your hands-on or job specific training in a classroom setting. Workers must complete the OTP before attending their job specific training class. (Remember, the Mandatory Overview is only required once during an election year.)

The elections' office is gearing up to "roll-out" the OTP sometime in the spring. In the near future, pollworkers will be advised of the date the OTP will be available for use, along with the log-on procedures and timeframe for completing the mandatory overview.

We are confident that workers will enjoy the innovative program and take advantage of the ease and convenience of the OTP. We will be using the 2006 election year as a time of transition into the on-line training routine of 2008. With 2006 being the bridge year, we want to ensure that our pollworkers are comfortable and able to learn with this user-friendly application.

Computers will be available in the elections' offices for individuals with no computer access. Workers should contact the elections' office to reserve a timeslot or visit with their coordinator to discuss other available options.

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ELECTION DATES

Municipal Elections

April 11, 2006

Primary Election

September 5, 2006

General Election

November 7, 2006

EARLY VOTING

Due to the popularity of early voting, and in an effort to service more voters, the elections' office will be increasing its early voting sites from three to seven locations during the 2006 election cycle. Early voting will take place in the four Supervisor of Elections offices as well as Hudson Regional Library, New River Branch Library and South Holiday Branch Library.

In the past, the elections' office has automatically mailed absentee ballots to every alternate as well as all pollworkers assigned to work outside of their home precinct. **Please note:** we will no longer send these ballots automatically. Therefore, we are encouraging pollworkers to vote early or by mail according to their preference.

Pollworkers wishing to vote early may visit any of the seven early voting sites beginning 15 days prior to each election. Workers opting to vote by mail may request an absentee ballot by calling any Supervisor of Elections' office, visiting pascovotes.com and completing an on-line request form, or by mailing a written request to the elections' office at their earliest convenience.

NOTE: pollworkers will be responsible for voting early or requesting an absentee ballot. If you are scheduled to work in your HOME precinct, you may still vote at your polling place on election day when the voter traffic is slow. **Remember,** pollworkers are required to show their identification when voting. Failure to provide photo and signature identification will require you to vote a provisional ballot!

HOUSE CLEANING

Do you need to update your record with the elections' office? Please take the time to review your voter registration information and inform our office of any name change, signature update, address change, or phone number change (including cell phones or alternate numbers that we may use to reach you). How about your email address? Please remember to keep your record current. We need current and valid information in order to communicate with you.

In addition to your personal information, is there another job in the polling place that interests you? Please let Joyce or Xenia know if you would like to train for a different position as soon as possible. Also, if you wish to be deleted from the pollworker file, call your coordinator at your earliest convenience.

KIDS VOTING

During the General Election on November 7, 2006, Pasco County will be participating in the "Kids Voting" program. Our office conducted a survey of our precincts and are aware of the concerns you had regarding this program. The promoters of "Kids Voting" met with election officials after the 2004 election and will be instituting some changes to the program in an effort to better serve the participants while allowing our pollworkers the ability to maintain an organized polling place.

CHANGES AT THE POLLS

Trainings for the 2006 elections will cover legislative changes as well as introduce new procedures to be used at the polls. Topics covered during the trainings will include a new way to process voters, new polling place forms, new regulations for electronic provisional ballots and who will be required to vote them, changes to the solicitation zone, county to county address changes, challenged voters, and poll watchers. Remember, change is to be expected, and we look forward to embracing it with you as the future of elections evolves.