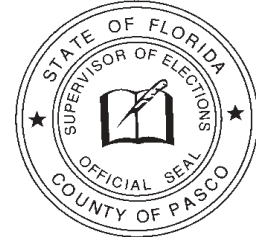




OTE NOTES

KURT S. BROWNING

PASCO COUNTY
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS



January, 2003

Quarterly Publication

2002: A Year to Remember

2002 proved by far to be the most exciting, innovative, busy year we have ever had at the Supervisor of Elections Office. During the year, we revised virtually every process in the office. Elections will never be the same.

The advances in technology that we have been able to embrace have rapidly plunged our processes into the future. The acquisition of the new touch screen voting system, changes in election laws, and reapportionment required us to perform tasks this year that we have never done before. However, we chose to see this not as a burden but as an exciting opportunity to introduce new procedures, new training methods, and new voter education programs.

After months of planning and training, the new touch screen voting system was used for the first time during the Municipal Elections in April. These elections proved to be a valuable learning tool that we were able to apply to the fall elections.

The legislative redistricting process was completed during the summer, creating a number of new precincts and polling places. We were able to accomplish the entire process within the Supervisor of Elections Office using our new mapping software. A new voter identification card was mailed to every registered voter.

2002 was also the first time we mailed precinct specific sample ballots for both the Primary and General Elections to every Pasco County voter with a map to their polling place.

The September Primary was the first time the touch screen technology was used in a county-wide election. It proved to be a great success. Because election returns were modemed into the central counting site, final results were available much more quickly than in the past.

The September Primary was also the first time that laptop computers were used in some of our larger precincts to resolve voter questions. This relieved some of the volume of calls to the central phone bank, thereby expediting the resolution of problems.

Over 15,000 voters took advantage of early voting for the Primary and General Elections. They were able to vote their ballot on a touch screen terminal in our three offices in the weeks preceding these elections.

The Elections Office has proven that preparation, planning, dedication, and attention to detail will always pay off.

It's truly a new millennium in Pasco County! ■

Early Voting A Hit!

More than 26,000 Pasco County voters took advantage of the legislative law change that allowed absentee voting without cause. Beginning October 1, 2002, all three Pasco County elections offices made "early voting" available for its residents.



Over 15,000 voters who wished to cast their ballots prior to Election Day opted to vote by mail with a paper ballot, while nearly 11,000

voters chose to cast an electronic ballot in one of the Supervisor's Offices.

Kurt Browning, Pasco County Supervisor of Elections, encouraged "word of mouth" promotion of early voting by those voters who experienced its advantages. He also prompted wide spread media coverage by



utilizing public notices, press releases, public service announcements, and a press conference.

Ron Sachs Communications assisted the elections office with the media coverage and helped to promote voter education and awareness through other media venues such as billboards, brochures and commercials. Thanks to the joint ef-



fort, Pasco County voters had pleasant experiences at the polls. ■

THE iVOTRONIC:

Making the Grade

Now that we have conducted two county-wide elections, one outstanding message keeps coming through loud and clear...the iVotronic is more than living up to our expectations.

Neither the Supervisor of Elections office nor the voters have been disappointed. The touch screen system has proven to be a faster, more accurate, more user-friendly way to vote.

During the course of the Primary and General Elections, some interesting statistics came to light:

- With an average of 86 ballots cast on each iVotronic, county-wide we had less than a 1% iVotronic failure rate.
- One precinct forgot to plug in their iVotronics. The "Battery too Low to Continue" message did not appear on those units until 6:00 p.m. election night. This translates to eleven hours of continuous use on batteries, far exceeding the requirement.
- All 151 precincts successfully modemed in results for the September 10, 2002, First Primary.
- 150 precincts successfully modemed in their results election night. Only one precinct was unable to modem their results from their precinct. Their results were transmitted from a collection site.
- All precinct results were in by 8:57 p.m.
- The ratio of iVotronics per voter for the General Election was one terminal for every 175 voters. With the old votomatics the ratio would have been one for every 125 voters.

We are looking forward to many more successful elections with the iVotronic system. This efficient new system has already made a positive impact on Pasco County and will continue to do so! ■

SAMPLE BALLOTS MEET EXPECTATIONS

The Pasco County Elections office used sample ballots a second time for the November General Election. The office received rave reviews from registered voters who were grateful for the opportunity to become more familiar with their ballot before going to the polls.

Due to their initial success, voters can look forward to receiving precinct specific sample ballots for all upcoming primary and general elections. The Supervisor of Elections office will mail out future sample ballots at least three weeks prior to their corresponding election.

Supervisor Kurt Browning hopes that the extra time will provide voters with ample time to research candidates and issues appearing on their ballot. The earlier mail date should also benefit those electors who choose to vote by absentee ballot.

Voters should be aware that the sample ballots will remain "voter specific" making it a necessity for them to keep their registration records current with the elections office. This includes informing the supervisor of address and name changes, as well as party changes that affect primary ballots. ■

ORLANDO REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOBNOB



Lady Liberty and Uncle Sam welcome everyone.

Bill Cowles, Orange County Supervisor of Elections invited the Pasco County Supervisor of Elections office to participate in the 2002 Akerman Senterfitt/Sprint Regional HobNob at Orlando's Loch Haven Park on October 10, 2002.

The invitation was an opportunity for Bill Cowles and his staff to acquaint Orange County residents and political organizations with electronic voting equipment. Orange County currently uses a "mark sense" type of voting machine.

Pasco County's representatives along with Orange County Elections office staff members manned the forty touchscreen voting machines provided by Pasco County for the event's straw poll. Over 1,200 people attended the annual hobnob, including Governor Jeb Bush who tried his hand at electronic voting.

Event staff and attendees praised the new machines and welcomed the opportunity to experience the latest in voting trends.



Governor Jeb Bush receives instructions on touch screen voting.



Governor Jeb Bush votes on the iTronic.



Pasco County Staff member gives instruction to voter.



Mr. Browning is interviewed by local news media.

HOUSEKEEPING

All workers who did not return their white, 3-ring binder training manual on election night should return the binder to the elections office nearest them as soon as possible. It will be very costly for the elections office to replace them. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Calendar of Events

February 17th - 23rd

Voter Registration Drive
Pasco County Fair
36722 State Road 52
Dade City

ELECTION DATE

Municipal Elections
April 8, 2003

Presidential Preference Primary
March 9, 2004

REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Republican	94,127	40.2%
Democrat	91,045	38.9%
Other	49,118	21.0%
Total	234,290	

(As of December 20, 2002)

For more information, visit our website at www.pascovotes.com.

School Elections Available

The Pasco County Supervisor of Elections' office has always promoted education and awareness of registered electors as well as the county's future voters. For many years, the elections office has been available for school functions requiring election equipment and instruction.

However, with the implementation of the new iVotronic voting system and the 2002 election cycle, the elections office had to postpone involvement in school elections and education programs.

With the fall elections behind us, the elections office has begun conducting school elections at the request of participating schools. Sand Pine Elementary, Pine View Middle and Denham Oak Elementary schools were the first to introduce the iVotronic voting system to their students. Participants at each school were impressed with the equipment, complimenting its efficiency.

While the education program is still on the drawing board, the elections office hopes that all Pasco County schools will take advantage of its state-of-the-art voting equipment for their student council and homecoming elections. The equipment could also be used for special elections such as the selection of school mascots or Sunshine State Reader book reviews.

All schools will be notified once the education program is available. The education program includes a grade level presentation and a mock election on the new voting equipment.

If you are interested in either function, please contact Eleanor at 1-800-851-8754 for more information. ■

KURT S. BROWNING

Supervisor of Elections

Pasco County

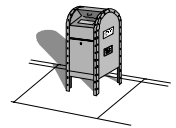
P. O. Box 300

Dade City, FL 33526-0300

DID YOU KNOW?

That the can opener was invented 48 years after the can was introduced. A hammer and chisel were used prior to its invention.

That the Great Pyramid of Giza is the only one of the Seven Wonders of the World that still survives. The other six wonders were the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the gigantic gold statue of Zeus, the temple of Artemis, the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, the Colossus of Rhodes, and the lighthouse of Alexandria.



Do you know anyone who would like to be put on our mailing list? Please let us know so they can start receiving VOTENOTES.

Quote of the Quarter...

“Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.”

—John F. Kennedy

“The greatest tragedy is indifference.”

—The Red Cross

Source: Bartleby.com

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