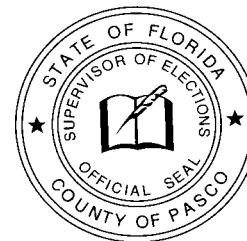




NOTE NOTES

KURT S. BROWNING

PASCO COUNTY
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS



January, 2004

Quarterly Publication

CONDITIONS FAVORABLE FOR A SUCCESSFUL SEASON

Preparing for the 2004 Election Cycle

Like Buccaneers Head Coach Jon Gruden at summer camp preparing for the next season, the Supervisor of Elections team is busy behind the scenes preparing for the 2004 Presidential Election.

Often, we are asked what we do on off-election years with the perception that we stay busy only 3 or 4 months every two years. Reality is that it takes a whole year or more to prepare for the next election. New employees, volunteers and outside help often remark they had no idea managing elections was so involved.

After the close of an election and the follow-up work is finalized, a thorough analysis of our performance reveals our weak and strong points. Like coaches that review game tapes, we go over everything from the kick off to election certification and immediately start filling the gaps. A game plan is outlined, special teams are assigned and the plays are run in practice sessions. These game-deciding plays ensure we're not overmatched on election day.

Well in advance of an election, we continually scout for prospective election workers and begin the draft process with orientations and interviews. We assemble our team of free agent workers, re-sign our veteran players and solidify our draft picks by beginning their training sessions.

From an offensive standpoint, the close of the legislative session brings predictions on the impact new laws will have. Election materials are analyzed, upgraded, redesigned or scrapped. New policies are enacted. Precincts are measured to determine if they gained a first down. Some precincts are written out of the play book while the continual screen for new polling places and the resultant contractual work progresses. Like the growing population of Pasco County, we advance in rushing yards toward the goal.

In the meantime at election headquarters, training manuals, security procedures and emergency management plans are fine-tuned. Budgets are pounded out and submitted. In the locker room, the equipment is rubbed down, cleaned, tested, and upgraded. The outreach/education team outlines a strategy for public education, and conducts education programs and elections throughout the school district. Petition processors are busy verifying tens of thousands of initiative petitions, and as always, voter registration applications continue to flow in.

As you can see, there is much to be done on off-election years. As we begin our journey toward the goal line, we will routinely report our preparation activities in our newsletter to keep you informed. As we approach the new season and prepare for our 'super bowl,' we look forward to the 2004 Presidential Election with a championship spirit! ■

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS ADDS PRECINCT 152

North of State Road 52 between Chicago Ave and Hicks Rd

In a continual effort to better serve the residents of Pasco County, an additional voting precinct will be established in February. The new precinct will encompass an area that is north of State Road 52 and lies between Chicago Avenue and Hicks Road.

Voters in this area will vote at the Parkwood Acres Civic Club at 9734 Dick Street in Hudson. All voters affected by this change will receive a new voter identification card approximately three weeks prior to the March 9, 2004 Presidential Preference Primary. Questions concerning these or any other precincts should be directed to the Supervisor of Elections' office. ■

ON-SITE TRAINING

Refresher Course to State Agencies on Voter Registration

In early December, elections staff members conducted on-site training of state agencies which collect registration applications. With the exception of the Division of Motor Vehicles which conducted their own extensive training after receiving a mediocre grade in the 2000 election, other state agencies such as libraries, military recruiters and rehabilitation facilities had not received additional training since the National Voter Registration Act generally became effective on January 1, 1995.

Elections staff visited sites throughout the county, meeting both one-on-one and with groups to offer a refresher course on voter registration requirements and what constitutes a valid registration application. They also received information on the importance of submitting complete and valid address information and how at bookclosing time, their collection date could affect a voter's eligibility to vote.

Agencies have generally upheld their responsibility to collect registration applications, but the applications are often incomplete. While they cannot always be held accountable for the condition of the applications they collect, agencies are in a position to spot check applications and have voters complete them before submitting them to the Supervisor of Elections office.

Incomplete applications received in the elections office are put in HOLD status until all information is received. When an applicant submits an incomplete application to an agency on bookclosing day, there is not sufficient time before the election to submit the missing information to the supervisor's office. In the 2000 General Election many interpreted this as disenfranchisement.

The elections office will continue fostering a relationship with collection agencies in hopes of achieving the primary goals of the National Voter Registration Act: to increase opportunities to vote and remain registered; to protect the integrity of the electoral process; and to develop fail-safe procedures to promote voter activity. ■

DEPUTY OVERVIEW

New Responsibilities

Poll deputies recently attended an overview meeting designed to inform them of the new tasks and responsibilities they will perform at the polls. The small group meetings gave the elections office an opportunity to demonstrate how accommodations will be made at the polling facilities to make them ADA compliant.



The deputies were given a brief outline of the in-depth survey the elections office had to complete for each polling facility. Parking lots, including disabled parking areas, were discussed, as well as, door widths, doorknobs, and thresholds. The deputies were also given a short re-cap



of the courtesies previously offered at the polling place that will remain a big part of their job, e.g. assistance in and out of cars, opening doors, and leading the visually impaired into the polling place.

The elections office offered its gratitude for the past service given by the deputies and is looking forward to a successful election cycle next year. However, due to the nature of some of the tasks, several deputies have opted to change positions. Therefore, the elections office is experiencing a demand for poll deputies in many precincts. Individuals interested in becoming a poll deputy should call 1-800-851-8754 as soon as possible.



Despite recent efforts, pollworkers who work inside the polling place are needed as well. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in becoming a pollworker, please contact our office or visit our web site for more information. ■



In December, the elections' office helped Santa out by supplying Christmas to a needy family with 3 children. Participation in the program is an annual event for the elections' office.

LETTER SHERIFF BOB WHITE

Comments to Poll Deputies

First, I would like to thank each one of you for your participation as a poll deputy.

Ensuring that all eligible citizens who choose to exercise their right to vote have unobstructed access to the polls is an important function of a poll deputy. Our citizens will be counting on you to maintain peace and order at the polls to assist in the voting process.

I would like to emphasize a few important matters to remember on election day.

- Monitor for compliance with election regulations and direct questions from voters to the appropriate election precinct officials.
- Do not attempt any physical confrontation with anyone at the polls. Contact the Sheriff's Office Communications Unit to call for a law enforcement deputy to respond to your polling station. You can notify persons not complying with elections regulations and the lawful direction of precinct officials that they can be placed under arrest.
- Do not bring any weapons with you while you are serving as a poll deputy.
- Do not abuse your poll deputy identification. This includes receiving free goods, services or discounts from area merchants.

You are a direct representative of me and the Pasco Sheriff's Office. I know you will conduct yourself with the utmost integrity. Again, thank you for your service as a special deputy sheriff. ■



Kurt Browning, Pasco County Supervisor of Elections, donned The Salvation Army apron in December at the local Winn Dixie grocery store. Mr. Browning was one of many Dade City Kiwanis Club members to participate in the annual 'Red Kettle' campaign. The donations received help ensure that The Salvation Army can continue to provide help to those who need it most.

GREAT AMERICAN TEACH-IN

Children Learn How to use the TouchScreen Voting System

Kurt Browning and several staff members participated in the Great American Teach-In at several Pasco County Schools on November 19, 2003.

The teach-in was an invitation from the schools to the business community to visit classrooms and share information about their profession, talents, insight and wisdom.

Mr. Browning donned his Boy Scout Troop uniform to visit Cox Elementary School and enlightened students on the benefits of scouting. In his presentation he spoke of camping and hiking trips with an example of a loaded backpack. He also demonstrated the set-up of a tent in the school's library. He brought along multiple patches to show the children what they would earn upon completion of certain tasks.

Other staff members visited San Antonio Elementary, Centennial Middle and Moon Lake Elementary. Their presentations included voting demonstrations and mock elections that utilized hands-on experience with the iVotronic voting machines. The children learned how easy it is to use the touchscreen system and were excited to hear the results of their elections.

The Supervisor's office has been participating in the Great American Teach-In for many years. Mr. Browning believes that it is never too early to instill a sense of responsibility in exercising one's right to vote. ■

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY

Election Date: March 9, 2004

The 2004 election cycle will get under way in March when Pasco County voters go to the polls to select their favorite presidential candidate. Initially, the Presidential Preference Primary was going to be a 'Democrats Only' event. However, on September 23, 2003 the Board of County Commissioners approved the "Penny for Pasco" referendum for the primary's ballot.

Therefore, all of Pasco County's registered voters will be able to vote at the polls on March 9, 2004. Pasco County residents are encouraged to register to vote by February 9, 2004 in order to be eligible to vote in this election. Changes to political party affiliation are subject to the same bookclosing date.

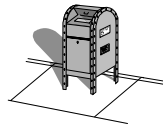
Sample ballots for the Presidential Preference Primary will be available at all three elections offices, at pascovotes.com, as well as the county libraries in early February. Voters electing to cast an absentee ballot for the March election are welcome to call our office or visit our website, pascovotes.com to place their request. For more information call 1-800-851-8754. ■

REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Republican	97,057	40.2%
Democrat	92,035	38.1%
Other	52,299	21.7%
Total	241,391	

(As of January 7, 2004)

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



ELECTION DATES

Presidential Preference Primary

March 9, 2004

Municipal Elections

April 13, 2004

Primary Election

August 31, 2004

General Election

November 2, 2004

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REGIONAL HOB NOB

Orlando, Florida



Bill Cowles, Orange County Supervisor of Elections, invited the Pasco County Supervisor of Elections office to participate in the 2003 Regional HobNob. "Politics in the Park" was held at Orlando's Loch Haven Park on October 1, 2003. The iVOTRONIC voting system was a big hit with the local residents and politicians who attended the event.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mars has a reddish color because its soil has so much iron oxide, or rust.

Because Uranus is tipped way over on its axis, its north pole is in darkness for 42 Earth years.

Earth travels through space at 66,700 miles per hour.

Sources:

www.planetpals.com and
www.worldalmanacforkids.com

quote of the quarter

"Until you value yourself, you won't value your time. Until you value your time, you will not do anything with it." ~M. Scott Peck

"Be nice to people on your way up because you may meet them on your way down."
~Jimmy Durante

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