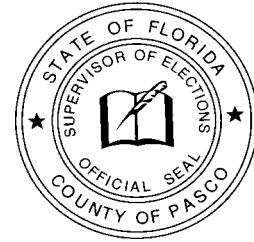


VOTE NOTES

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PASCO COUNTY
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS



January, 2005

Quarterly Publication

2004 General Election: *That's a Wrap!*

On November 3, 2004 an eerie calm settled over the Supervisor of Elections' office.



The fast-paced action that began in January had finally come to an end and the elections staff was able to breathe a sigh of relief.

Two months later, the dust has settled and the

office has returned to "normal".

Through post-election procedures, we found that the 2004 General Election had the highest voter turn-out since the Presidential Election of 1992. Of Pasco County's 265,974 registered voters, nearly 192,000 exercised their right to vote. The 72.15 percent turn-out was the largest for Pasco County since the implementation of the National Voter Registration Act of 1994.



The large percentage was a direct result of voters taking advantage of the voting options provided by the Supervisor of Elections. Besides the option of going to the polls on Election Day, voters could cast their ballot during the 15 day window of Early Voting or by completing a mail-in ballot (absentee ballot) in the convenience of their own homes.

The largest number of absentee ballots ever requested for one election was mailed to Pasco County residents for the General Election. Of the 40,000 requests 34,799 were returned

by voters for tabulation making up 18.13 percent of the voter turn-out.

Early Voting tripled its popularity from the 2002 General Election with nearly 30,000 voters opting to cast their ballot before Election Day. Pasco County's three elections offices con-



ducted Early Voting from October 18th through November 1st. Kurt Browning, Pasco County Supervisor of Elections, believes the 15.42 percent Early Voting turn-out will continue to grow as conven-

tional voting takes a backseat to "convenience voting."

Two-thirds of the 191,909 voters who turned out for the 2004 General Election visited their polling place to cast their ballot. Pollworkers used to quieter days witnessed the record number of people interested in playing a part in the presidential election process.

Once again, with all eyes on Florida, Pasco County "broke a leg" and closed its production with another outstanding performance. The dedication of Pasco County's residents, volunteers, pollworkers and election staff contributed to Florida's success.



Visit www.pascovotes.com/pasresu.htm for more information on voter turn-out, statistics, and demographics for elections dating back to 1982. ■

FROM THE SUPERVISOR...



Pasco County once again rose to the occasion and held a successful and smooth presidential election Tuesday, Nov. 2, shattering predictions of doom by naysayers and critics all across the nation.

With the dedication of Pasco's pollworkers, we helped to provide the groundwork for our county's first major statewide election since 2002.

In this respect, I would like to applaud the hard work, dedication and commitment to democracy my pollworkers have shown as it continues to prove the ghosts of 2000 are nonexistent in Pasco County or Florida.

It is clear that without the dedication of pollworkers for this important task of helping us conduct an election, our success would not have been possible. The success we experienced is a true testament to the commitment to providing voters with the most secure, accurate and efficient elections in the nation.

Thank you for all your hard work and hope you had a wonderful Holiday Season!

WHAT'S ON THE LEGISLATIVE HORIZON...

Changes will need to be made

Supervisors of Elections have recommended to the Florida Legislature they consider modifying the current polling place system to allow supervisors the opportunity to provide fewer, but larger sites, called voting centers, for casting ballots. During the 2004 General Election, early voting proved to be very popular and mirrors the concept proposed by the supervisors. As Pasco County continues to grow at phenomenal rates, election costs will continue to grow as well. Voting centers help curb those rising costs.

Supervisors also will be requesting that the solicitation area around polling places be expanded from the current 50 feet to 100 feet. Additionally, the exception that allows soliciting up to the door of the polling place should be stricken from the law.

The supervisors are also advocating the permanent repeal of the second primary. Florida has now experienced two election cycles without this primary and supervisors believe it should be permanently removed from the law. Under Florida's current election schedule, three major elections are held within nine weeks. With the increased complexity of elections administration, nine weeks is not adequate time to ensure successful elections. The elimination of the second primary would provide the needed time to conduct the First Primary and General Election. ■

FSASE HOLDS WINTER CONFERENCE

The Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE) held their mid-winter conference November 29, 2004 through December 2, 2004 in Orlando. The Orange County Supervisor of Elections office hosted the event attended by supervisors and staff from all 67 counties.

Newly elected supervisors joined their colleagues at the Caribe Royale Resort & Convention Center to gain a birds-eye view into the Florida election system before taking over the reins in January.

The conference included business meetings, committee reports and a Division of Election workshop. Guest Speakers attending the conference included Secretary of State Glenda Hood and Scott Doyle, a county clerk and recorder from Larimer County, Colorado. Doyle shared his experience with Voting Centers, a polling place where any voter in the county may go to vote, and how they "Help America Vote".

Several supervisors, along with Dale Woodruff, Director of Sales and Marketing for VRSystems, gave an intense and sobering look into "Coping with an Emergency" when they discussed the hurricanes and the impact they had on their counties. The entire panel delivered words of caution and encouragement regarding emergency plans and the support given by their colleagues.

Legislative proposals were also discussed at the conference. The Legislative Committee shared the topics that the FSASE would take to the legislators in hopes of furthering the election reform that Florida started in 2001. Legislative changes will be a major topic discussed at the annual summer conference in June. Pasco County will host the summer conference at Saddlebrook in early June. ■



Nerissa Prest of News Channel 8 interviewed Mr. Browning at the Election Support Center in Dade City on Election Night.

Public Test Attracts Audience...

Many rarely participate in the function

The General Election of 2004 proved to be different from other elections in many ways. Absentee ballots reached record



amounts for requests and returns. Record numbers of voters waited in Early Voting lines as if they were waiting to ride an attraction at a local theme park.

Perhaps one of the most notable differences was the attention paid to the public testing of Pasco County's voting equipment. Many rarely participate in the function, but all members of the public, candidates, and political party representatives are welcome to observe the procedure. A typically quiet affair, the October 11, 2004 pre-election testing of the voting equipment, drew attention from local and national media, members of local party organizations, John Kerry campaign representatives, former State Comptroller Bob Milligan and Secretary of State Glenda Hood.

At one point during the 3 ½ hour test, Kurt Browning, Pasco County's Supervisor of Elections, noticed the noise in the room was growing to an adverse level. Observers were asked to keep the noise to a minimum so that the elections staff and pollworkers would be able to conduct the test in an efficient manner.

To comply with state law, thirty machines (2 percent of Pasco County's voting machines) were tested. The county canvassing board found the election equipment to be in compliance with the extensive requirements set by the State.

Secretary of State Glenda Hood's attendance at multiple public tests throughout the state demonstrated her support of Florida's 67 counties, the Supervisors of Elections and their staff. ■



Joe Gorecki, a poll deputy for precinct 43, directs voters to available parking at the Crest Ridge Gardens Community Club in Holiday.

✓ VOICE OF THE VOTER

"Great job! Kurt, you and your staff did all of Pasco County an excellent service. Thanks." ~Bill, Precinct 19

"I want you all to know the training I received from your office was great. As voting system supervisor it all went very well. You all should be congratulated." ~Frank, Web Comment

"We arrived at precinct 057 at 9:00 a.m. and were out in 20 minutes. Wonderful." ~Norris, Precinct 57

"As a first time voter in Florida, it was a pleasure for me. The voting machines are terrific." ~Carol, Precinct 29

"The election seemed to go extremely well (especially on my end). The up to the minute results were nice too. Thanks guys, keep up the good work." ~Andrea, Web Comment

"I especially like the children's mock voting booth. You can't start too young in encouragement." ~Wayne, Precinct 129

"This is my first time voting in the state of Florida, everything went very smoothly." ~Carolyn, Precinct 59

"Thank you for a pleasant voting experience today. Your "take a number" system took away the stress of maintaining my place in the queue." ~Mike, Web Comment

"Congratulations to all the volunteers/pollworkers in Beacon Woods East for a job well done and to you, Mr. Browning for an efficient job." ~E. A., Precinct 92 ■

EDUCATION IS THE KEY

The overall goal of our education program is to introduce students to voter registration and voting procedures, and to encourage them to exercise their right to vote once they become eligible. The program is designed to gradually educate the students as their grade level increases. In each presentation, the students vote on the same equipment used at the polls.

Participating in school elections, student council and homecoming contests, gives our office another opportunity to educate Pasco County students. Supervisor of Elections' staff prepares the ballot, takes the voting equipment to the individual school, conducts the election, and tabulates the results once the election is over. Schools around the county are encouraged to utilize the Supervisor of Elections' Office for this service.

To learn more about the curriculum, mock election, and activities presented by the Supervisor of Elections visit www.pascovotes.com/paseduc.htm. You will be able to submit your request for an education program on-line or you can call our office to schedule an education program for your students. ■

KURT S. BROWNING

Supervisor of Elections

Pasco County

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quote of the quarter

"One man has enthusiasm for 30 minutes, another for 30 days, but it is the man who has it for 30 years who makes a success of his life." ~Edward B. Butler

Calendar of Events

Pasco County Fair

February 21 -- 28, 2005

36722 State Road 52

Dade City

Bookclosing for Municipal Elections

March 14, 2005

Municipal Elections

April 12, 2005

ELECTION DATES

Municipal Elections

April 12, 2005

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

REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Republican 107,954 40.1%

Democrat 100,194 37.2%

Other 60,977 22.7%

Total 269,125

(As of December 17, 2004)

FSASE SCHOLARSHIP

The Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections will grant three scholarships to qualified candidates. The applications will be available at all three Pasco County Elections offices and at www.pascovotes.com on January 1, 2005.

All applications and letters of recommendation must be submitted to the elections office no later than March 14, 2005. For more information, please contact the elections office.

DID YOU KNOW?

The oldest word in the English language is town.

Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.

Almonds are members of the peach family.

Source:
www.kellys.com/know.html

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

