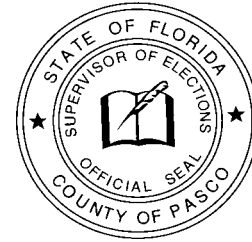


OTE NOTES

KURT S. BROWNING

PASCO COUNTY
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS



January 2006

Quarterly Publication

ON THE HORIZON

Things to watch for...

In compliance with the mandatory federal and state legislation, this January, Florida took a proactive stance to accommodate the election reform of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and newly instated Florida laws. Components affecting Florida voters are listed below.

- Florida's statewide voter registration system (FVRS) now accommodates registered voters moving from county to county at any time, making bookclosing a non-issue at the polls for new residents of Pasco who are registered elsewhere in the state.
- First-time voters in Florida, moving from other states, are still required to register by bookclosing and to provide a copy of their photo ID if registering by mail.
- Voter Information Cards take the place of Voter Identification Cards.
- The requirement for photo and signature identification (like Florida Driver License) at the polls remains in effect; however, voters unable to provide this identification must vote a provisional ballot. No exceptions.
- Mandates that all absentee requests be made by the sixth (6th) day prior to the election giving the elections office until the fourth (4th) day prior to the election to mail the ballots to the voters.
- Voters are required to keep their signature updated with the elections office, particularly if voting by mail. The updated signature must be submitted on a voter registration application and received by the supervisor of elections no later than the start of canvassing of absentee ballots.



The Pasco County Supervisor of Elections office took a constructive attitude toward the change by attending a workshop geared toward preparing individual counties for the conversion to the statewide system. The elections office is confident that the knowledge gained from the training has prepared staff for the implementation of FVRS. ■

City Clerks Prepare for Municipal Elections

The Supervisor of Elections' office will conduct Municipal Elections for Pasco County's six municipalities on Tuesday, April 11, 2006. The City Clerks are considered the elections' official for the municipal elections; however, the elections' office will perform all election related tasks with the exception of candidate qualifying for each city. Ballot layout and preparation, absentee voting, early voting, pollworker training and ballot tabulation are just a few of the services provided by the Supervisor of Elections.

Training for the city clerks will be on Monday, January 23, 2006 in Land O' Lakes at the David "Hap" Clark Professional Center. Pollworker trainings will be held the first week in April.

Each city has its own charter that governs the specifications for becoming a candidate. Therefore, any person seeking to qualify for election must contact the city clerk of their respective municipality. Candidate qualifying will begin at noon on February 14, 2006 and run through noon on February 21, 2006. Prospective candidates are urged to contact their respective city clerk well in advance of the qualifying dates. ■

What's Inside....

Voter Education and Public Awareness	Page 2
Becomes a Top Priority for Elections Officials	
Pinellas Conference	Page 3
FSASE Conference held in Clearwater	
Thanks for the Memories	Page 3
Staff Member Retires	
Christmas in the Park	Page 3
Heart Walk Update	Page 3
Happy Holidays	Page 3

FROM THE SUPERVISOR...



The coming year begins a new era for Florida's elections. Florida's legislature adopted extensive changes in 2005 that will affect the conduct of future elections in Florida. A statewide voter registration system goes into effect January 1, 2006. Florida voters will no longer be required to re-register when they move to a different county. It will simply be an address change. It is still, however, very important for the voter to maintain current information on their voter registration.

The Pasco County Supervisor of Elections has been working diligently to be up to speed on all the coming changes in order to provide the best service to the voters. It has always been the goal of my office to enhance and facilitate the processes of voter registration, maintenance of a current registration, and voting.

Being an involved voter is becoming more and more important in today's world of immediacy and awareness. Voters nowadays must be better informed to participate effectively in the elections process.

The more you know in advance of Election Day, the more pleasant will be your voting experience. It is important to know that you must provide both signature and photo identification at the polls. If it is not available, you must vote a provisional ballot, which will be reviewed by the county Canvassing Board.

The touch screen voting process in Pasco County is very user-friendly and easy to navigate. However, if you are able to attend a demonstration prior to any election, the experience will be much easier for you. In any case, a demonstration, either hands-on or video, will always be available at your voting site.

Early voting has proved to be convenient for many voters. Due to its success thus far, Pasco County's early voting will be expanded for 2006, with seven locations available for the 15 days prior to an election.

We're excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead!

VOTER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Becomes a Top Priority for Elections Officials

The Division of Elections approved funding for Pasco County Supervisor of Elections' voter outreach proposal. The elections office will receive \$75,000 plus in voter education funds.



The funds will be used to promote the "Election Readiness" theme and encourage voters to be prepared for the 2006 election cycle. The Pasco County elections office will utilize local newspapers, radio stations, and sample ballots to reach as many Pasco County residents as possible before election deadlines begin falling.

The focus of the campaign will be to encourage residents to register timely and update their records as needed (including signatures), make voters aware of Early Voting times and locations, educate voters on how and when to request absentee ballots, as well as advertising polling place locations.

The goal will be to create an informed and educated body of registered voters, thus alleviating election day problems. Our quarterly publications and website are also available and provide a wealth of information. Interested individuals can visit www.pascovotes.com or call to request being added to our mailing list. ■

PINELLAS COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS HOSTS WINTER CONFERENCE

The Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE) held their winter conference in early December at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort in Clearwater Beach. The conference was hosted by Deborah Clark, Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections, and her staff.

Elections personnel were addressed by individuals from the Division of Elections regarding the administrative rules and the Florida Voter Registration System (FVRS) which is set to go live on January 3, 2006.

Individual voter registration system providers updated their clients on interfacing with the new FVRS. VR Systems, Pasco County's voter registration provider, was on hand to introduce the new version of their software program that will enable their clients to work hand-in-hand with the FVRS.

U.S. Bureau of the Census staff members also addressed the conference attendees regarding the 2010 census and the effect it will have on the state's redistricting phase during the Legislative Session in 2012. The state will be gearing up to participate in Phase 2 of the process in order to be better prepared for redistricting process. ■



Heart and "Sole" of Pasco Update

Supervisor of Elections' staff walks to support the American Heart Association



The Pasco County Supervisor of Elections participated in the American Heart Association's 2005 Nature Coast Heart Walk in October. The elections office exceeded its goal by raising over \$2,000 for the American Heart Association's effort to prevent, treat and defeat

cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Sixteen people represented the elections' office in the walk and personally dedicated their participation to a fellow employee's daughter. The walkers wore yellow ribbons marked "For Jamie" to honor 17 year old Jamie Endress who succumbed to viral encephalitis just two days before the walk. ■

Happy Holidays



The Supervisor of Elections office got into the Christmas spirit when we came together to support the Adopt-a-Family program sponsored by Sunrise of Pasco County, Inc. The elections' office participates annually in the program that supplies Christmas gifts to local families in need. This year, the elections' staff personally

purchased gifts for a family of five. ■

Thanks for the Memories

Staff Member Retires



After almost 16 years of service, Voter Specialist Joan Munz retired from the Supervisor of Elections' office in December. Joan worked in the New Port Richey office since her hire date in 1989. Joan currently does a lot of volunteer work and plans to continue "giving back to the community" by volunteering at a local West Pasco hospital as well as Ruth

Eckerd Hall in Tampa. Joan said she was looking forward to spending more time with her family including her four grandchildren. We will miss Joan and her contribution to the elections' office. We all wish her well! ■

Old Fashioned Christmas in the Park

Withlacoochee River Park in Dade City



The Pasco County Supervisor of Elections' office participated in the Old Fashioned Christmas in the Park held at Withlacoochee River Park in Dade City on Saturday, December 10, 2005. Volunteers worked the booth set up by the elections' office. Visitors to the booth were offered demonstrations of the iVotronic touch screen voting machines. Event participants were able to vote on their favorite highlight of the day, and participate in an opinion poll of the event. Sponsors of the event, the Rotary Club of Dade City and the Pasco County Parks and Recreation Department, will use the opinion poll to evaluate the event and make future improvements. ■

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NEW PORT RICHEY
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quote of the quarter

I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man. To err is nature, to rectify error is glory. ~ *George Washington*

Source: www.spritzels.com/poems/fathers.html

ELECTION DATES

Municipal

April 11, 2006

Primary

September 5, 2006

General

November 7, 2006

REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Republican	111,337	40.2%
Democrat	101,783	36.8%
Other	63,578	23.0%
Total	276,698	

(As of December 21, 2005)

DID YOU KNOW?

The extended right arm of the Statue of Liberty is 42 feet long.

There are 403 steps from the foundation to the top of the torch in the Statue of Liberty.

The Statue of Liberty weighs 225 tons.

Source:

www.corsinet.com/trivia/b-

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

Usted Habla Espanol?

The Supervisor of Elections office is looking for bilingual individuals to work in polling places serving concentrations of Spanish speaking people. If you speak Spanish, and would be interested in translating for voters in Pasco County, please call Xenia at (352) 521-4302, (813) 929-1288 and (813) 929-1392 or Joyce at (727) 847-8162. ■

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

