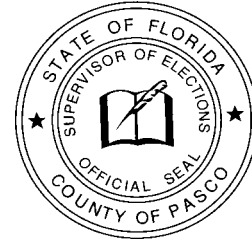


# VOTE NOTES

# KURT S. BROWNING

PASCO COUNTY  
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS



January 2007

Quarterly Publication

## 2006 General Election Wrap-up: Hindsight is 20/20 ... and we're lookin' good!

Looking back on the 2006 election cycle with pride, we feel justified indulging in a huge sigh, the kind that signifies relief. As the press and others redirected their attention to the holiday season, we folks in the elections business gladly gave up the limelight

for the manageable pace that represents normal work hours.

There is much clean-up to be done and closure to be made in the immediate weeks following the election, but as of the holiday season, all is well. As we usher in the new year, we will begin evaluating, planning, budgeting and brainstorming. There is always room for change and improvement in the ever-changing climate of elections,



Early voting at the East Pasco Government Center.



Absentee boards began canvassing on Saturday before the election.

but first we take time to reflect on a job well done.

Voter turnout for this gubernatorial election was 49.46%, slightly lower than 2002. A total of 130,170 ballots were cast, 40% of which were cast by the 66+ age group. Young people, 18-25 year olds, continue to rank last and comprised just 4% of the total ballots cast.

Once again, early voting was a popular option with a total of 19,020 ballots cast early. Since 2004, four early voting sites were added to make seven total sites, a move to offer more convenience and flexibility to voters. In another move to facilitate the voting process, electronic voter identification systems (EViD's) were used. Precinct election officials were able to validate voter registration information and issue voter authorizations simply by swiping a voter's driver license, thus eliminating the need for precinct registers. The system performed well and proved to be invaluable in moving voters quickly through the check-in process.

Of those who voted, 16,580 chose to cast absentee ballots. Voting by absentee continues to be a popular choice, but still, most voters (94,458) chose to vote at the polls staffed by 1,716 trained precinct election officials. The elections' office received many positive comments regarding the professionalism and efficiency of the poll workers, and judging by voters' comments, confidence in the voting equipment was high. Validation of this confidence came after the election when two recounts were without incident and had no impact on the final results of the two races.

Once again, Pasco County can hold its head high for its contribution to a successful election in Florida. ■

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## FROM THE SUPERVISOR...



As many of you are already aware, I have been asked by Governor-Elect Charlie Crist to serve as his Secretary of State and I have accepted the challenge. One of the major duties of the Secretary of State is to manage the State's elections. I am hopeful that my years of experience as a supervisor of elections will serve me well in my new job.

Pasco County has consistently conducted smooth, trouble-free elections. This is not by accident. My staff has been absolutely terrific and the very best staff that I could have ever hoped for.

I am confident that the precinct election officials of Pasco County will serve the new supervisor of elections with the same commitment, passion and dedication, and Pasco County's tradition of conducting great elections will continue to be the standard throughout the State.

During my 26 years as Pasco County Supervisor of Elections, I have had the privilege to work with many dedicated volunteers and precinct election officials. I could not have been as successful without you!

Thanks to all the voters of Pasco County. It has been my privilege to serve you!

## **POSTER CONTEST**

### A Success for Pasco County

As reported in the last edition of Vote Notes, we received an overwhelming response from Pasco County Elementary Schools to our poster contest titled "Make Freedom Count." Since then, three judges managed to proclaim nine winners from the hundreds of entries.

Mr. Browning and Rachel Decoteau, Outreach/Education Coordinator, traveled to eight elementary schools to personally meet the winning students and present their prizes. In most cases proud parents and teachers were present as well as school media instructors who videotaped the meetings for the schools' morning news programs.

The winning posters were displayed in the three government centers during early voting this election season, and will find permanent homes there. The winning posters, as well as many honorable mentions, were also displayed at the Dade City Armory for the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored "welcome home the troops" event.

First Place Winners who received a bicycle sponsored by Wal-Mart were:

- Joshua Fiallo, third grade, San Antonio Elementary School
- Jordyn Bodi, fourth grade, San Antonio Elementary School
- Samantha Miller, fifth grade, Trinity Elementary School

Second Place Winners who received an annual Busch Gardens Pass sponsored by SunTrust were:

- Samuel Avila, third grade, Lacochee Elementary
- Courtney Nathe, fourth grade, Academy at the Farm
- Christopher Mancini, fifth grade, Shady Hills Elementary

Third Place Winners who received a \$100 gift card sponsored by Target were:

- Julia Bearint, third grade, Oakstead Elementary
- Sarah Rodhouse, fourth grade, Pineview Elementary
- Jenna Banker, fifth grade, Northwest Elementary

Contest judges were Edward Blommel, Regional Director, Tampa Electric Company; Diana Murcar, Art Department, Centennial Elementary School; and Russell Barnes, Chief of Police, Zephyrhills.

The contest, open to all third, fourth and fifth grade Pasco County elementary school children, proved to be a rewarding experience for all involved, and will most likely be included in our education program next election cycle. ■



Samuel Avila of Lacochee Elementary holds his award certificate while Rachel Decoteau holds the winning poster.



Courtney Nathe, 4th grade, Academy at the Farms, drew an iVotronic for her winning poster.

# Voice of the Voter

We received many "How Was Our Service" cards after early voting and Election Day. Most contained comments that were complimentary and positive. There were very few that conveyed negative messages.

The negative comments will be taken into consideration in our planning for 2008. The positive will be embraced as we evaluate procedures. Comments often complimented precinct election officials and the fine job they did. Those we will take pride in as we evaluate our overall performance. The following are a few excerpts from the many cards we received. Many thanks for the dedication and hard work of the precinct elections officials in delivering an election we can all be proud of!

"Poll workers were great! Very helpful and friendly. Made voting easy." Precinct 66

"A very efficient, courteous operation." Precinct 13

"They thanked me for taking the time to vote. After I left I realized I should have thanked them for taking the time to volunteer to help us!" Precinct 77

"The whole experience was positive. The entire staff was so friendly!" Precinct 71

"All were friendly and courteous even though they were very busy. I was so impressed I brought back doughnuts." Precinct 29

"A fine group of poll workers. They made sure to explain everything and kept the area spotless." Precinct 15

"Line moved very quickly! I was in & out in 15 minutes." Precinct 42

"They know what they are doing and do it well." Precinct 51

"I like voting when poll workers are as helpful as these people." Precinct 153

## Other Thank You

Precinct election officials enjoy the front line on Election Day, and that is why we put so much effort into their training. As representatives of the elections office, they are what the voting public sees, and we want them to be successful.

In the background, there are many other temporary workers whose roles are equally vital to the success of elections in Pasco County. We could not do what we do without the help of the many temporary staff we employ throughout the election cycle. It takes a small army of dedicated, trained individuals to deliver the top-notch elections Pasco County voters have become accustomed to.

A special thank you to those folks in the following supportive roles for a job well done:

- Early voting workers and site supervisors
- Call Center and Phone Bank workers
- Absentee boards
- Election night boards
- Field Service Representatives
- Pasco County Communications
- Temporary office staff
- Voter Outreach Ambassadors

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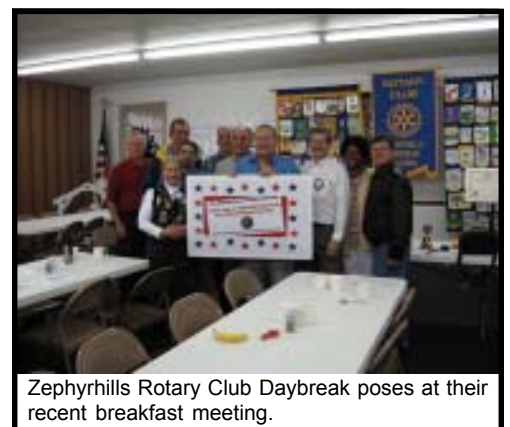
## Adopt-a-Precinct Program a Double Boost to Pasco County

This election cycle, Pasco County got a boost in staffing the polls by partnering with several civic groups that "adopted" precincts. During a recruitment drive for precinct election officials, three Rotary Clubs stepped forward with enough members to staff three entire precincts. A fourth Rotary Club, as well as associates of Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services/Florida partially staffed two additional precincts.

Club members attended training and worked the polls on Election Day. In turn, the civic groups will boost local charities by using their wages to further their work throughout the community. Collectively, the five organizations earned over \$10,000. Elections' staff recently attended a breakfast meeting of the Zephyrhills Rotary Club Daybreak to present them with their earnings check.

The Holiday Rotary Club adopted precinct 153, Key Vista Clubhouse in Holiday. The Zephyrhills Rotary Club Daybreak adopted precinct 5, Country Aire Manor in Dade City. The Rotary Club of Wesley Chapel Sunrise adopted precinct 146, Victorious Life Assembly in Wesley Chapel. Dade City Rotary Club staffed precinct 1, First Baptist Church in Dade City. Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services/Florida worked precinct 55, Grove Park Community Building, New Port Richey.

These innovative partnerships proved to be a great success this year in creating a win/win situation for all involved. The Supervisor of Elections' office looks to expand this program in 2008. If your group, organization, or church would be interested in "adopting" a precinct, please contact the elections' office. ■



Zephyrhills Rotary Club Daybreak poses at their recent breakfast meeting.

KURT S. BROWNING  
Supervisor of Elections  
Pasco County  
P. O. Box 300  
Dade City, FL 33526-0300

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 7812  
Tampa FL

DADE CITY  
(352) 521-4302

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(813) 929-1392

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(813) 929-1288

NEW PORT RICHEY  
(727) 847-8162

### **"WORD OF THE QUARTER"**

#### **INDEFATIGABLE**

“in-di-’fat-i-g&-b&l • (*adjective*)

: capable of working a long time without tiring : TIRELESS

This word describes precinct election officials on Election Day!

Source: [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

### **REGISTRATION STATISTICS**

Republican	107,355	40.2%
Democrat	97,558	36.6%
Other	62,031	23.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>266,944</b>	

(As of December 20, 2006)

**ELECTION DATE**  
**Municipal**  
**April 10, 2007**

For more information, visit our website  
at [pascovotes.com](http://pascovotes.com).

### *quote of the quarter*

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” - *Aesop*

Source: [www.coolquiz.com/trivia](http://www.coolquiz.com/trivia)

### **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. ■

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

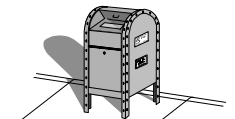
On average women say 7,000 words per day. Men manage just over 2,000.

The king of hearts is the only king without a moustache on a standard playing card.

The average person walks the equivalent of twice around the world in a lifetime.

In 1900 the average age at death in the US was 47.

Source: [corsinet.com-trivia](http://corsinet.com-trivia)



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