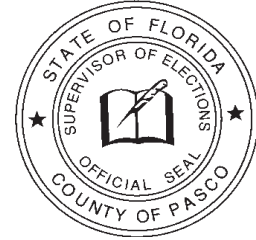




VOTE NOTES

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PASCO COUNTY
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS



April, 2003

Quarterly Publication

HAVA...COMING TO TOWN

Help America Vote Act of 2002

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) was signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 29, 2002. HAVA is the biggest piece of legislation to hit voting in America since the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA).

Continuing in NVRA's footsteps, this act is considered a 'bipartisan measure' designed to help states and their voting districts update voting systems and ensure the integrity of elections in America.

President Bush stated, "The vitality of America's democracy depends on the fairness and accuracy of America's elections." He went on to say that for the last two hundred years, Americans have broadened the right to vote with new laws designed to make our government more accountable and increase its representation of the people.

Florida's Legislature is using the 2003 Legislative Session to incorporate HAVA into our own elections laws. The time-line for implementing the law has already begun. Through the election reform that swept through Florida after the General Election of 2000, we are head and shoulders above the rest of the country.

Florida is already in compliance with many aspects of the act. For example, our county, as well as the state, no longer uses punch-card systems, lever machines or paper ballots; has instituted provisional ballot procedures; utilizes an electronic database of registered voters; accommodates voters with disabilities; and promotes voter education, awareness and turnout.

Many other features of the HAVA measure will have to be incorporated into Florida's elections laws over the next few years. Some of the features are: Improving verification and identification requirements of voters, the adoption of 'minimum standards' for elections systems, and the adoption of 'uniform standards' for defining the constitution of a vote.

During the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections' winter conference in January, several Division of Elections staff members discussed the provisions of the new law with the supervisors. The supervisors found many aspects of the law troubling, funding being one of them.

The measure calls for the federal government to ear-mark \$1.515 billion for implementation of the law. However, the supervisors were told that federal funding could be a possibility, but that measures would need to be taken in the event that federal funds were unavailable. More information about HAVA and other legislative changes relating to Florida elections will be available in the July issue of VoteNotes. ■

References: www.election.dos.state.fl.us
www.reformelection.org
www.dreier.house.gov/voteref_summary.htm
<http://164.109.48.86/usa/s102902.htm>



Punch Card Voting:

What's That?

The Pasco County Supervisor of Elections' Office is becoming more and more experienced with our new voting system. We are developing into such old hands with this technology that punch card voting is fast becoming a distant memory.

Pasco County has come full circle, as we prepare for our second Municipal Election series using the new technology. Going through a complete cycle of elections has given us insight into areas needing improvement and streamlining.

We have already re-evaluated many areas of processing and have developed more efficient procedures. These areas include, but are not limited to, equipment maintenance, pollworker training, absentee ballot canvassing, tabulation and storage, and record-keeping.

We are going to use the upcoming city elections as an opportunity to launch these new procedures. This will afford us with the experience needed to verify their effectiveness and give us ample time to make any adjustments before the onset of the 2004 election cycle.

Our office is continually looking to improve its performance with each election, drawing on past experiences. We will remain committed to maximizing the potential of the touchscreen voting system and to becoming the leader in setting the standard for elections in Florida as well as the country. ■

Visit our website at www.pascovotes.com

HELP WANTED:

Come Join the Team

The Supervisor of Elections' Office is in need of more people just like you! We are currently experiencing a high demand for new recruits to fill hundreds of paid and volunteer positions.

Some of those positions are: Voting demonstrators, Election Day workers, Election night workers, equipment handlers, delivery assistants, zone representatives, phone bank operators, and absentee personnel.

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in assisting our office, please call 1-800-851-8754. ■

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Three of Pasco County's six municipalities will hold local elections on April 8, 2003. Sample ballots for the city elections are available on our website at www.pascovotes.com.

The City of New Port Richey will be voting on three new councilpersons. The candidates, as listed on the ballot, are Susan M. Clark, Tom Finn, Bob Langford, Ginny Miller and Robby Poff.

Registered voters in the City of Port Richey will have two races on their ballot. Bob Leggiere and Eloise Taylor are running for Mayor. Phyllis Z. Grae and Greg Ross are competing for the open councilperson seat.

Zephyrhills' new councilperson for seat five will be determined on the 8th as well. Michael M. "Mike" Bussell and Celia M. Graham are running for the position. ■

CHANGES.... THEY ARE A COMIN'

The Pasco County Supervisor of Elections' Office has already begun preparing for the 2004 Election Cycle. With the 2003 legislative session in full swing, Kurt Browning and his staff are looking at their in-house functions while awaiting the inevitable law changes that occur each year.

The elections staff hit the ground running in January by evaluating policies and procedures, assessing areas of improvement, and recommending alternative methods designed to increase efficiency.

Behind the scenes, the elections office will be working diligently to streamline every aspect of voting. Some up-front assignments will include the production of state-of-the-art training materials, the development of an In-Office Voting System capable of accommodating the early voting trend, the completion of a state-mandated polling place survey, and tapping into the wealth of human resources that exists throughout our county.

Meanwhile, the public can look for the following: A revised voter registration application, an increase in volunteer and paid worker positions, the renaming of pollworker positions, a more visible voter education program, convenient absentee and early voting, and a more streamlined system for canvassing and tabulating ballots creating faster election results.

Definitive information about legislative law changes and in-house procedural changes will be available in the July issue of VoteNotes. ■

Elections to Remember



The Supervisor of Elections' Office won a first-place trophy for "Best Commercial Exhibit – Depicting Theme" at the Pasco County Fair this year. The "Elections to Remember" exhibit, which depicted a historical view of past and present voting technologies, coincided with the 2003 fair theme "A Fair to Remember."

Hand-written voter registration books from the early 1900's were part of the exhibit. The roll books listed interesting details about early Pasco County voters. Details like nationality, occupation, and the amount of poll taxes collected for each voter was listed in the registers.



By 1930, virtually every major city in the United States had installed lever machines. Pasco County kept up with the times by introducing the Shoup lever machine in the early 1930's. Pasco County discontinued the use of the lever machine in the late 1970's. Visitors to this year's fair had the opportunity to see and try out the out-dated machine.



Former Supervisor of Elections, Mary Morgan, introduced Pasco County voters to the punch-card system in the late 1970's. The votomatic (punch-card) system, along with lever machines and paper ballots, was decertified in the state of Florida in 2001. Residents and visitors alike can now view the out-dated machines at the Pioneer Florida Museum in Dade City. Kurt S. Browning, Supervisor of Elections, donated the machines to the museum after the fair.



Mr. Browning brought Pasco County into the 21st century with the installation of the iVotronic Touchscreens. A touchscreen was available at the booth for "hands-on" demonstrations for fair-goers.

A memory wall with a reproduction of a paper ballot, old photographs, historic newspaper articles and hand-written elections results added to the essence of this year's booth.

To see more "Elections to Remember," visit our website at www.pascovotes.com
Go to Current Events and Highlights of Past Events

Calendar of Events

April 8th	Municipal Elections
April 18th	Office Closed
April 29th	High School Voter Registration Contest

REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Republican	92,827	40%
Democrat	89,079	39%
Other	48,430	21%
Total	230,336	

(As of March 20, 2003)

ELECTION DATES

Municipal Elections

April 8, 2003

Presidential Preference Primary

March 9, 2004

Municipal Elections

April 13, 2004

First Primary

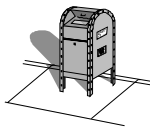
August 31, 2004

Second Primary

September 28, 2004

General Election

November 2, 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.

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

High School Voter Registration Contest

The Annual High School Voter Registration Contest will be held at the public high schools on Thursday, April 29, 2003. The schools will compete against each other to collect the highest percentage of applications from eligible students.

The school with the highest percentage will win the contest. Mr. Browning awards a plaque to the winning school. Last year's winner was River Ridge High School with a 41.7 percent turnout.

The contest focuses on registering 18-year-old seniors but does allow students who are 17-years-old, by the date of the competition, to participate.

This contest is one of the ways that the Supervisor of Elections' Office uses to promote voter awareness in Pasco County's youth. Our office also conducts a variety of school elections throughout the county, including student council and homecoming elections.

On-site, voter education programs are also available. ■

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DID YOU KNOW?

Pearls melt in vinegar.

No words in the English language rhyme with month, orange, silver and purple.

A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.

Rubber bands last longer when they are refrigerated.

Source: AAA Going Places

Quotes of the Quarter...

"If a man does his best, what else is there?"

~ General George S. Patton

"I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have."

~ Thomas Jefferson

Source: www.cs.virginia.edu/~robins/quotes.html

"Fame is what you have taken, character is what you give. When to this truth you awaken, then you begin to live."

~ Bayard Taylor

Source: www.quotations.com

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