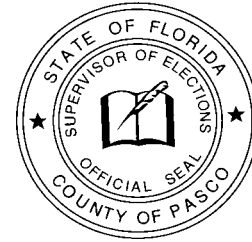


OTE NOTES

KURT S. BROWNING

PASCO COUNTY
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS



July, 2003

Quarterly Publication

HAVA is Here

Help America Vote Act of 2002

During this year's legislative session, Florida lawmakers faced the challenge of fulfilling the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002. Florida passed an implementing bill to be in force by January 1, 2004, and will be in place for the 2004 Presidential Preference Primary in March.

Some of the mandates of the bill include new identification requirements for first-time voters who register by mail, new guidelines for canvassing the absentee ballots of first-time mail registrants, redefinition of provisional ballots and voters who are eligible to vote them as well as rules for canvassing them.

Firstly, the voter registration application will again be redesigned before January 1, 2004, and will require new information such as the voter's Florida Driver License or Florida Identification Card number. If the applicant does not have one of these, the last four digits of the social security number will be required in order for a voter registration to be valid.

First-time voters in Pasco County registering by mail will be asked to include a copy of their identification with their voter registration application. Other acceptable forms of identification are U.S. Passports, Buyer's Club IDs, employee, military or student IDs, and debit or credit cards, or a utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck which contains the voter's name and address. If a copy of the identification is not on file with the supervisor's office by election day, and the voter is unable to produce photo and signature identification at the polls, the voter will be required to vote a provisional ballot.

There are exemptions to this identification requirement which include those who are 65 years or older at the time of registration, have a permanent or temporary disability, are a member of uniformed service on active duty and are absent from the county, a spouse or dependent who is accompanying a uniformed service person on active duty, members of the merchant marines who are absent from the county and overseas citizens.

As a result of HAVA, provisional ballots are now called conditional ballots, the validity of which is determined by the county canvassing board. The supervisor's office is required to notify voters whether or not their conditional ballot was counted either by mail or by a free access system, available within 30 days following an election. The free access system would include a toll-free telephone number or web site address. Voters who cast conditional ballots will be given written instructions on how to use the free access system which will restrict information regarding an individual ballot to the person who cast it. Driver license number or last four digits of social security number will also be required on the conditional ballot voter's certificate.



Conditional ballots will also be issued to voters who vote past the 7:00 p.m. closing time in the event of an order which extends the poll closing time. These ballots will be canvassed as other conditional ballots will be, but kept separate. This does not apply to those voters in line when the polls close at 7:00 p.m.

First-time voters who registered by mail and request an absentee ballot will be required to provide a copy of their identification with their return ballot if they have not already done so upon registration, or if they have met one of the exemptions. An additional envelope to enclose the copy will be provided with the absentee ballot supplies. The copy must not be enclosed in the secrecy envelope with the voter's certificate as the law does not allow the ballot to be opened to look for the identification. The ballot will be treated as a conditional ballot until 7:00 p.m. election day. If identification or written indication of an exemption is received in the supervisor's office before 7:00 p.m. the ballot can be canvassed. Otherwise, the ballot will not be counted.

HAVA also outlines new administrative complaint procedures, mandates a statewide voter registration system, requires polling place accessibility studies and disability compliance, and surveys funding including voter education funding. ■

Help Wanted!

Give Us A Hand

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.

The positions cover a wide spectrum of expertise. Some positions are technical and center around equipment and troubleshooting. Other positions require dealing with the general public in providing timely, courteous service. For instance, our office needs voting demonstrators to educate people on the use of the voting system. These individuals will represent our office at registration drives and outreach activities.

We also use thousands of pollworkers to staff our polling places on Election Day. Pollworkers perform various duties to assist voters through the voting process, including demonstrating the equipment, verifying registration, and loading the correct ballot. There are six different types of positions to be filled for each election: Precinct Supervisor, Registration Specialist, Registration Technician, Voting System Supervisor, Inspector, and Poll Deputy.

Other Election Day workers are used in our three offices and at our Support Center as phone bank operators, zone representatives, and absentee personnel. Equipment handlers, delivery assistants, and clerical aides are also needed.

The Elections' office trains and supplies every worker with the skills and equipment necessary to successfully perform their duties. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in assisting our office, please call 1-800-851-8754. ■

SENIOR BUSINESS VISITORS

The Supervisor of Elections' office welcomed several seniors from Pasco High School who participated in a 'walk-about' to local businesses. The students set out on their journey to discover the ins and outs of being a member of today's workforce.

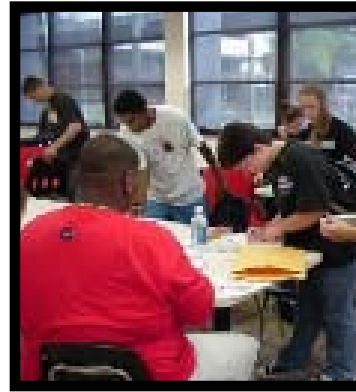


The Elections' staff shared their personal education and work histories with the students, which proved how varied a workforce could be. The staff also offered the students advice on continuing education, how to take advantage of employment opportunities, and ways to become valued employees in whatever field they choose.

The Elections' office commends all of the graduates of 2003 for their perseverance and offers them their hopes for a bright future. ■

THE RESULTS ARE IN: Pasco County High School Registration Contest

The 16th Annual High School Voter Registration Contest was held at the public high schools Thursday, April 29, 2003. Con-



gratulations go out to Pasco High School for winning the competition with 33.1% of their eligible students registering to vote. Land O' Lakes High School came in second with a 30.2% turnout.

Exciting changes are coming to the voter education program that will enable the Elections'

office to have a more "hands-on" classroom approach to educating future voters. The new curriculum will affect students of all ages. The changes will include a new college program.

Therefore, this year's contest was the final high school competition. Mr. Browning and his staff would like to thank all of the schools, teachers and students who have participated in this year's contest as well as in previous years. We look forward to working with you to promote voter education and a heightened awareness in the voters of tomorrow. ■

SUMMER CONFERENCE

The Florida State Association of Supervisor of Elections held their summer conference in Sarasota during early June. The conference was loaded with topics to be explored in workshops, meetings, and with guest speakers who instilled in the supervisors a sense of urgency in preparing for the 2004 elections.

The supervisors realize those elections are right around the corner so they used the wide array of topics to formulate a game plan. Some of the topics covered at the conference were: Presidential Preference Primary, list maintenance issues, the Help America Vote Act, and legislative updates.

Supervisors around the state will be working diligently for the next year to fine-tune their game plan for the upcoming elections. It is the goal of Kurt Browning, Pasco County Supervisor of Elections, to provide successful and accurate elections to the voters of Pasco County.

It is the goal of the supervisors around the state to promote voter's rights and to educate Florida's voters about their voting responsibilities. Florida's supervisors of elections are dedicated and determined to use its revolutionary reform to redeem the state in the eyes of the American people. ■

Polling Place Survey

The Supervisors of Elections throughout the state has spent the last few months complying with another aspect of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and recently passed state legislation. The new laws mandate that the supervisors evaluate the accessibility of all polling locations in their respective counties.

The Department of State in conjunction with the Division of Elections formulated an evaluation system that meets the requirements of HAVA with respect to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The supervisors must complete the evaluations and provide a summary report to the Division of Elections by September, 2003.

The report will include a list of the facilities accessible and in compliance, accessible but inconvenient, and inaccessible facilities. The report must also include a break down of the inaccessible facilities into three categories; can be made compliant, can not be made compliant and tax-supported facilities that are not compliant.

Pasco County's Board of County Commissioners is also being kept apprised of the findings. Each county will have until January of 2004 to have 100 percent of their facilities in compliance. Since the county will be responsible for any permanent or temporary upgrades, Pasco County will be filing for a waiver extending the deadline to January, 2006. The waiver will give the county ample time to prepare and budget any necessary improvements.

Pasco County began their evaluations in late April and has nearly completed the ADA Polling Place Survey Checklists for the 142 polling facilities currently in use. Here is a photographic glimpse into the depth of the survey. ■



The surveyors measured the width of doorways and aisles. Pathways also had to be checked for debris and ease of maneuvering.



Handicapped Parking was one item evaluated at each facility.



A fish scale was used to determine the amount of force needed to open doors. The distance between the ground and the door handles was also measured.



The degree of slope in the parking lots, walkways, and ramps leading into the facilities were measured with the ADA Accessibility Stick.

Calendar of Events

Sept 1st **Labor Day**
Supervisor of Elections'
Offices Closed

Touchscreen Voting
Demonstration
Pioneer Florida Museum
15602 Pioneer Museum Rd
Dade City
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

OPERATION SHOEBOX

The Pasco County Supervisor of Elections staff participated in its own 'Operation Shoebox' in May. The elections' staff showed its support for our troops by mailing nearly 25 care packages to the men and women serving our country overseas.

Several recipients were able to respond and send notes of appreciation. Some were able to take the time to give a personal account of their experiences. The following is an excerpt of a letter received from Sergeant First Class James Elliott:

"If only the war protestors could have been with us to see first hand what the gift of freedom means to an oppressed people, they would take a look at how they got the liberties they have. They would understand the sacrifices of others. A few weeks ago, I was in a convoy. We came to a well known dangerous intersection known as Spaghetti Junction. Americans had been ambushed at this point and we're on guard and alert for anything threatening here. A truck carrying two Iraqi's pulled up next to our humvee and the man on the passenger side turned and hung out of the window. Both of his hands were outstretched toward us in a nonthreatening way. With tears in his eyes he said "Thank you America, Thank you, Thank you." This is a moment I will always remember.

SFC Elliott has served his country in three different wars. He and his family know a lot about the sacrifices and the toll any war takes on the soldiers, their families and the countries involved.

The Pasco County Supervisor of Elections' office salutes our military forces and their families for their dedication, perseverance and for the sacrifices they make in order to provide our country with the freedoms we should never take for granted. ■

KURT S. BROWNING

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ELECTION DATES

Presidential Preference Primary
March 9, 2004
Municipal Elections
April 13, 2004
First Primary
August 31, 2004
General Election
November 2, 2004

REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Republican	94,690	40.3%
Democrat	90,298	38.4%
Other	50,135	21.3%
Total	235,123	

(As of July 11, 2003)

DID YOU KNOW?

On every continent there is a city called Rome.

The names of all the continents end with the letter they start with.

The first city in modern history to reach 1 million people was London in 1811.

Source: www.didyouknow.cd/

Quotes of the Quarter...

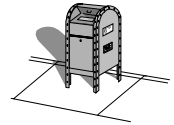
"Out of clutter, find Simplicity. From discord, find Harmony. In the middle of difficulty lies Opportunity."

~ Albert Einstein

"We are continually faced by great opportunities brilliantly disguised as insoluble problems."

~ Lee Iococca

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.

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