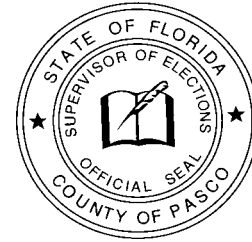


# OTE NOTES

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PASCO COUNTY  
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS



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Quarterly Publication



## School Days, School Days... Reading and Writing and Voting?



School is back in session, and the Supervisor of Elections' Office is ready with an updated education program. For years, we have been doing school programs at teachers' requests. This year, the program will have a new look.

The supervisor's outreach/education team has been working with several teachers from Deer Park Elementary to get suggestions on children's interests and learning styles. The program aims to integrate an election curriculum and an appealing format. At its completion, the team will meet with Pasco County School Board's Supervisor of Social Studies, Kathy Steiner, for her endorsement and support.

The grade school program introduces the children to voter registration and voting procedures. It encourages them to exercise their right and helps them realize how one vote can make a difference.

The program, designed to be age appropriate at each level, utilizes sample ballots and mock elections with hands-on experience on the iVotronics. The primary grades vote on such things as their favorite circus animal or favorite snack, while the intermediate children vote on their favorite amusement park, fast food or sport.

Teachers are encouraged to reinforce the primary student's choice by following-up with a coloring sheet of the winning circus animal, or providing the class with the winning snack. Third graders vote on their favorite science video which the teacher may choose to show in class.

Preparation materials and sample ballots will be available to teachers on our website ([pascovotes.com](http://pascovotes.com)) prior to the program. Sample ballots consist of bright graphics and photo-

graphs. Because the voting machines do not have graphics capabilities, the younger children will vote by letters, i.e. L for lion or C for cupcake.

The program starts out with the simple concept of making choices and gradually builds to include past voting methods, making informed decisions and introduction to party primaries. The secondary students complete mock voter registration applications, receive identification cards, and are chosen to serve as class pollworkers. They are given glossary terms and word search puzzles as follow-up materials.

The middle school program is based on two educational activities booklets, *Electing the President* and *Every Vote Counts*. These booklets, provided by the supervisor's office, are formatted with lessons that are reinforced by word scrambles, crossword puzzles and creative activities. Teachers can use the books to supplement future lesson plans.

In lieu of the High School voter registration drive, the supervisor's office will present a program in high school government classes which includes a video entitled *First Vote*. It features high school students who were directly affected by the September 11, 2001 incident, and the resulting patriotism they have felt and experienced. Students who are 17 years and older are given the opportunity to register to vote. The entire student body will use the iVotronics for their school elections. The supervisor's office is routinely asked to schedule and staff these elections.

At colleges, voter registration will be provided through a link to our website on the school's internet homepage. Applications will also be available at the registrar's office and included

SEE SCHOOL DAYS - Page 2



## From the Supervisor...

Much is being said and continues to be said about the need for a paper receipt to be printed after every voter casts their ballot. Florida supervisors of elections are formulating a formal position paper on this issue. My opinion is that a paper receipt proves nothing. Consider this scenario, if you will...a voter votes for Candidate X, the review screen on the voting booth says "Candidate X" and the paper receipt indicates the voter has voted for "Candidate X." However, for whatever reasons, the voter informs the election official that they did not vote for "Candidate X" but for "Candidate Y." What has the receipt proven? Again, in my opinion ...nothing.



Our voting system is a secure and accurate system that has been tested and certified by an independent testing authority, as well as, the State's Division of Elections. These systems are subjected to extremely thorough testing requirements that are in accordance with Federal Voting System Standards.

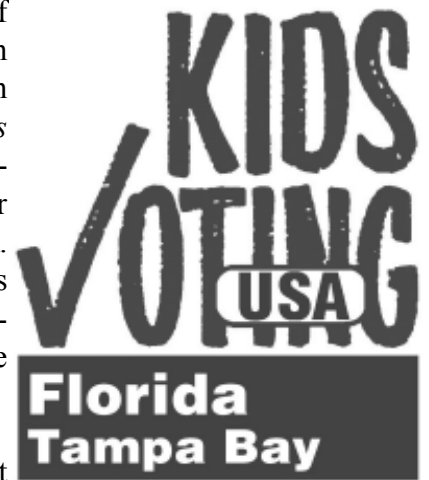
Additionally, a number of nationally recognized organizations have issued papers on this subject calling the requirement of a paper receipt unnecessary and problematic. The League of Women Voters of the United States has said that an individual paper receipt for each ballot would undermine disability access requirements, raise costs and slow down the purchase or lease of machines needed to replace machines that do not work. The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights has indicated that "documented improvements in election systems should not be delayed based on unwarranted fears, untested theories, and technology that simply does not exist," which would be the case if paper receipts would be required.

The American Association of People with Disabilities opposes the paper receipt because it does not substantially address the issue of election fraud and it violates the accessibility requirements under the Help America Vote Act.

I will continue to keep you updated on this very important and timely issue. Please feel free to call or email me at [kbrowning@pascovotes.com](mailto:kbrowning@pascovotes.com) if you have any questions regarding this issue.

Have a great holiday season! ■

The Supervisor of Elections' Office in partnership with the *St. Petersburg Times* will participate in Kids Voting USA at the November 2004 Presidential Election. On Election Day, students go to the polls to cast practice ballots in local, state and national races.



This nonpartisan, nonprofit national program is available to students K-12. Through classroom lessons which focus on studying candidates and issues, attending debates and reading the newspaper, it aims to cultivate the values of citizenship in young people.

Pasco County, the only local county participating in the Tampa Bay area, will provide space at the polling places for volunteers (recruited and managed by the *Times*) to staff the Kids Voting booths across the county. Research shows that where a Kids Voting program exists, adult participation at the polls increases five to six percent.

The school system will use a curriculum written by education experts and provided by Kids Voting. This book knowledge, combined with the hands-on experience of casting their own ballot, will not only engage young people in the civic process but teach the value of living in a democracy as part of their basic education.

The success of the program is dependent on the cooperation of school administrators, elections officials, business leaders and the media. The elections' office is more than willing to do its part. We would like to encourage all of you to do your part and get involved. "Recruit" your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors to go to the polls and vote on Election Day. ■

### School Days

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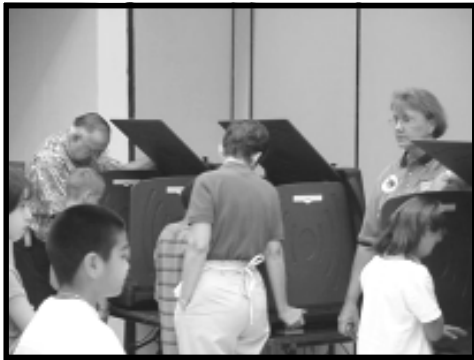
in the college's registration packets.

The education/outreach team continues to work on the public education program. Equipment demonstrations and speaking engagements will continue through the next election year, as well as a public relations campaign and media coverage.

If you are a retired school teacher, or someone who just plain enjoys children, the supervisor's office would be interested in talking to you about assisting us in conducting the grade school education program in the classrooms. ■

## PASCO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Student Council Elections*



Students at Pasco Elementary School utilized the iVOTRONIC voting system during their Student Council Election on September 19, 2003. The Supervisor of

Elections' office works in conjunction with the county schools to produce ballots, supply equipment and schedule elections. Supervisor of Elec-



tions' staff members or elections office volunteers facilitate the election process. Events like this offer an opportunity for the elections' office to educate the voters of tomorrow. ■

## LIST MAINTENANCE

*2003 Biennial List Maintenance Program*

The Supervisor of Elections' office has completed its 2003 Biennial List Maintenance Program as required by Florida Statutes. The program aims to update the voter registration file with current addresses, and to purge voters who no longer reside in Pasco County.

The voters were notified, by mail, if they had no activity with the Pasco County Supervisor of Elections' office during the past two years. Three types of notification were used to contact nearly 55,000 registered voters. All voters receiving any type of notification should respond accordingly. Failure to respond could cause delays at the polling place on Election Day. ■

## SECOND PRIMARY CANCELLED

*Saves Pasco County Tax Payers*

During this year's 2003 session, the Legislature revisited the decision to eliminate the Second Primary Election. The initial legislative act did away with the 2002 Second Primary, and once again, the Legislature has opted to remove the second primary from the 2004 election cycle. This decision will save Pasco County taxpayers over \$300,000.

Registered voters will begin the year with the Presidential Preference in March followed by an August 31<sup>st</sup> Primary Election. The final election of 2004 will be the General Election on November 2, 2004. ■

## POLLWORKER RECRUITMENT

*County Participation Needed More Than Ever*

The elections office recently completed a file maintenance procedure to clean up its pollworker files. The project gave the pollworker coordination team a new perspective into their areas of need and is helping them to prepare for the upcoming elections.

During the 2002 General Election, the elections office assigned nearly 2,000 workers to staff the polling places. As our county grows, the elections office anticipates that number to continue to increase. Therefore, we will need county participation more than ever. Please call 1-800-851-8754 for more information. ■



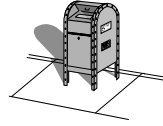
Pollworker coordinator Eleanor Swan recently conducted a pollworker orientation session at the Election Support Center in Dade City. The orientation sessions are used to introduce prospective election day workers to the job. Job candidates are asked to complete an examination to screen for necessary skills.

## REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Republican	95,828	40.3%
Democrat	91,041	38.3%
Other	51,065	21.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>237,934</b>	

(As of September 25, 2003)

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



## ELECTION DATES

### Presidential Preference Primary

March 9, 2004

### Municipal Elections

April 13, 2004

### First Primary

August 31, 2004

### General Election

November 2, 2004

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## VOTER'S GUIDE AVAILABLE



The Supervisor of Elections' office has a new Voter's Guide available for all interested parties. The guide is intended to educate Pasco County voters on the functions of the Pasco County Supervisor of Elections' office: when, where and how to register; and how to keep your registration current. The guide also provides other election related information such as election dates, absentee ballots, pollworker recruitment and instructional voting equipment procedures.

The elections office encourages the use of the guide to familiarize voters with the election process in Florida and Pasco County. The guide will help Pasco County voters understand their rights and responsibilities as a voter in our county.

The guide may be downloaded or printed from our website, [pascovotes.com](http://pascovotes.com). The elections' office is also readily available to further assist you with any questions or concerns you may have. ■

### quote of the quarter

"In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

~ Martin Luther King

"Example is not the main thing in influencing others, it is the only thing."

~ Albert Schweitzer

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

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Sahara Desert expands about 1 kilometer per month.

All of the planets in the solar system rotate anti-clockwise, except Venus which rotates clockwise.

The typical bolt of lightning heats the atmosphere to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Source: [www.didyounow.cd/fastfacts/facts.htm](http://www.didyounow.cd/fastfacts/facts.htm)

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