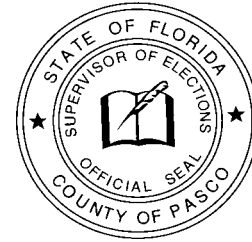


VOTE NOTES

KURT S. BROWNING

PASCO COUNTY
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS



October 2006

Quarterly Publication

Postage Issues for Absentee Voters

During the recent primary election, some absentee voters were surprised when their ballots returned home days after mailing them to be tabulated. Ballots misrouted by the United States Postal Service fell short of their destination when erroneously returned to the sender rather than the addressee. Others were purposefully returned to the sender for additional postage.

Absentee ballot certificate envelopes are printed with the voter's name and address, and are mailed to them in window envelopes that also contain their ballot and a secrecy envelope. The voter's name is printed on the flap side of the certificate envelope. Voters put their secrecy envelope containing their voted ballot inside the certificate envelope, seal it, and sign over the flap. After affixing postage to the opposite side where the elections' office address is pre-printed, the voter drops it in the mail.

Some ballots took a wrong turn at the Post Office during the sorting process. Rather than being sorted by the delivery address on the front of the envelope, they were processed according to the voter's address on the back of the certificate, and mistakenly returned to the sender.

Ballots also found their way back to senders for insufficient postage. The nonstandard size of the certificate envelope exceeded the 39 cents limit and required an additional 13 cents postage. Although two boxes marked "place postage here" were printed on the envelope and instructions on both sides of the secrecy envelope forewarned voters to affix sufficient postage, many attempted to mail their ballot with one 39 cents stamp. This created problems for voters under time constraints to return ballots by the deadline, in some cases delaying the ballot by a week.

The nonstandard-size envelope was designed to accommodate a 19" ballot if necessary. The larger-sized ballot allows for more contests, and is easier for the machines to read when folded less times. In order to have sufficient supplies necessary to mail absentee

ballots, printers require envelope orders long before the candidates and issues make ballot placement. Ordering and budgeting for supplies becomes an educated guess based on past elections and current predictions.

In spite of the few complaints and bad

press received, 5,048 absentee ballots were canvassed in Pasco County, testimony to the fact that most voters successfully followed directions, and others acted timely to remedy any mailing errors. ■

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Nine teams of volunteers canvassed absentee ballots for tabulation at the Election Support Center in Dade City on Saturday, September 2nd.



BOB WHITE, SHERIFF

PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

8700 CITIZEN DRIVE • NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA 34654 • (727) 844-7700



I want to thank all the Special Deputies who helped make Pasco County's September primary election a success. Ensuring that all eligible citizens have unobstructed access to the polls is an important function of the voting process. I know you take great pride in this brief but significant duty.

I am confident that you will help to repeat our local success during the general election in November. Our citizens will be counting on you to maintain peace and order at the polls to assist in the voting process. Again, thank you for your efforts in the last election. You can be proud of your service which may go unnoticed by most but is vital to the election process and reflects well upon not only the Pasco Sheriff's Office but the entire county.

Key to this success is your input about the previous election. Any poll deputies who have any concerns or important observations about the last election are urged to please contact my office. There is always room for improvement and the process starts with you who are on the front line of the election process.



Sheriff White deputizes elections officials at their training at the Land O' Lakes School Board complex.



Sheriff White discusses the importance of the poll deputies' roll in the election process during their training.

POSTER CONTEST

Our office received an overwhelming response from Pasco County Elementary Schools to our poster contest being held this election cycle. As part of our education program, third, fourth, and fifth graders were invited to submit entries using their interpretation of "Make Freedom Count," the official theme of the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections advertising campaign.

First, second, and third prizes will be awarded to the top entries in each grade level. Winners will receive bicycles, sponsored by Wal-Mart, annual Busch Gardens' passes, sponsored by SunTrust Bank, and \$100 gift cards sponsored by Target.

A panel of community leaders will judge the posters that will be framed and displayed in the Supervisor of Elections' offices throughout the county. Place winners as well as other attractive posters will find permanent homes in the government buildings.

We thank the School Board for being very supportive of our contest, as well as the many teachers who encouraged entries; in some cases making the poster a class assignment. Based on the amount of flags, liberty bells, statues of liberty and eagles drawn or painted on the posters, patriotism is alive and well in Pasco County schools.

KIDS VOTING TAMPA BAY

Pasco County again welcomes KVTB



Pasco County Supervisor of Elections, in conjunction with the *St. Petersburg Times*, will again be participating in Kids Voting Tampa Bay (KVTB). Pasco County students can drop off completed ballots or cast ballots at 36 polling locations throughout the county on Election Day, plus two early voting sites, Supervisor of Elections' Office in the West Pasco Government Center and the lobby of the East Pasco Government Center. Separate voting areas will be set aside for students to vote during voting hours.

KVTB is the local chapter of a non-partisan, nonprofit national organization which provides an education program of classroom lessons and election day activities for students K-12. Backed by corporate sponsorships, the program focuses on teaching about the democratic process, citizenship, civic participation and the election process. Students study candidates and issues, attend debates and actually cast ballots on election day. Kids who participate learn how to gather information, think critically and make decisions.

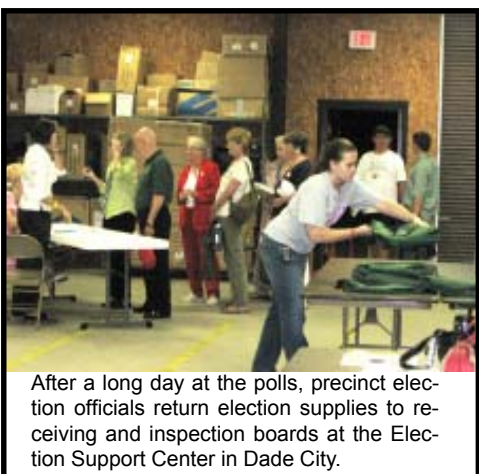
The local chapter of KVTB started in 2004 in Pasco County. We are proud to be invited to participate again this election cycle. Programs such as these can make a difference in the future of democracy. ■

Precinct Supervisors pick up election supplies!



Precinct Supervisors line up at the Election Support Center on Labor Day to receive election supplies for opening the polls the next morning.

Precinct Supervisors return election supplies!



After a long day at the polls, precinct election officials return election supplies to receiving and inspection boards at the Election Support Center in Dade City.

EARLY VOTING

A Success for Pasco County

During the 15-day early voting period, 6,590 voters cast a ballot in one of the seven early voting locations across Pasco County. The addition of early voting sites this election cycle at three local libraries plus our newest office in Wesley Chapel made early voting even more accessible to those wishing to vote at their convenience.



Election officials underwent six hours of training to prepare for working at an early voting site.

Electronic Voter Identification Systems, or EVIDs, streamlined early voting making processing voters more efficient. Used for the first time in Pasco, EVIDs identify and validate voter information by simply swiping a driver license. Driver licenses and Florida identification cards easily fulfill the ID requirement when voting, and most people have one. Only four provisional ballots were cast at early voting sites due to the voter's lack of photo and signature ID.

Many early voters submitted positive responses on our comment cards. Overall, early voting has been well received statewide. The elections office commends the early voting staff on their success. We extend a special thank you for helping us meet our goal of improving early voting service and flawless elections. ■

KURT S. BROWNING

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WELSEY CHAPEL
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LAND O' LAKES
(813) 929-1288

NEW PORT RICHEY
(727) 847-8162

quote of the quarter

"Our greatest glory is not in never falling but in rising every time we fall." - Confucius

Source: www.coolquiz.com

ELECTION DATES

General

November 7, 2006

Municipal

April 10, 2007

REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Republican	105,247	40.3%
Democrat	95,544	36.6%
Other	60,233	23.1%
Total	261,024	

(As of September 19, 2006)

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

DID YOU KNOW?

- The first losing candidate in a US presidential election was Thomas Jefferson. He lost to John Adams. George Washington had been unopposed.
- Former President Cleveland defeated incumbent Benjamin Harrison in 1892, becoming the first (and, to date, only) chief executive to win non-consecutive terms to the White House.
- Gerald Ford was the only US president not to have been elected to either the presidency or the vice presidency.

Source:
www.corsinet.com-trivia

"WORD OF THE QUARTER"

ANA

Pronunciation: /AN-uh/

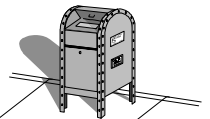
n : a collection of anecdotes or various materials that reflect the character of a person or setting

"His aquarium is an ana of the deep blue sea."

Source: www.coolquiz.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.