



**Brian E. Corley**

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### **One For the Ages!**

With the 2018 General Election in the rearview, I can attest that it will go down as an election cycle that tested our endurance and pushed us to limits we didn't know we had. Our logistics and planning paid off with the opportunity to showcase our transparency, processes, and procedures throughout the recounts. In the elections' business you've got one chance to get it right, and in the largest battleground state in the perpetual spotlight of intense scrutiny, I am proud of the final scorecard for Pasco County.

I'm often told by temporary employees, volunteers, and observers that they had no idea how much goes into administering an election. It's a lot like event planning on a grand scale. Months of preparation and staging come together for that important day when the electorate exercises their constitutional right. This time the party was well attended with an impressive 60.65% turnout, and my gut tells me the days of "low key midterms" is a thing of the past. The engagement is encouraging and welcomed. There's nothing worse than throwing a big party that no one attends, and in the spirit of the recent recounts, I can now say with even more confidence that every vote really does count!

While it's tempting to be critical of the electoral system when all things government seem politically hijacked, my hope is that those who respectfully observed the process will serve as ambassadors to its integrity. With the Presidential Preference just 13 months away, let's keep the momentum of civic engagement alive. Now is not the time to revert to complacency. In the wisdom of the Navy Seals, ".... when your mind is telling you you're done, you're really only 40 percent done." In the wisdom of this elections' official ".... when your turnout is 60% there's still 40% going unheard." My team and I are up for the challenge! Thank you, Pasco County, for the opportunity to serve you. With patience and respect for the established rules, a commitment to a standard of excellence, and an engaged electorate, the definition of democracy comes to life.

**Brian E. Corley \* Supervisor of Elections \* Pasco County**