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Special Election Is Season Opener for 2019

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has called a special election to fill the vacant House of Representatives District 38 seat created by the appointment of Daniel Burgess to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs. The Special Primary Election has been scheduled for April 9, 2019, followed by the Special General Election on June 18, 2019.

House District 38 encompasses approximately 117,000 voters within 41 precincts in east/central Pasco County. Per Florida Statutes, only voters residing within House District 38 are eligible to vote in this election. District 38 will have the usual three options for voting: by-mail, early, or at the polling place on election day. The East Pasco Government Center and the Central Pasco Professional Center will be open for early voting beginning Saturday, March 30, 2019 through Saturday, April 6, 2019, with Saturday and Sunday hours 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and weekday hours 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

April 9, 2019 is also the date of Municipal Elections in Pasco County. Three Pasco municipalities, New Port Richey, Port Richey, and Zephyrhills will hold elections to fill vacant council member seats. Municipal elections are open to voters who reside within those city limits. Because the City of Zephyrhills is within House District 38, Republican voters in the Zephyrhills municipality will have both the House District 38 candidates and the city council candidates on their ballot. Municipal races are not party-specific, but the Florida Closed Primary law (FS 101.021) applies to the District 38 race. This means only voters who are registered in the Republican Party will decide on the two qualified Republican candidates. The winning Republican candidate will go on to the Special General Election in opposition to the qualified Democratic candidate.

Having two elections on the same day may seem confusing, but simply put, there is an election on April 9, 2019 for Republican voters within House District 38, and all voters within the three municipalities of New Port Richey, Port Richey, and Zephyrhills. No matter how small (or overlapping) the elections, the preparations to ensure a transparent and trouble-free election are the same. My staff and I are already busy preparing, but we are never too busy to answer any questions you have about the upcoming elections. For information regarding the upcoming municipal and special elections, to request a vote-by-mail ballot, to find your polling location or early voting sites, check your eligibility, or for questions about closed primaries, visit our website www.pascovotes.com or call 1-800-851-8754. We stand ready to help!



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