



# Brian E. Corley

## Supervisor of Elections Pasco County

A quarterly enhancement to our website - [www.pascovotes.com](http://www.pascovotes.com) Vol. 11 | 4th Quarter | Oct 2017



### **"Irma was strong but Pasco is stronger!"** *Hurricane Irma #PascoProud*

I remember in 1985, Hurricane Elena was forecasted to be a direct hit on Pasco County. My family and I moved from New York to Pasco County in 1979, and in six years of living here we had become accustomed to the potential of hurricanes between the months of June through October. Elena, however, was the first storm that forced my family to evacuate our home, and we found ourselves riding out

the storm at the gymnasium of Gulf High School. As we waited there for the storm to pass, I remember thinking how strange it was that the day before I was a Gulf High School student playing basketball in that very spot, but more importantly, I will never forget the kindness the volunteers showed my family and me as we rode out the storm.

Fast forward to 2017, and I found myself in a similar situation with Irma on track to come right at Pasco. This time, however, it was my turn to give back. I had the true blessing of volunteering at River Ridge Middle/High School and joining the ranks of the amazing faculty and staff in assisting the nearly 3,000 evacuees who temporarily called the campus home. The selfless effort of the volunteers was repeated at many schools countywide in which nearly 30,000 Pasco residents sought shelter. I will be forever grateful for this opportunity.

As the Supervisor of Elections and a constitutional officer, I was involved with the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) meetings/conference calls. The professionalism and leadership shown by the County staff and all of those involved was top notch. The first responders in each municipality, the hard work of the Sheriff's Deputies and Pasco Fire Rescue was unprecedented, and I couldn't be prouder of the expediency with which Pasco County Schools responded to the need to provide shelter and assistance before, during and after the Hurricane.

On a community level, I saw churches, non-profit agencies and local businesses going above and beyond to generously provide services and aid. I saw citizens with chainsaws voluntarily helping to clear roadways and assisting neighbors, and I even observed resiliency in the evacuees - several which became volunteers themselves in the very shelters they were seeking refuge. The cumulative efforts and giving went far in helping Pasco face Irma, and it speaks volumes about the character of Pasco Peeps!

I've called Pasco county home since 1979, and I love that I have been able to stay and raise my family here. The recent events in which we came together as a community to take care of each other makes me even prouder to call Pasco home.



- In this Edition...**
- Election Reflections
  - Meet and Greet
  - OVR

### Registration Statistics

As of Oct 2, 2017

Republican	130,789
Democrat	105,806
Other	97,659
Minor Party	1,644
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>335,898</b>

Three Offices  
Countywide

Dade City (352)521-4302  
Land O' Lakes (813)929-2788  
New Port Richey (727)847-8162



# Let's take a look . . .

## 35 Years of Election Reflections ....



**M**any things have changed in election administration, particularly over the past 35 years. From the considerable impact of technology,

to the evolution of Pasco County into one of the largest counties in the state, election administration is a fluid process that responds to changes in law, technology and demographics.

### **CHANGES IN VOTING EQUIPMENT**

In 35 years, Pasco has grown from one full service office and a very small 5,000-sq. ft. one-man warehouse, to three full service offices countywide and a 21,000-sq. ft. warehouse. In addition to housing over 200 optical scan voting machines and 380 electronic poll books, the current warehouse (or service center) serves as a training facility, tabulation center, records storage facility and call center. In the late 1970's, Pasco County transitioned from using 210 lever voting machines to 1,400 Votomatics (the punch card machine). The punch card system was employed through the 1980s and 1990s until the infamous 2000 election, when the state mandated a change to electronic voting using direct recording devices (DRE). The biggest benefit to DREs was the speed with which election results became available. After 20+ years of physically transporting punch card ballots to one centralized counting location, election results could now be modemed to the counting center within minutes of the polls closing. However, the biggest drawback to DRE voting was the lack of a paper trail, and after eight years the state decertified touchscreen machines. Since 2008, Pasco County uses over 200 DS200 optical scan voting machines which tabulate paper ballots as they are cast, and have the capacity to produce modemed results as quickly as DREs.

### **CHANGES IN VOTER REGISTRATION**

Voter registration has come a long way since the days of manual typewriters and deputized clerks administering oaths at the front counter. In 1982, there were approximately 124,000 registered

voters in 89 precincts countywide. With the enactment of the National Voter Registration Act in 1993, voters had access to voter registration at other locations, most notably the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The elections' office began receiving paper voter registration applications in batches from other county locations which data processors keyed manually into the local database. This method of registration became widely used, and by 2006, Florida changed to a statewide computerized voter registration list called the Florida Voter Registration System (FVRS). Counties were no longer the sole proprietors of their local database, but were instead part of a statewide system which issued a unique state voter ID number. This brought about changes for voters who moved within the state that allowed updates to an active record on election day without being subject to the 29-day book closing deadline. Along with the statewide system came conveniences for voters such as an on-line application they could print and mail in, and the ability to make updates to their records and request vote-by-mail ballots via e-mail and fax. Beginning this October 2017, voters will be able to completely register to vote on-line without ever completing a paper application. Today, Pasco has over 337,000 registered voters in 109 precincts countywide, a 172% increase since the 1980s.

### **CHANGES IN VOTING**

Thirty-five years ago if a voter wanted an absentee ballot, they had to attest to a reason why they could not be at their polling place on election day. Of the 80,559 voters who voted in 1985, only 2.4% of them voted by absentee ballot. The rules regarding absentee voting have since relaxed, and voters are no longer required to provide an "excuse" for being unable to go to their polling place on Election Day. The name of this method of voting has since been changed to "vote-by-mail", and in 2016, the number of "absentee or vote-by-mail" voters jumped to 30%, or over 68,000 of the nearly 245,000 voters who cast a ballot.

In 2004, Early Voting was introduced as an additional method of voting prior to election day. Voters



# What's Happening . . .

## 35 Years of Election Reflections .... continued

who wish to vote prior to election day may do so at multiple locations throughout the county during an 8-day period prior to the election. In the 2016 General Election, more people voted prior to the election than voted at the polls on election day! The combined percentage of vote-by-mail and early voting was 59% of registered voters in Pasco County. Voter turnout at the polls on election day was 41%. Quite a change from the early 1980's!

Remember the days of second primaries? The last year we had a second primary in the state of Florida was 2000. In the last several election cycles, the first primary has been held in August, but prior to 2000, the first primary usually followed right after Labor Day. The 2nd Primary would follow 28 days later and the General Election would be scheduled 35 days after the 2nd Primary. In 2002, Florida legislators made the decision to withdraw 2nd Primaries for a "brief time", but ultimately

the 2nd Primary was removed from Florida Statutes completely.

Until the late 1990's, primary races in which all candidates were the same party without opposition were decided by members of that party only. A constitutional revision was adopted that allows all voters to vote in these races regardless of party, and became known as Universal Primaries, and are the one exception to the Florida Closed Primary system.

From the days when everything was recorded on paper to the present where much has been streamlined through technology, the one thing that remains constant in Pasco is that election administration is committed to fair, accurate and transparent elections.

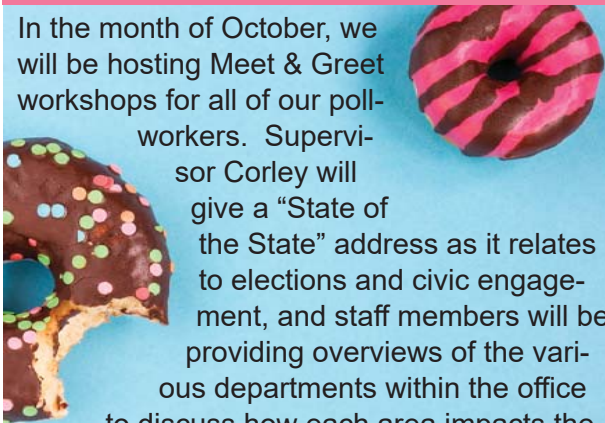


### Pollworker Meet & Greet!

In the month of October, we will be hosting Meet & Greet workshops for all of our pollworkers. Supervisor Corley will give a "State of the State" address as it relates to elections and civic engagement, and staff members will be providing overviews of the various departments within the office to discuss how each area impacts the role of pollworkers. Rounding out the agenda, Sheriff Nocco will be speaking on Election Day security at the polling place. The workshop is open to pollworkers who are currently on file with the Supervisor's office, and all should have received their invitation by now.

Please RSVP by calling (352)-521-4302 by October 10th to reserve your seat.

We look forward to "meeting" all of you!



### OnLine Voter Registration

The Florida Department of State has launched [RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov](http://RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov), the state's new online voter registration website that offers Florida residents

another way to register to vote or update an existing registration that

is convenient, secure and easy-to-use.



The paperless internet option is available to Floridians who have been issued a Florida Driver License or Florida Identification Card. The signature on file with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles becomes the official voter registration signature which is on file.

To use the link, look for the Register to VoteFlorida.gov logo on our website [www.pascovotes.com](http://www.pascovotes.com) and check out the list of Online Voter Registration FAQs and Quick Facts.

RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov is mobile-friendly and available 24-7 in both English and Spanish.