March 2016 Newsletter

Citrus County Supervisor of Elections 2016



The Presidential Preference Primary is Underway

Preparations for the March 15 Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) are well underway. Voters have requested almost 16,000 vote-by-mail ballots and over 10,000 have been returned. The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is Wednesday, March 9th.

While gaining in popularity because of the convenience of voting by mail, candidates, campaigns and political parties use the vote-by-mail statistics to study and target voters. Campaigns are legally entitled to voter registration information that is public record to the candidates, campaigns and political parties. This includes information on whether a vote-by-mail ballot has been returned to the Supervisor of Elections office. The campaigns then use this information to utilize robo calls to encourage voters to return their vote-by-mail ballot. Voters do get concerned and confused about these calls especially if they have just mailed their ballot. The calls stop when the vote-by-mail is received by the elections office.

Early voting starts on Friday, March 4 and will continue through Saturday, March 12 (including Sunday, March 6) from 10 am - 6 pm daily. There are four early vote sites: The Inverness City Hall, the Central Ridge and Homosassa libraries and the elections office in Crystal River at Meadowcrest. Vote-by-mail ballots may be returned to the early vote sites or to the Inverness Elections Office or Crystal River office. Vote-by-mail ballots may not be returned to the polling place on Election Day.

We have new electronic polling books at all the precincts this year. The technology replaces the precinct register books and will allow for quicker and more accurate checking-in of voters at the polling place. The electronic polling books were used at the early vote sites in 2014 very successfully. We look forward to the modernization of the process at the polling place on Election Day.

For election information call our office at 341-6740 or visit the website at www.votecitrus.com.

Susan Gill

SOE in the Community …

Youth Leadership Citrus Class of 2016 Government Day



SOE student volunteers at the Manatee Festival



Inverness Middle School Civics class gets visit from the Elections Office





2015 Veterans Day Parade in Inverness



Kids having fun at the 2016 Strawberry Festival



SOE at Work …

Election workers unpacking the electronic poll books (electronic voter identification) EViD.



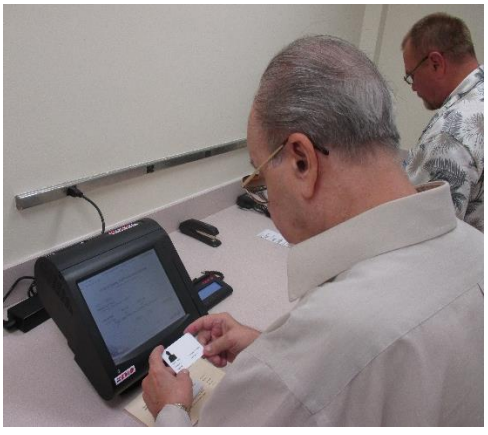
Training on the new electronic poll books, called EViD Slates



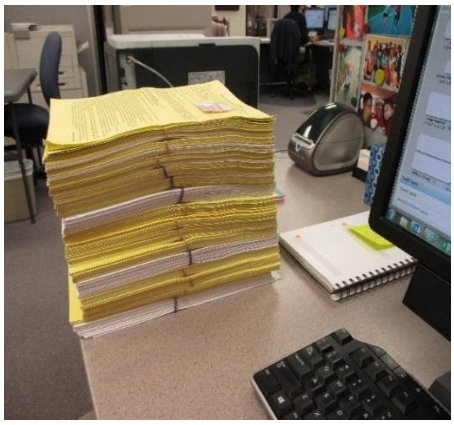
New Poll Worker training class



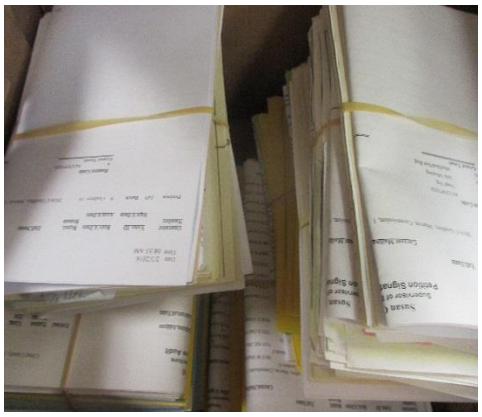
Hands on training



Part of the process



Candidate and Initiative Petitions





Initiative Petitions began to arrive early in 2015. We continued to receive boxes during the Holidays.



Eleonor Lipman and Susan Gill

The Division of Elections' Bureau of Voting Systems Certification (BVSC) staff member,
Eleonor Lipman attended the public Logic & Accuracy testing (L&A) on February 25, 2016. The visit was to observe our county's preparation for the 2016 Presidential Preference Primary Election. The L&A test ideally serves as a dress rehearsal for the actual election.

PREPARATION FOR THE
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY
TUESDAY, March 15, 2016

Voters Registered – 100,309 (as of book closing 2/16/2016)
Rep. 44,659
Dem. 30,282
Others 25,368

Voters that changed Party affiliation (1/1/2016-2/16/2016)	1,387
Voters that changed Party affiliation on book closing day	430
New Voters (January 1, 2016 - book closing 2/16/2016)	941
Mail ballots sent as of 3/2/2016	16,516
Mail ballots returned as of 3/2/2016	8,301
Early voting workers hired	75
Precinct workers hired for Election Day	305
Canvassing Board meetings for PPP	13
Canvassing staff	28
Post-Election Audit staff	14
Local Candidates	23
Early Vote Sites	4
Polling Precincts	31
Petitions (candidate)	15,449
Petitions (initiative)	21,700