

Use Your Voice...



Citrus County Supervisor of Elections 2015

2015
Second Quarter



A Note from Susan Gill

This quarter's newsletter is full of information!

Important news since last quarter's newsletter is that the date for the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) was changed by the Florida Legislature. The new date is TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016.

We also have a change in our email address. The news address is vote@votecitrus.com, which is shorter and easier than the previous email address.

New voter registration cards were mailed to all registered voters in Citrus County as part of a mandated voter list maintenance process. As we prepare for the 2016 election cycle, it is important that the voter registration rolls are accurate and this is one way to help with that goal.

Statistics show that an average of 25% of voters move during the four year period between presidential elections! Many never inform the elections office of the move. Contact with voters and the returned mail process help us change address or delete voters who have moved out of state. Included in the mail out is a form for voters to complete if they choose to vote by mail. All this in preparation for what we anticipate will be a very busy 2016 Presidential election cycle.

We look forward to providing the best voting experience for our Citrus County voters and encourage you to contact the office with any questions or concerns.

Susan Gill

Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." Henry Ford

2014 General Election Stats

59,158 Total Ballots Cast vs. 27,364 in the Primary Election
36.6% average Nationwide voter turnout vs. 60.78% in Citrus
25,218 Absentee ballots requested; 19,778 voted and returned
313 Poll workers staffed 31 polling locations
57% of voters voted prior to Election Day
1,704 phone calls on Election Day

THE NOTE NOOK

2016 ELECTION DATES

PRESIDENTIAL
PREFERENCE PRIMARY
March 15, 2016

PRIMARY August 30, 2016

GENERAL November 8, 2016

New Staff Member

Welcome Michelle Appie

Michelle, a Citrus County native and graduate of Citrus High School joined our team in March as the, “Early Vote Coordinator”. She obtained a Bachelors degree from Saint Leo University in Business Administration.

Michelle and her fiancée Paul have a two year old daughter Aubree. With a toddler and two dogs, she spends her spare time traveling and seeing new things. There are days she is happy at home spending time in her garden.

We welcome Michelle to our election team. She has already participated in FCEP classes and looking forward to the 2016 election cycle.



On May 12, 2015 an orientation was held for those who were interested in becoming poll workers for the 2016 election cycle.



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR GRADUATING
HIGH SCHOOL
SENIORS CLASS OF
2015!**



VOTE IN HONOR OF A VET PROGRAM

It is important for students to understand the sacrifices all the veterans have made and the hardships endured.

The goal of this program is to encourage voter participation among our high school voting age population, as well as teach them about the sacrifices our veterans made so that we may live in a democratic society. To assist us in driving home this message, we would like to present the “Vote in Honor of a Vet” program.

This program highlights the importance of registering and voting by providing first-hand accounts as to the responsibilities of preserving our democracy. By exercising our right to vote, we show veterans the respect they deserve for protecting our democracy.



The Dim Side of Government in the Sunshine

Recently, my office has fielded calls from voters who are shocked at the amount of information they find on the internet that is tied to their voter registration information. Twisted among their accusations of “list selling” and unlawfulness is a genuine misunderstanding of Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes or the “Public Records Law.” This law makes any records made or received by any public agency in the course of its official business available for public inspection and copying, unless specifically exempted by the Florida Legislature. In the case of voter registration information, exempt information includes your social security number, your driver license number, absentee ballot request information, and information as to where, when and how you registered to vote. Your signature is open for public inspection but copying is forbidden.

Because voters have become increasingly concerned and annoyed that personal information from their voter registration is available to anyone, the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE) designated as one of its 2015 Legislative Priorities a proposal that exempts a voter’s email address, phone number and year of birth from Public Records disclosure. The association supports the idea that exemption of this information would prevent identity theft, mitigate voter fraud and limit unnecessary invasive contacts by non-election officials.

The association’s action to protect voter registration information comes at a time when the frequency of public records requests is on the rise. Technology offers an easy, inexpensive way to acquire and manipulate data to one’s advantage, but at what point does Government in the Sunshine become shaded by misuse? Voters should be able to exercise their right to vote without fear of identity theft or harassment by the misuse of their private information. This can surely be accomplished without jeopardizing the legitimate, statistical data traditionally acquired through voter registration information and within the confines of what is statutorily required to establish a legitimate voter registration record.

Unfortunately, the proposal garnered little attention during this legislative session. Because the Association has no legislative powers, this issue will need help in getting attention and gaining momentum. If this is something that you feel strongly about, you should contact your elected officials and make your feelings known. Information regarding your representation with a complete list of contact information available on votecitrus.com in our Elected Officials & Polling Locations guide. Let’s act now to prevent further erosion of voter confidence and another roadblock to voter participation.

Brian Corley, FSASE Legislative Chair



EARLY VOTING CLERKS MEET NEW COORDINATOR

Our new EV Coordinator, Michelle, had a chance to meet with the Early Vote Clerks and Assistants. Everyone was able to share information and suggestions for the 2016 elections. The planning for next year election calendar cycle is off to a great start using ideas shared and embracing team efforts.