

CITRUS COUNTY
SUPERVISOR OF
ELECTIONS
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Your Voice . . . Your Vote

The Elections Newsletter

A Word from Susan Gill

I want to say thank you, first of all, for your confidence in me as your Supervisor of Elections. I am truly honored that you allowed me once again to run in 2012 unopposed. I will continue to do my best to keep the most accurate rolls and to assure you that every eligible voter has the same opportunity to cast their ballot and have it count.

The 2013 legislative session has ended and there were election law changes that we anticipated. We will discuss some of them inside this issue.

We hope you find our newsletter full of interesting information and please let us know if there's anything you would like to see.

Thanks again!



High School Students Learn the Importance of Voting



AS the end of the school year drew near, it was time for students to think about continuing their education or joining the world in the work force. It was also the time for them to register to vote. Each year, the elections office staff visit the county schools to teach students about the election process and the importance of voting. Students who are eighteen years old may register to vote. Those who are sixteen and seventeen may pre-register. Their voter registration will be activated upon their eighteenth birthday.

2013 Legislative Session Changes Election Laws

The 2013 legislative session has ended and as expected, several changes were made to the election laws in response to the voters' experiences during the 2012 presidential election. Supervisors of elections throughout the state are pleased with the outcome because "one size does not fit all!" Here are a few of the major changes:

- The primary election will now be held 10 weeks prior to the general election instead of 12 weeks. This means the 2014 Primary Election will be held on August 26th, so mark your calendars, Poll Workers!
- The requirement to change the voting equipment for voters with disabilities has been extended to 2020. This means we will continue to use our TSX Touchscreen machines for the 2014 election cycle.
- We now have the flexibility to use buildings other than city halls and libraries as early voting sites. Fairgrounds, civic centers, courthouses, county commission buildings, stadiums, convention centers, government-owned senior centers or government-owned community centers are now acceptable sites. However, they must be suitable sites in reference to connectivity, parking, accessibility etc.

- Early voting may now start up to the 15th day before Election Day, for a minimum of 8 hours and maximum of 12 hours per day and may include the Sunday before Election Day. This provides more flexibility for counties, depending on their size.
- A constitutional amendment or revision may not exceed 75 words in length. This will certainly reduce the size of the ballot!
- A voter who returns their absentee ballot by mail and forgets to sign the certificate on the back, may complete and submit an affidavit, until 5:00 p.m. the day before the election, to cure the unsigned ballot.

If you are interested in reading the full bill, you can find it on the State's website: www.myfloridahouse.com/Sections/Bills/bills.aspx and enter the bill number 7013.



Time To Train



Over the last couple of months, our elections staff has been attending (and will continue over the next several months) many training classes and workshops. Getting together with other county elections and State staff is extremely beneficial. Many ideas are shared and costs are spared when training can be presented to larger groups. With changes coming from the legislative sessions, meeting with other county supervisors of elections helps create uniformity throughout Florida.

Successful elections require many hours of planning, training, testing and preparing supplies,

locations and training the poll workers. You can count on Citrus County's elections staff to be prepared and ready to serve.



Elections staff from several counties participate in an exercise to strengthen teamwork, during a recent workshop held at the Orange County Elections Office in Orlando.

Supervisor of Elections Susan Gill brainstorms with supervisors from Pasco, Hernando and Manatee Counties.





Moving?

Don't forget to add the Elections Office to your list of people to notify.

Inactive Voters Asked to Update Info

Registered voters who have not voted in the last two general elections fall into an 'inactive' status. Every year elections offices are required to conduct 'list maintenance' activities. Address update cards are mailed to voters who are in the inactive status, to try to find out if they still live in Citrus County, have moved to another county or left the state. If the voter still resides at the same address, they do not have to respond to the card. However, if the voter has moved to another address or left the area, hopefully we will receive a response and make the necessary updates. This helps to keep our registration rolls current. It takes several years to remove an inactive voter from the rolls. If a voter contacts the elections office for any reason or they arrive at the polls to vote, they are then updated to the active status.

Sew It, Grow It, Show It At The Fair

We hope you took the time to visit the Citrus County Fair in March and stopped by our booth to enjoy the talented art work of our staff. If you are new to Citrus County, we welcome you to visit our office in downtown Inverness, to let us show you how easy it is to register to vote, change your address or party affiliation or just ask questions about upcoming elections. We all look forward to your visit! We're located at 120 N. Apopka Ave. between the courthouse and the Italian Deli.



Homosassa Precinct 305 and Citrus Hills Precinct 202 Get Name Change

The Christian Center Church, a polling place for precinct 305 voters on Election Day, has changed its name to the *Apostolic Christian Tabernacle*. All voters who live in precinct 305 were mailed new voter information cards, as required by law, with the church's new name.

The Citrus Hills Lodge, a polling place for precinct 202 on Election Day, has changed to the *Quality Inn*. Voters who live in this precinct were also mailed new voter information cards.

Please be sure to review your new card and if any of your information is incorrect or you did not receive your card, please call the elections office at 341-6740.

Elections Office Offers Speakers

If your club or organization would like information about election laws, becoming a candidate, serving as a poll worker or just general information, call the elections office and we will be more than happy to schedule a speaker. The more you know about your elections process, the easier your experience will be on Election Day.

Call Elizabeth at 341-6751

FUN FACTS . . .



'WAS IT A CAR OR A CAT I SAW' is the only full English sentence that, when read in reverse, will be the same!

Laziness and inactivity kills just as many people as smoking. Sitting is the new smoking—Get moving!

Elephants are the only mammal that cannot jump.

Panama is the only place in the world where one can see the sun rise on the Pacific Ocean and set on the Atlantic.

Computers are like air conditioners. They work fine until you start opening windows.

How to drive your co-workers crazy . . . Put decaf in the coffee maker for 3 weeks, then switch to espresso!

YA GOTTA PLAY EVERY DAY . . . Laughter burns calories!