

Citrus County Supervisor of Elections  
Office  
2017 Summer Newsletter



**Security Issues Front and Center in the Election World**

The electoral process has never been under more scrutiny. News of Russian attempts at hacking into our electoral process are very alarming. We, in the election world, are very aware of the continued threats in today's world. We are constantly vigilant with both cyber and the physical security of our voting equipment.

The facts from the 2016 election are that YES hacking was attempted. There is NO evidence that the voter registration database in any state was accessed or compromised. Most importantly, there is NO evidence that any vote totals were in any way affected.

However, the goal of causing distrust in the United States electoral process was attempted vigorously. The fact that a foreign power was knocking at our door was enough to cause great concern. Our system in Florida has many safeguards that would alert us to potential problems. First, we have paper ballots that are tested pre-election and audited post-election. Equipment is securely stored with limited access. Computer equipment is protected and employees are trained in cyber security.

We have been told to expect attempts at foreign intervention to be back in 2018. Rest assured that we will continue to vigilantly protect our electoral process here in Citrus County.

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## SOE in the Community...

### Patriotic Evening – Monday, July 3

The Supervisor of Elections Voter Outreach team will attend the 2017 Patriotic Evening with the City of Inverness on Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at Liberty Park. The City of Inverness is expecting record breaking crowds at both Liberty and Wallace Brooks Parks, for a sensational evening of music, food, fun and fireworks. By attending this event, the elections office is able to provide voter services to many people we otherwise would not be able to reach. The event starts at 5pm.



Happy July 4th

### Citrus County New Teachers Orientation – Thursday, July 27

The Citrus County School District has announced they will be hiring nearly 100 new teachers for the 2017-2018 school year. The Supervisor of Elections office will attend the New Teachers Orientation at Citrus High on Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> from 7am to 3pm. Elections staff will be available to provide teachers the opportunity to register to vote, update their voter record and request to vote by mail. We will also have information about our student voter outreach programs. The new teachers are coming to our school system from all over the country. The SOE provides new teachers with information about the elections process in Citrus County. The event is a convenient and easy way for them to take care of all their voter and election related matters in one location.

## Congratulations to all our Graduates!

We are pleased to announce that our SOE office has six out of nine staff members that have completed the “Master Florida Certified Election Professional”, courses.

The nationally-awarded FCEP program, organized by the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE), provides Florida elections officials, their staff and vendors the opportunity to receive additional election education on topics such as voter registration, media relations and election workers, to name a few. FCEP offers certification and credentialing to participants to move through a series of three levels with designations awarded at the completion of each level.

Our latest graduates are: Michelle Appie, Cassandra Wims and Patrick Thomas.



The Supervisor of Elections office recently purchased an electronic learning management (ELM) system to assist with poll worker training. This online system allows us to deliver some of the required training electronically. Our poll workers will be able to log in to view videos, power points, take tests and download course material. With technology advancing, this is a huge help for our staff, as well as the poll workers. It will allow for class time to be spent with hands-on training, as well as reduce class time. This makes scheduling easier for all of those involved.

The picture included is Early Vote Coordinator Michelle Appie videotaping Supervisor of Elections Susan Gill for the orientation video.

*Announcing the arrival of  
Maureen “Mo” Baird’s new granddaughter,  
“Amelia Eleanor Whitelaw”*

*CONGRATULATIONS to the Family!*

