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THE V.O.T.E.

VOICE OF THE ELECTIONS

Broward County Supervisor of Elections

In This Issue:

Message, Dr. Snipes, Broward SOE	1
Registered Voters	1
Important Election Dates	2
10 Characteristics of Effective Poll Workers	2
Award Winner: Mary Hall	2
Absentee Ballot Process	3
Voter Rolls Clean Up	4
Elections 101	4
2011 FSASE Conference Collage	5

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Dear Voter,

As we all gear up for the upcoming 2012 election cycle, we take this time to give thanks for an election process that we can be confident in.

Recently, I was asked to speak at the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Naturalization Oath Ceremony for the swearing in of 175 new U.S. Citizens. There were 42 nationalities represented at the ceremony. I thought of the many citizens of different countries who have a limited say in the electoral process. I watched their expressions as they stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance and began a new page of their life in the United States.

Many of these new citizens leave the ceremony ready to participate and keep democracy alive by registering to vote and participating in the voting process. We are proud to announce that our office has registered over 13,000 new citizens to date from similar ceremonies.

I am grateful to live in a country where we can exercise our right to vote and also have so many convenient ways for individuals to choose from for voting (Voting by Mail, Early Voting and Election Day Voting).

Our office would like to wish you safe travels during this holiday season and may we remember to be thankful for the right we have to vote.

Sincerely,
Dr. Brenda C. Snipes
Broward County Supervisor of Elections

Registered Voters

As of December 20, 2011

Democrat: 560,509 Republican: 251,526 Other: 261,212

Total: 1,073,247

Important Election Dates for 2012 Presidential Preference Primary (PPP):

Last day to register:
January 3, 2012

Early Voting:
January 21-28, 2012
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Last day to request an Absentee Ballot be mailed to you:
January 25, 2012

Election Day:
January 31, 2012
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE POLL WORKERS

1. Pass no judgment
2. Make no assumptions
3. Remain solution orientated
4. Eye contact/smile
5. Level voice/relax
6. Listen attentively
7. Liberally use polite phrases
8. Avoid "killer" words
9. Understand the voter's rights
10. Be courteous all the time

Award Winner!

Congratulations to our Voter Services Director, Mary Hall, for recently receiving the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority 2011 Women of Distinction Award. Mrs. Hall was given this honor due to her endless work with Absentee Voting and her efforts within the Broward community.

How Does The Absentee Ballot Process Work

If you are a qualified registered Broward County voter, you are entitled to vote by absentee ballot.

Step 1
Voter requests an Absentee Ballot by:

- Completing a request form online at www.browardsoe.org
- Calling our Absentee Ballot Hotline 954-357-7055

Step 2
Information Technology Department rolls voter registration files over:

- Absentee Ballot requests are keyed into the SOE database
- IT Dept. transfers file to the Pitney Bowes mail processing system. Then absentee ballot packages are prepared for mailing

Step 3
Tracking the Ballot:

- Image is made of documents in order to track the mail
- Absentee Ballots are delivered to the United States Postal Service (USPS) to mail to voter

Step 4
Voter Receives Absentee Ballot:

The voter will open Absentee Ballot package and begin reading the instructions which include:

- Secrecy instructions
- Procedures for making absentee ballot
- Voter Certificate which will need a signature beside the red X

Step 5
Voter Returns Absentee Ballot:

- Voter may mail or drop-off ballot to any of the Supervisor of Election Offices
- Voter will be required to fill out and sign in sheet when dropping off ballots

Step 6
SOE Office Receives Absentee Ballot:

Upon receipt by the SOE office, the ballot is processed through the Reliavote sorter. The following steps are conducted:

- Crop and match signature in database
- Verify eligibility of voter
- Ballots are secured in a locked area

Absentee ballots are mailed:

- 45 days prior to each election for overseas voters. For all other absentee voters who have requested ballots they will be mailed between 35 and 28 days before an election.
- Absentee ballots cannot be forwarded, but may be mailed to any location the voter chooses.
- Ensure the Elections office has your correct mailing address.

If signature is questionable:

- the ballot is referred to the canvassing board for determination.
- The canvassing board consists of Broward Judge, Supervisor of Elections and County Commissioner. Broward County Attorney and Supervisor of Elections County Attorney are present and provide legal counsel as necessary.

Supervised Voting::

- Per Florida Statute 101.655. Absentee ballots are offered to all nursing homes and assited living facilities.
- An SOE team a comprised of different political parties registers and prepares Absentee Ballots upon request..

Voters Who Voted By Absentee Ballot: General Election 2008: 137,401 General Election 2010: 75,453

Supervisor of Elections to Begin Required Voter Rolls Clean Up

As required by Florida Statute, the Supervisor of Elections must protect the integrity of the electoral process by ensuring the voter registration records are accurate and current. Consequently, in odd numbered years a removal of voters who have not voted in the last two Federal elections is performed. The affected voters have been sent three mailings requesting confirmation of the information as to their current residential address, however, no response was returned or the mailing was returned undelivered by the Post Office. The 2011 maintenance occurred in September and affected approximately 150,000 voters currently in an inactive status.

Voters may contact the Supervisor of Elections office by phone at (954)357-7050 or at one the SOE sites listed below if they believe they are in the affected group.

Main Office
115 S. Andrews Ave., Rm. 102
Fort Lauderdale
(954)357-7050
M-F 8:30-5:00

Voting Equipment Center
1501 NW 40 Avenue
Lauderhill
(954)712-1903
M-F 8:30-5:00

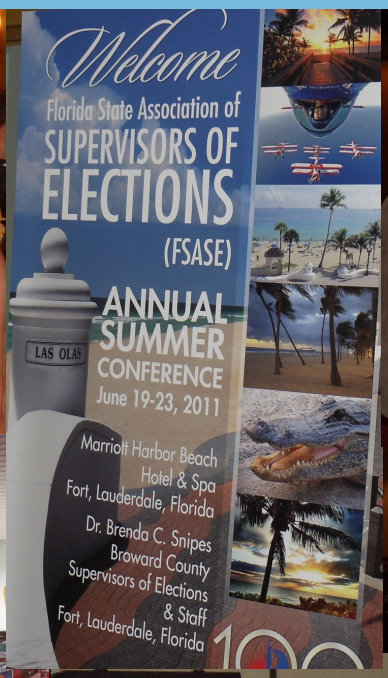
E. Pat Larkins Center
1520 NW 3 Street
Pompano Beach
(954)357-7050
Tuesday and Thursday
1:00-6:00

Elections 101: Closed Primary

Florida is a closed primary state which means: only voters who are registered members of political parties may vote for their respective party's candidates in a primary election. Voters without a party affiliation are not eligible to vote for party candidates in a primary election. This is why it is important to indicate your preferred party affiliation at the time you register. If you leave the field blank on the registration form, you will be registered without party affiliation.

The deadline for voters to change their political party affiliation is 29 days before an Election, or January 3, 2012 for the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP).

For the 2012 Presidential Preference Primary, you must be a registered Republican to be eligible to vote for the Republican Party's presidential nominee.

FSASE SUMMER CONFERENCE 2011

Broward County Collage