

ELECTION NEWS

Special Election May 21

Our county will be holding a special election on May 21 to allow voters to choose whether or not to implement a one cent transportation surtax. This election will be pretty typical save a few differences.

- There will only be one item on the ballot. It will be much quicker to vote in this election than it was in November.
- There will only be 7 days of Early Voting. You will be able to vote at any location between May 13 and May 19.
- The Kissimmee Early Voting will be held in the Hart Memorial Library rather than the Civic Center. This won't be a huge difference. You can park in the same parking lot as before.

Everything else will be the same.

- If you have a vote by mail request on file, we will send you your mail ballot about 30 days prior to Election Day.
- On Election Day you must vote in your home precinct.

We hope you come out and exercise your right to vote!

"Voters should take the time to research the proposed surtax prior to voting. To do so, visit www.osceola.org. Informed voters are the best voters!"

*-Kari Ewalt,
Community
Relations Manager,
Supervisor of
Elections Office*



Osceola County government's website has a link to information that looks like this

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Election by the Numbers

The 2018 Midterm Election in November certainly set some records. Here is a breakdown of the numbers for this past election:

Republicans voted at the highest rate- 66.24% compared to Democrats at 56.7%, No Party Affiliation at 28.61% and all others at 60.1%.

Most people who voted were Democrats. There were 53,115 Dems voting in November compared to 32,805 Republicans, 28,792 No Party Affiliation and 656 people affiliated with other parties.

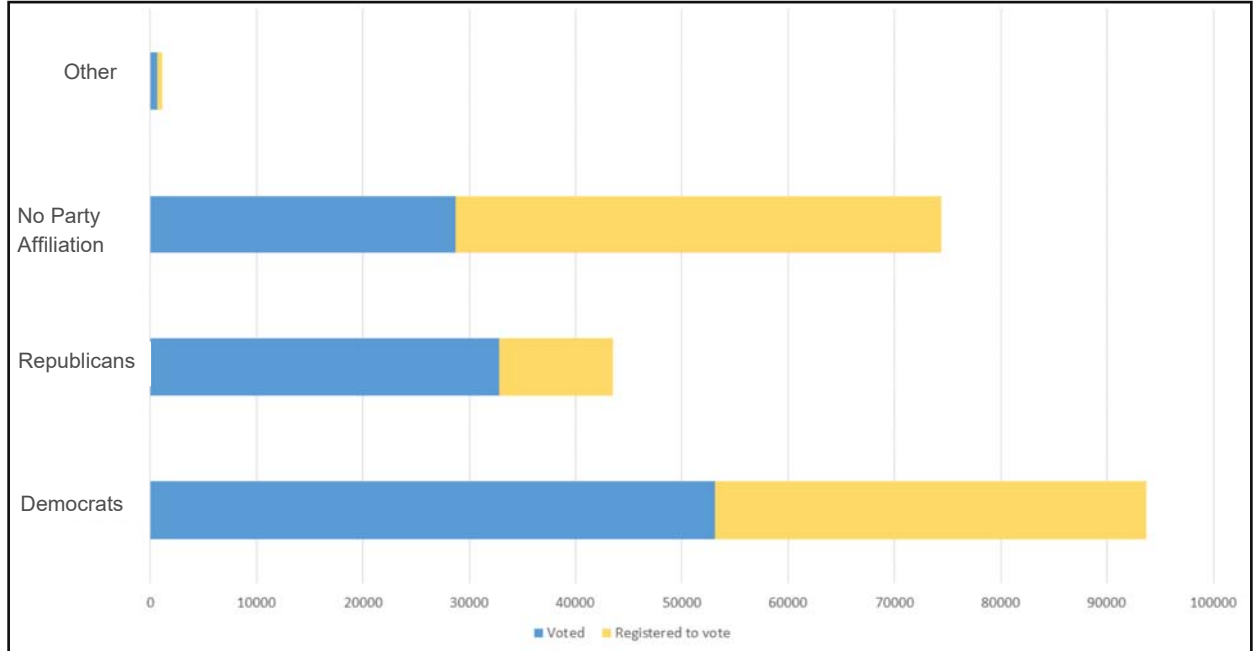
The age group voting at the highest rate? You probably guessed it. Our oldest voters showed up at the highest rate. Voters 66 and above turned out to vote at 71%! There was a steady decline in turnout by age all the way down to voters 18-25. Our youngest voters turned out at 31.5%.

Precinct 420 in St. Cloud had the most voters turnout this election with 5,675 while precinct 136 in Kissimmee had the highest percentage of voters show up- 94.34%!!

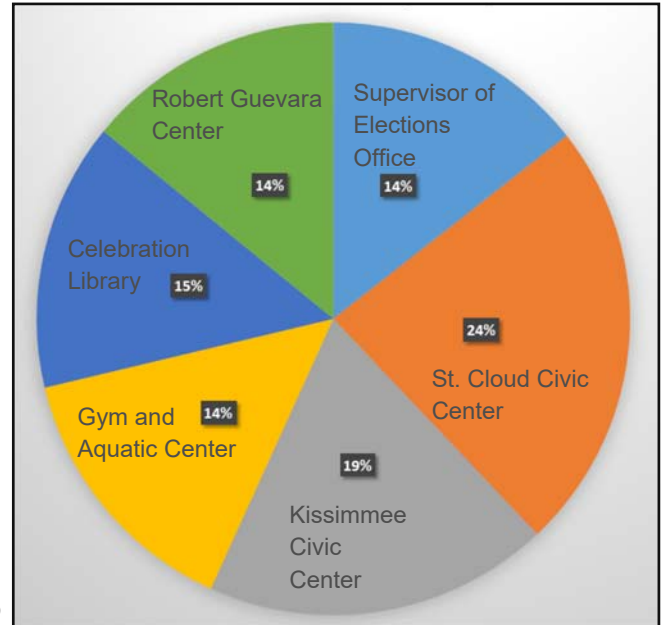
During Early Voting, the St. Cloud Civic Center location saw the most foot traffic with 8,224 total voters over the ten day period. This helped District 5 to have the highest overall turnout in the county with 60.4% of its voters turning in a ballot.

The biggest number news from this election was that our overall turnout rate set a record! In 2010 we saw 36.64% of voters come out to vote. In 2014 it increased a bit with 41.33% casting a ballot. This past November we saw 52.99% of voters. This was the highest Midterm Election turnout since 1994.

Voter Turnout by Party



Voters at each Early Voting Site



Voter Education

Fourth graders at Lakeview Elementary School in St. Cloud had a unique mock election experience this quarter. On January 23, our outreach team visited the school to allow all fourth graders a chance to fill out a ballot that looks similar to a real one and vote that ballot in a real DS200 machine. (These are the same machines we use at all of our polling locations.)

Teachers at Lakeview Elementary created three questions for the ballot based on their curriculum. Our office produced the ballots and came out to their school at no charge as a way to educate students on the election process. The students and our outreach team were very excited for the opportunity. If you are interested in inviting us to take part in an election at your school, contact Kari Ewalt at 407-742-6100.



AAP of the Quarter

Our Adopt-a-Precinct program partners our office with groups around the community to staff Election Day polling sites and give groups an alternative method to fundraise. This quarter we'd like to highlight the group from the St. Thomas Aquinas Medical Clinic. This group was one of the original Adopt-a-Precinct groups in our county and they have been going strong for 9 years. Every election since 2010 citizens donate their time to the Clinic by training to be Election Day workers and showing up to run a polling location on Election Day. These generous and hard-working people have earned thousands of dollars to help support the St. Thomas Aquinas Medical Clinic. The Clinic is located at 510 Brown Chapel Rd. in St. Cloud and provides health care to the working poor in Osceola County.

The group that works to support the Medical Clinic is a good representation of the charitable groups that we partner with for the Adopt-a-Precinct program. If you are part of a charitable group and you'd like to know how to raise money, please contact Tammy Smith at 407-742-6105 or by email at tammys@voteosceola.com.



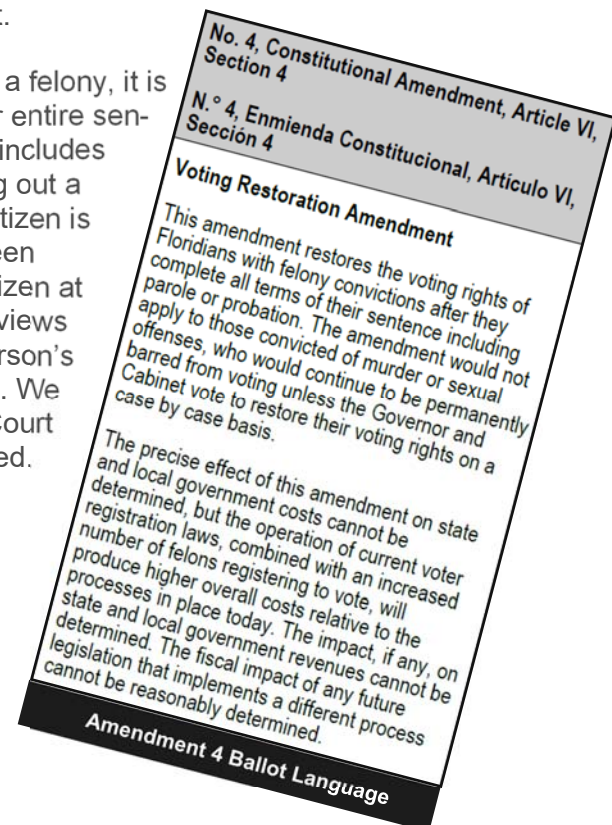
St. Thomas Aquinas Medical Clinic

Amendment 4

On November 6, 2018, Florida voters passed an amendment to our state Constitution in order to allow a large group of citizens the right to vote. Previous to the passage of this amendment, if someone was convicted of a felony, they automatically lost their right to vote. There was a process to restore this right called clemency. To be granted clemency, a convicted felon would need to petition the governor. Each governor was allowed to establish rules around the clemency process. It was then up to the governor and a small board to decide whether or not to restore the right to vote to this citizen. Between 2011 and 2018 just under 2,000 convicted felons were granted clemency across the state.

Amendment 4 allows for automatic restoration of voting rights to those convicted of a felony, other than murder or a felony sexual offense, once the entire sentence has been carried out. This amendment went into effect on January 8, 2019. It is estimated that 1.4 million citizens have had their rights restored through this amendment.

If a citizen has been convicted of a felony, it is their responsibility to know if their entire sentence has been carried out. This includes probation and parole. When filling out a voter registration application, a citizen is swearing that their rights have been restored. Our office will take a citizen at their word. However, the state reviews applications and will know if a person's rights have not yet been restored. We suggest contacting the Clerk of Court for any clarification one might need.



Recent Events

Overall, this quarter has been spent winding down from November's election and starting to prep for May's special election. Even still, our outreach team has been around town working to engage voters.

January

The year began with Supervisor Arrington speaking to a group of veterans at Kissimmee Golf Club on January 11. Kari and Rosa, from the outreach department, attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Festival in Kissimmee the following weekend to conduct voter registration and answer voter questions. The month ended with a trip to Lakeview Elementary in St. Cloud. The fourth graders at this school took part in an election set up by their teachers. The objective of this was to allow students the opportunity to experience the electoral process. If you're interested in holding an election, let us know!

February

February kicked off our bi annual visits to high schools in our county to conduct voter registration with seniors in their US Government classes. St. Cloud High School was our first stop and, as always, the students were wonderful! Members of our staff attended the Osceola Interagency Transition event on February 21, and the Chili Cook Off in Kissimmee on February 23.

March

There was no slowing down in March. Our outreach team attended the Sheriff's Appreciation Day on March 2, the Osceola County Employee Health Fair on March 7 and the Kowtown Festival in Kissimmee on March 30. This month we also saw the beginning of the Sunshine State Young Reader Awards elections. Our outreach staff visits schools to conduct elections on which



books students enjoyed the most. During the month of March, we visited Mill Creek Elementary, Hickory Tree Elementary and Central Avenue Elementary. We will see many more in April. We can't forget that on March 6 we conducted the Osceola County Educators Association's election.

On March 16 several staff members and their families ran in the March for Meals 5k to benefit the Meals on Wheels program in Osceola County.

If you have an event that you'd like to see us at, please contact Kari Ewalt at 407-742-6100 or kari.ewalt@voteosceola.com.

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at www.voteosceola.com or give us a call for more information at (407) 742-6000