Voting by Mail Myths

The number of voters choosing to vote by mail has been on the rise in our county. Yet, we still find there are a number of people who do not vote this way because of some common myths associated with voting by mail. Let us clear those up for you now.

**Vote by Mail Myth #1** - *Vote by mail ballots are counted last and only if it is a close race.* This is not true at all! Mail ballots are counted first during every single election. The first results posted after 7:00 PM are from the vote by mail ballots.

**Vote by Mail Myth #2** - *You have to have special circumstances to vote by mail.* Also, not true! Mail ballots used to be called absentee ballots and there were many restrictions as to who could request one. That is no longer the case. Anyone can request a mail ballot for any election. Voters can request mail ballots for every election through 2020 at this time.

**Vote by Mail Myth #3** - *You will have to figure out how much postage to put on the odd sized envelope.* The truth is you don't have to worry about a stamp, it's on us!

**Vote by Mail Myth #4** - *Voter identities go unverified with mail ballots.* This is simply untrue. One of the most important steps for voters is to sign the outside of the envelope before sticking it in the mailbox. This is how we verify each voter's identity. The signature on the envelope is compared to the signature we have on file for each individual voter.

Supervisor Arrington suggests that everyone vote by mail as it is the most convenient way to vote.

Vote by Mail ballots can be requested by calling our office, stopping by to fill out a request form or by visiting our website to fill out a request. Consider skipping the lines on Election Day and request your vote by mail ballot today!

“We have seen a large increase in the number of voters voting by mail. This increase has helped to reduce wait times at polling locations on Election Day. I would like to encourage voters to request their mail ballots for all elections through 2020.”

—Supervisor of Elections, Mary Jane Arrington
Election Workers Wanted

The most common misconception about election workers is that they are volunteers. This isn’t true! Did you know that every election cycle we hire about 500 workers to make our elections happen? These election workers are regular people from all over our county who spend time, every two years or so, for training and to work at any of our 40 polling locations on Election Day. Election workers also staff our 6 early voting locations.

“After every election, we receive comment cards back from voters who tell us how knowledgeable, helpful and friendly our election workers are. Osceola County is extremely fortunate to have such dedicated and competent people serving our voters”
- Tammy Smith, Election Worker Coordinator

In order to become an election worker you must first fill out an application on our website. It can be found under the election workers tab. This application will let us know that you are interested. Next, you will receive an invitation to attend one of our election worker orientation sessions. These sessions are meant to give everyone an idea of what to expect when you are an election worker and to decide if the position is right for you.

Chosen workers are asked to come to training sessions. These sessions are to ensure that every worker knows exactly what their responsibilities are and have a chance to practice using our equipment. Also, Florida law requires that training take place prior to Election Day. Election workers who pass their class are asked to work on Election Day and, if they are available, to work during the early voting window.

Our office also offers a special fundraising option for election workers. If your group or organization would like to adopt one of our precincts (which means staff it with workers), you can earn money! These workers get the same kind of training that regular workers get but rather than bring home a paycheck, their money is donated to your group. This beats a bake sale any day! For more information about adopting a precinct, contact our election worker specialist Tammy Smith at 407-742-6105.

Without election workers Election Day would not be possible. Please consider performing this civic duty and fill out your application today!