

ELECTION NEWS

Amendments, amendments and more amendments

There will be 12 amendments on our ballot this November. The most important thing to know about these amendments is that they will create long lines at your polling location. Most voters will wait until they arrive at the polling location to read these amendments. As you may know, ballot measures are rarely written in a way that is easy to understand. They can be confusing and unclear. Don't wait until you show up to vote to read these! Here are some steps you can take to either avoid lines or do your part to lessen them:

1) Vote by mail! You can take your time to read and research all candidates and amendments. You can even phone a friend! Then, just be sure to return the ballot by Election Day. You can do this by dropping it in the mail with the postage paid envelope, bringing it by our office, or by sticking it in a drop box at one of our county's libraries.

2) Utilize your sample ballot! Anyone who does not receive a mail ballot, will be getting a sample ballot in the mail. You can also read and research all candidates and amendments at this time. It's best to fill out this sample ballot at home, bring it with you to the polls and use it as a guide when filling out your official ballot.

3) Vote early! Early voting will take place from October 26- November 4 at six locations around the county. Every location will be open from 9am to 7pm. For a list of sites, visit <https://www.voteosceola.com/en-us/How-to-Vote/Vote-Early>. You will also be able to check Early Voting wait times on our website to be sure that you come at the most opportune time for you.

The amendments can be found on our website with a link to another website that breaks down each amendment. This website explains what a "yes" vote and a "no" vote means for each of the amendments. Please take some time to consider each amendment prior to casting your ballot. Your vote is important and powerful!

"Using your sample ballot as a guide when voting your official ballot is a great way to save time for yourself at the polling location. It also helps you to be an informed voter. Be on the lookout for your sample ballot in the mail!"

*-Kari Ewalt,
Community Relations Manager*

Florida 2018 ballot measures

Elections in Florida, 2018

- General election: Nov. 6
- Voter registration deadline: Oct. 9
- Early voting: Oct. 27 - Nov. 3
- Absentee voting deadline: Nov. 6
- Online registration: Yes 🗳️
- Same-day registration: No
- Voter ID: Photo ID required
- Poll times: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

On the ballot: U.S. Senate • U.S. House • Governor • Attorney General • State executive offices • State Senate • State House • Special state legislative • Supreme court • Appellate courts • Local judges • **State ballot measures** • Local ballot measures • School boards • Municipal • Democratic primaries • Republican primaries

As of September 30, 2018, **nine statewide ballot measures** were certified for the ballot in Florida in 2018. Three additional measures were removed from the ballot by court rulings, but the decisions were appealed to the Florida Supreme Court.



[View the amendments on our website](#)

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Voter Education

Our office has traditionally taken part in voter registration for our county's high school students. However, more recently, we have partnered with the Osceola County School District to have the biggest impact possible for our youngest citizens. By becoming a business partner, we have opened our office up to be involved with all of the schools in Osceola County rather than just the high schools. We offer our Travel Tote program (discussed in previous newsletters), field trips, voter registration and guest speaker opportunities.

Recently, our outreach team took part in the First Annual School Business Partnership Expo with the Osceola County School District. School administrators and business partnership liaisons attended this event which gave everyone a chance to connect and brainstorm cool ways to help our students. We are so excited to partner with our schools!



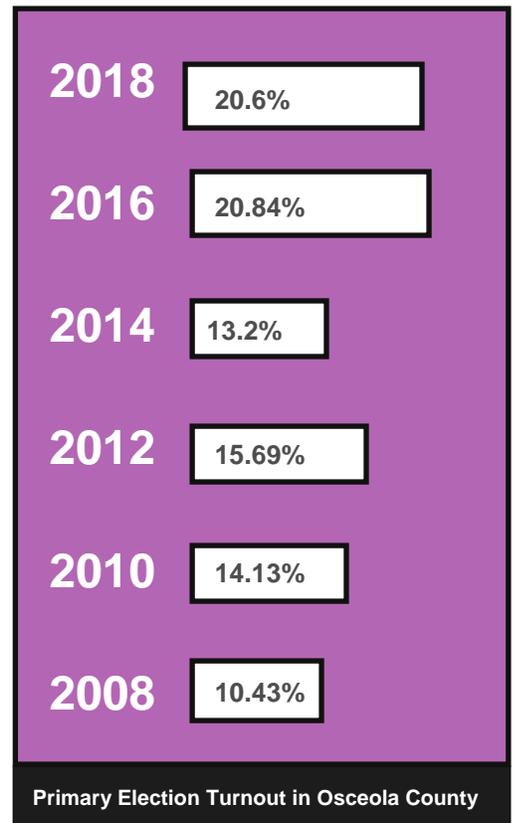
Our table at the School Business Partnership Expo

2018 Primary Election

The Primary Election was held on August 28, 2018. This Primary Election not only determined nominees from each party for certain races, it also determined most of the judge seats, school board, and 1 of the City of Kissimmee seats. We also saw a few races that were undetermined and will have a runoff of the November ballot- 9th Judicial Circuit Judge Group 41 and City of Kissimmee Commissioner seat 2. To see a full list of who won and who will show up on your November ballot, go to www.voteosceola.com/current-candidates.

The most surprising fact about the Primary Election was the turnout rate. Midterms elections and primary elections historically have the lowest turnout. Take a look at the graphic on the right to see historical trends for primaries.

We saw 43,699 voters cast a ballot. This is 20.6% of our county's 212,170 voters who were eligible to vote. While this seems disappointing, it is actually a 7.4% jump in turnout over the last Midterm Primary Election in 2014. We are hoping this means that we will also see a jump in turnout over the last Midterm General Election. In 2014, we had 41.33% of our registered voters cast a ballot in November. We would like to see 108,000 ballots cast or 50% turnout this year. Are you up for the challenge? Remind your friends and family that they have 3 options for casting a ballot. Anyone can vote by mail, vote early or vote on Election Day!



And the award goes to...

Our office was honored with the 2018 Guardian Award from the Election Center. The Election Center is the election profession's premier organization for training and certification of election and registrar administrators. Supervisor Arrington and five members of our staff are members of this organization and benefit from annual training classes and conferences.

The Guardian Award is meant to recognize a practice that exemplifies the principles and standards of conduct in the election profession. Our Travel Tote Lesson program that was discussed in last year's fall newsletter was recognized with this award at this year's national conference in New Orleans. Community Outreach Manager, Kari Ewalt, travelled to Louisiana to accept the Guardian Award and share this program with over 400 election officials from around the country.

The Travel Tote Lesson program provides classroom teachers with ready-made lessons that focus on citizenship and voting. Each tote comes filled with a lesson plan, lesson materials and take home resources for students. Teachers can check out a tote the way they might check out a book. For more information, teachers can contact Kari Ewalt by phone at 407-742-6100 or by email at kari.ewalt@voteosceola.com.



Kari Ewalt at the National Election Center Conference in New Orleans, LA

Canvassing Board

Every election cycle, a canvassing board is appointed. The Canvassing Board consists of the Supervisor of Elections, a County Judge and a County Commissioner. None of the members may appear on the ballot during their appointed election cycle. If any member is unable to serve, an alternate may be appointed. There should also be a mixture of political parties represented on the Board. During the 2018 election cycle your Canvassing Board members are Mary Jane Arrington, Supervisor of Elections; the Honorable County Judge Stefania Jancewicz; and Mr. Chuck Dunnick, Citizen Representative and alternate for County Commissioner Fred Hawkins.

The Canvassing Board oversees the election. Any time there is a question about a voter's identity or intent, the Board will vote on the outcome. These three members will determine the unofficial and official results of the election, as well as, conducting an audit of the election's outcome. The Canvassing Board will meet for the first time for the General Election on October 16 at 9am at the Supervisor of Elections Office. Logic and



Canvassing Board members checking equipment

accuracy testing will be conducted at this time. This means that the Board will oversee the testing of tabulation equipment to be sure that everything is ready for the election. For a full list of Canvassing Board meetings, visit our website and view the calendar. All meetings are open to the public!

Recent Events

There has been a lot going on at the Elections Office this quarter!

July

July was a quite a busy month at the Supervisor of Elections Office. We saw the start of our Election Worker training classes which lasted throughout the beginning of August. Kari Ewalt, Community Relations Manager, attended a week of training classes with The Election Center. This is the association for election professionals nationwide. Election professors and experts lead courses to provide continued education for election professionals at different locations throughout the year. Our outreach team had the pleasure of visiting several US Government classrooms at Valencia College to share information about the voting process on July 17. Right in the middle of month, on July 19, the Kissimmee/Osceola Chamber of Commerce hosted their Hob Nob at Osceola Heritage Park. The Elections Office provided the mock ballots and secrecy booths, then tabulated the election results. Our outreach team was seeing double when, on July 26, they provided the same service to the St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce at their Politics in the Barn event.



Supervisor Arrington at Politics in the Barn

August

August kicked off with two events on August 4. Kari attended the District 3 back to school event in Poinciana and Caitlin went to an event at the St. James AME Church in Kissimmee. Both provided a great opportunity to connect with voters prior to the Primary Election. Our outreach team also visited two assisted living facilities to conduct Supervised Voting. And, of course, August wrapped up with the Primary Election on August 28.

September

It seems like September should have been a slow month for the Elections Office but it was actually the opposite. The outreach team began visiting all of the high schools in the county to conduct voter registration ahead of the October 9 book closing date. They also visited several assisted living facilities to update signatures and voter registrations for those residents living there. September is also when training classes for Election Workers began once again. September 25 was National Voter Registration Day. This year there were representatives from the Elections Office at 4 locations around the county to provide voter registration services.

Keep an eye out for these upcoming events/dates:

October 6- Viva Osceola

October 9- Book closing for the November Election (You must be registered by this day!)

October 26- Start of the Early Voting period

November 6- Election Day

Contact Us

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