



From the desk of...

**Kaiti Lenhart**

FLAGLER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

January 2016



### A message from your Supervisor of Elections

In an effort to inform the public with more timely information, the quarterly newsletter has been changed to a monthly newsletter from the desk of your Supervisor of Elections, Kaiti Lenhart.

Much like this newsletter, your Elections Office has been transformed. Since my appointment by the Governor last year, I have been very busy reorganizing the office and streamlining operations while preparing voter education programs to make sure each citizen and resident of Flagler County has the opportunity to register to vote. It's my goal for each voter to be Election Ready in 2016. You are welcomed to visit your Elections Office and meet me, Kaiti Lenhart, your Supervisor of Elections. The Elections Team is ready to serve you and provide the best elections in Florida, right here in Flagler County.

It's an honor to serve you.

### **Kaiti Lenhart**

Flagler County Supervisor of Elections

## WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2016



### Flagler County Citizen's Guide To Registering & Voting

This publication will be mailed to each household in Flagler County at the end of January. The mailing includes two Florida Voter Registration Applications and two Vote By Mail Request Forms to ensure each citizen and resident of the county has the opportunity to register to vote, update their voter registration and request to vote by mail for the upcoming 2016 election cycle.

This publication is a FIRST for Flagler County, created and designed by Kaiti Lenhart, your Supervisor of Elections. It was paid for using Federal grant funds.



Look no further than your mailbox for all the information you will need to **Be Election Ready in 2016.**



## 2016 ELECTION DATES & DEADLINES

### Presidential Preference Primary Election

Deadline to register to vote or change your party:

**February 16**

Early Voting:

**March 5 - March 12**

Election Day:

**March 15**

### Primary Election

Deadline to register to vote or change your party:

**August 1**

Early Voting:

**August 15 - August 27**

Election Day:

**August 30**

### General Election

Deadline to register to vote or change your party:

**October 11**

Early Voting:

**October 24 - November 5**

Election Day:

**November 8**

Polls are always open from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Vote By Mail ballots must be received by our office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

## Not Only A Presidential Election

It goes without saying that this will be a busy Presidential election year. As we elect our 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Florida will be in the spotlight again as the third largest state and the largest swing state in the nation. One of the early primaries, our Presidential Preference Primary Election is scheduled for March 15, 2016. This type of election happens only once every four years, it is a unique Primary Election for only Presidential candidates. During this election, Florida voters will cast a ballot for US President, narrowing the field and setting the stage for the election night everyone will be watching: November 8, 2016.

Presidential election years are always busy and this one will be no exception. It's important to note that this year is not only a Presidential election cycle, but there are more than 45 offices up for election in Flagler County. These offices represent all levels of government and there are a few Constitutional Amendments in the process of making ballot position this year.

Florida is a **Closed Primary State**, which means if you wish to vote in a partisan Primary Election, you must be a registered voter in the party for which the primary is being held. Voters affiliated with a minor political party or those with no party affiliation (a.k.a. "Independent" voters) only vote for nonpartisan offices and issues during a Primary Election. **Are you election ready?** If you need to change your party affiliation, the change must be made at least 29 days prior to Election Day.

After the Presidential Preference Primary, our regularly scheduled Primary Election will be held on August 30, 2016. Primary Elections are very important. It's possible that some races, such as School Board, referenda issues, political party offices or Universal Primary Contests will be decided during this Primary Election. The deadline to register to vote or change your party affiliation for this Primary Election is August 1, 2016.

The General Election ballot will include the race for the next President of the United States. This election is open to all voters who may choose among the candidates, regardless of party affiliation. Also on the ballot will be any winning candidates from the Primary who face opposition, along with any contested races for Special Districts and Community Development Districts. If the Constitutional Amendments gather enough petition signatures to gain ballot position, they will appear on the General Election ballot. We live in a country with the freedom to choose our elected representatives in government by majority vote. Your vote is your voice! The deadline to register to vote for this General Election is October 11, 2016. Learn more: [2016 Election Info](#)

## Municipal Elections

All four municipalities in Flagler County have Mayor, City or Town Commissioner, or Council Member offices up for election this year.

Three of these municipalities have scheduled their elections to coincide with the county-wide Presidential Preference Primary. Registered and eligible voters who reside within the city limits of Bunnell, Flagler Beach and Beverly Beach may cast a ballot for any opposed candidates for municipal office during this election to be held on March 15, 2016. City qualifying ends January 22.

- City of Bunnell: <http://www.bunnellcity.us>
- City of Flagler Beach: <http://www.cityofflaglerbeach.com>
- Town of Beverly Beach: <http://www.mybeverlybeach.org>

City of Palm Coast voters will be electing three offices in 2016: Mayor and two Council Members (Districts 1 and 3). The number of candidates qualified for office will determine if these races will appear on either the ballot during the August 30<sup>th</sup> Primary Election or the November 8<sup>th</sup> General Election. Only registered and

eligible voters who reside within the city limits of Palm Coast may cast a ballot for any opposed candidates for City of Palm Coast offices up for election this year. For information concerning City of Palm Coast candidates, contact the City Clerk's office at (386) 986-3713, or see a list of candidates online:

- City of Palm Coast: <http://www.palmcoastgov.com/government/city-clerk/elections>

## OFFICE HAPPENINGS

### Flagler County Adopt-A-Precinct Program

The Adopt-A-Precinct program was introduced by Supervisor Kaiti Lenhart in August 2015.

This unique partnership with the Flagler County Supervisor of Elections Office will provide an opportunity for local 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations to earn money and serve the community while becoming involved with the elections process. In the State of Florida, all poll workers must be paid for their time and efforts at polling places on Election Day. With the Adopt-A-Precinct program, the Elections Office partners with non-profit organizations who recruit people who are willing to work the polls and donate their wages to the organization. The Elections Office will provide the required training for recruited volunteers to work the polls on Election Day.



**Thanks to the Flagler County Humane Society, for adopting the first precinct in Flagler County!**

The benefits are three-fold:



1. Voters are served by well-trained staff at the adopted precinct
2. The Elections Office gains motivated workers at polling places
3. Everyone benefits from the work the non-profit organization is doing in our community

Non-profit organizations interested in the Adopt-A-Precinct program should stop by the Elections Office or call (386) 313-4170 for more information.

### *Are you interested in serving the community and working on Election Day?*

With the busy election season ahead, we are actively recruiting election poll workers to serve on Election Day. Call the Elections Office at (386) 313-4170 or visit the website for more information:

<http://www.flaglerelections.com/Poll-Workers/Become-a-Poll-Worker>

**Thank you to election poll workers, past and present, for serving the voters during Early Voting and Election Day to make each election a success!**

### 2016 FSASE Scholarship

This is a great opportunity for college students in Flagler County! Each year, the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections will award three \$1,200 scholarships to Florida students who are pursuing a degree in Political Science, Public or Business Administration or Journalism and Mass Communication.



Eligibility requirements are detailed in the scholarship information below. Completed applications must be submitted by March 14, 2016.

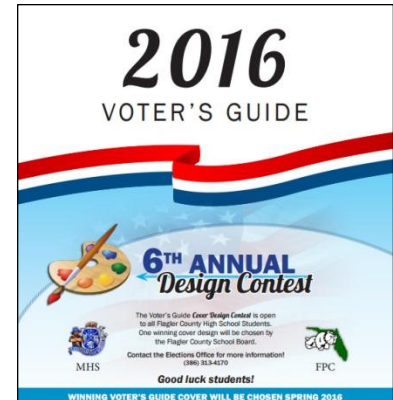
## [2016 FSASE Scholarship Information & Application](#)

Please download the application and submit to the Elections Office by March 14, 2016 to be considered for the scholarship. For additional information, contact Kaiti Lenhart, Supervisor of Elections at (386) 313-4170.

## 2016 Voter's Guide Cover Design Contest

The sixth annual Voter's Guide Cover Design Contest has begun in Flagler County. High school graphic design students will gain experience working on a real-world design project while teachers engage them in a discussion about the importance of the electoral process and civic duty. The design contest is open to all Flagler County high school graphic design students:

- Flagler Palm Coast High School
- Matanzas High School
- High school aged students enrolled in iFlagler virtual school
- High school aged home schooled students in Flagler County



The winning cover design is chosen by School Board members and will be used for the entire year. These Voter's Guides are offered to voters who visit the office and we always bring plenty to pass out during special events and voter outreach programs. The winner will receive a \$50 gift card from Supervisor Lenhart and be recognized publicly at the School Board meeting when the winner will be announced.

Contact the Elections Office at (386) 313-4170 if a high school graphic design student you know would be interested in submitting a design for the contest. **Deadline for digital submissions: February 15, 2016.**

## Mission & Core Values

The Flagler County Elections Office is proud to present this Mission and our Core Values, adopted in August 2015 by Supervisor Lenhart.

### **Mission**

The mission of the Supervisor of Elections is to enhance public confidence, encourage citizen participation and increase voter awareness.

### **Core Values**

These core values were developed with a focus on improving the elections experience in Flagler County, Florida.

- \* Enhance public confidence by conducting fair, honest and accurate elections.
- \* Apply the highest standards in regards to ethics, integrity and professionalism.
- \* Encourage civic participation through voter education programs designed to engage citizens of all ages.

# VOTER OUTREACH

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## New Residents Voter Packet

We are fortunate to live in a diverse community of people who have moved to our beautiful county on the coast of Florida from places around the world. Flagler County was the fastest growing county for many years in Florida and our voter registration totals reflect that as of January 2016, we have grown into a mid-sized county with over 75,000 voters! To help our new residents understand the laws related to elections in Florida, Kaiti Lenhart has created a New Residents Voter Packet, filled with elections information to help educate citizens who have recently moved to Florida. This packet includes a current Voter's Guide, Election Dates and Deadlines, Vote By Mail Request Forms and information explaining the Closed Primary process in Florida. New residents in Flagler County are welcomed to visit the Elections Office and pick up a New Resident Voter Packet. Ask for your packet at the front counter when you register to vote.

## Voter Registration Drives

One of the most important responsibilities of the Supervisor of Elections is to educate voters and encourage citizen participation in the electoral process. Supervisor Lenhart is taking the Elections Office out into the community with a targeted Voter Outreach Program. Elections staff members and volunteers will be on-site at these events to help citizens register to vote or update their voter registration.

<b>January 23 – 24</b>	<b>Flagler County Home &amp; Lifestyle Show</b>	Saturday: 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. Sunday: 11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Stop by the Flagler County Supervisor of Elections booth at the Home Show this year! The event will be held at Flagler Palm Coast High School on Saturday, January 23 and Sunday, January 24. This year the Service Fair will be located in the “circle” at FPC. More information about this event: <a href="http://fti.flaglerschools.com/fti/home-show">http://fti.flaglerschools.com/fti/home-show</a>		
<b>February 13</b>	<b>Hot N’ Spicy at the Florida Ag Museum</b>	11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
The 6 <sup>th</sup> annual Hot N’ Spicy event will be held at the Florida Ag Museum on Saturday, February 13. This unique event features hot sauce vendors and a variety of food and beverages. Enjoy live music and hay rides on the farm and festival grounds at the Florida Agricultural Museum. More information about this event: <a href="http://www.floridaagmuseum.org">http://www.floridaagmuseum.org</a>		
<b>February 24</b>	<b>Registration Drive at FCAR</b>	9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
This voter registration drive is open to all citizens of Flagler County and will be held at the Florida County Association of Realtors building on SR 100 in Bunnell. Come early to hear about the Latest Election News and What To Expect in 2016, a speaking event by Kaiti Lenhart. Elections staff will be at the event to help citizens register to vote or update their voter registration. More information about this event, contact Supervisor Lenhart: (386) 313-4170		

## Social Media

We are reaching voters with local elections information for the first time on Facebook!  
Like your Elections Office on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FlaglerElections](http://www.facebook.com/FlaglerElections)

