



From the desk of...

Kaiti Lenhart

FLAGLER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

December 2016



A message from your Supervisor of Elections

It's been a tremendously busy election year which started with new ballot printing technology for early voting and an expected record-breaking turnout during the Presidential Preference Primary election. No one could predict the weather as we hurried to secure the voting system in preparation for a tropical storm during early voting in August and then again in October for Hurricane Matthew. Voter registration deadlines were extended several times by court order following the devastation in the State of Florida. There were many other unique circumstances which required a quick response from your Elections Team. We met the challenge and I am proud to report that over 105,000 ballots were cast during three county-wide elections this year and we saw a record breaking number of voters for overall turnout and who chose to cast their ballot early or by mail. Voting trends which were established this year will impact the planning and vision for your Elections Office as we prepare for future election cycles.

Presidential election years historically have the highest turnout and 2016 was no surprise. In late December, we often take a moment to reflect on the past year in our personal lives, likewise, I am dedicating this issue to a look back at how we made history in the Election Year 2016.

Best wishes to you and your family, have a very Happy New Year!

Kaiti Lenhart

Flagler County Supervisor of Elections

2016 VOTING TRENDS

Record-Breaking Turnout

Presidential Preference Primary

This historic election cycle began with the Presidential Preference Primary Election on March 15, 2016. There were 16 candidates (13 REP and 3 DEM) vying for their party nomination in Florida during the closed Primary Election. During every election year, Florida is a tough battleground state for Presidential candidates. It was expected to be a high-turnout election and in Flagler County, we saw the highest turnout for any Presidential Preference Election in our county's history. This PPP broke county records throughout the state of Florida as voters cast their ballot for President. Overall turnout was 49.12% of eligible voters in Flagler County. Turnout by method was established



2017 ELECTION DATES & DEADLINES

Municipal Elections

Three municipalities have scheduled elections in 2017:

- Bunnell
- Flagler Beach
- Beverly Beach

Deadline to register to vote:
February 6

Election Day:
March 7

Early voting will not be available for municipal elections.

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

Where's my precinct?

You must vote in your assigned precinct on Election Day. Use the Precinct Finder tool online:



Vote By Mail

Any registered and eligible voter may vote by mail.

Mail ballots must be returned to the Elections Office by 7:00 P.M. on Election Day.



during this election for the remainder of the year, voters chose to cast their ballot early and by mail in higher percentages than in past elections.

Primary Election

Our turnout during the Primary Election in August was higher than recent years at 27.1% of eligible voters. While the overall turnout was not monumental, the way that voters cast their ballot made history. The vote by turnout was split into nearly equal thirds: one third by mail, one third early and one third at the precinct on Election Day. Just over two-thirds of those who voted cast their ballot prior to Election Day. This type of turnout broke our county records! More voters cast their ballot early or by mail than during any other Primary Election in Flagler County.

General Election

The third and final election this year was the Presidential General Election. The state of Florida has voted for the winning presidential candidate in every election between 2000 and 2012. This is the third largest state in the nation (and growing!) and the largest swing state. This was the battleground for Presidential candidates in 2016.

Early voting was tremendously busy. Nearly 30,000 voters cast their ballot during early voting. Flagler County has never seen this type of turnout during early voting. More voters cast their ballot early during this election than by mail and precinct voting on Election Day combined. A total of 50.8% of voters cast their ballot early.

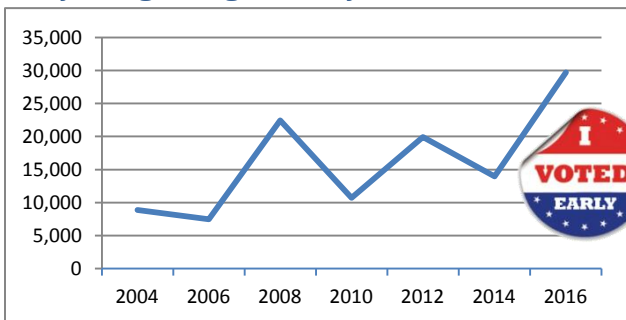
The turnout during early voting wasn't the only significant trend. A record number of Vote-By-Mail ballots were delivered and returned during this General Election. Over 13,400 Flagler County voters cast their ballot by mail, a record number of mail ballots during any election in Flagler County history.

EARLY VOTING & VOTE-BY-MAIL

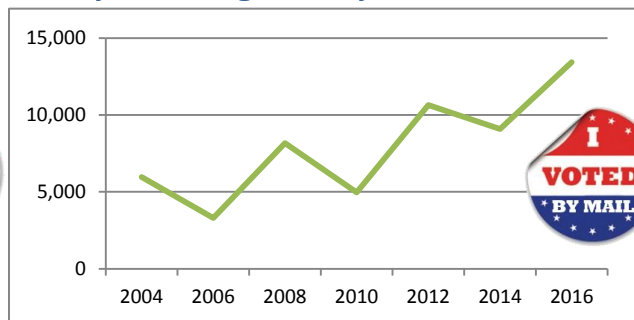
This election year proved that the way people choose to vote is changing. More voters are casting their ballot early than ever before. Early voting turnout has been steadily increasing in the state of Florida since it began in 2004. Similarly, the turnout by mail is on the rise. More ballots were cast by mail during the General Election this year than ever before. There will always be many voters who choose to vote in their precinct on Election Day, however, the results show that many voters who used to vote at their precinct are now voting early or by mail.

Voting has never been easier and more accessible than it is today. With the variety of options voters have to cast their ballot, the shift in voting trends across the state of Florida, and in some cases, across the nation point towards a continuing trend of voting early and by mail. Let's take a look at the turnout! The following graphs show the trends since 2004 in Flagler County.

Early Voting in Flagler County – General Elections



Vote-By-Mail in Flagler County – General Elections



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Over the past several years, I have taken note of the most frequently asked questions which we receive in the Elections Office. This section of the newsletter will highlight one question and provide an answer to a question we hear often.

Q: Are there any elections coming up soon?

A: Yes! Three municipalities have scheduled elections next year. Voters who live in Bunnell, Beverly Beach or Flagler Beach may have the opportunity to vote for municipal offices in March 2017. Candidate qualifying ends during mid-January and candidates will be listed on your Elections Office website.

Local elections information is available 24/7:

www.FlaglerElections.com

Like your Elections Office on Facebook: www.facebook.com/FlaglerElections



Thank You

POLL WORKERS

For Another Successful Election!

*A special thank you to our dedicated team of over 200 poll workers who make every election a success.
This wouldn't be possible without your service to the voters of Flagler County.*