

Hernando Votes

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8:00 am • 5:00 pm
Monday • Friday

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Spring Hill, FL 34606
352-754-4125
8:00 am • 4:30 pm
Monday • Friday



Shirley Anderson

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

August 2017



Summer is usually a time for people to unwind and relax a bit; however your elections office is doing neither. With less than 400 days until our next election staff is fully engaged in planning and preparing for the upcoming election cycle.

As you have probably read a lot of attention has been given to the security of our elections. We will focus on this in detail under our IT spotlight in this newsletter; however I want to assure you that elections in Hernando County have never been safer. We have implemented numerous safeguards for all aspects of the election. We have processes in place to deal with any threats-perceived and attempted. In addition to a full security plan we have redundancies in place that would catch any discretions.

The State of Florida has very broad public records laws. As your Supervisor I can assure you that we take your privacy very serious. Read more about your information that is currently public information based on Florida Statutes on page 2.

In September/October Florida and Hernando County will be implementing online voter registration. In 2015 the Florida Legislature passed this law with implementation date of October 2017. The Division of Elections has been working with vendors and SOE's to make sure the implementation goes off without a hitch.

Online Voter registration will allow a person who already has a Florida ID or Florida driver's license to register online. We are anxiously anticipating this new opportunity to make registering as easy as possible.

Shirley Anderson

Hernando County Supervisor of Elections

"It is the mission of the Supervisor of Elections office to ensure the integrity of the electoral process and empower each voter through continuous education."

Cybersecurity

Is my voter information secure against cyber attacks?

Information security is an important topic being discussed right now not only in the election world, but in all major industries. Cyber attacks are a major issue and can cause disturbances if systems are not properly equipped to prevent malicious activity. All information stored on our server has safeguards in place to keep information secure against any outside interference.

What steps are being taken to ensure that information stays safe?

Voter information is stored on a server behind a firewall which prevents access from unauthorized users. The server is located on a county network which is monitored and maintained in real time by both county and Supervisor of Elections IT staff. Additionally, information contained on this system is backed up and secured in an alternate location on a regular basis.

Are additional steps being taken to make sure the office is ready in case of an attack?

Supervisor of Elections staff who have access to voter information are required to complete a security awareness training which identifies common threats as well as best practices for protecting our information systems. Our office also coordinates with State and Federal departments to make sure we are aware of and prepared for any possible external threats. In the event of a cyber attack, we have an emergency plan in place to evaluate and respond in a timely and manner to limit any disruption of normal business activity.



Is it possible for a hacker to “hack” an election to change results?

In short, no. There are many steps we take to ensure the integrity of the electoral process. Our tabulation systems utilized during an election are not connected to internet and follow a strict chain of custody to prevent tampering. **For more information on how we keep elections secure, [click here!](#)**

What information on a voter record is already publicly available?

Public records are documents or pieces of information that are not considered confidential and generally pertain to the conduct of the government. Requests may be made by anyone and the following information must be publicly available as supplied on registration applications: **Name • Address • Date of Birth • Mailing Address • Party Affiliation • Email if supplied for sample ballot • Telephone number if supplied • Voting History.** (*Florida Statutes, 98.045 (3), 98.0981*)

For more information on voter information security [click here!](#)

Wall of Honor and Vote In Honor of a Vet

You've seen them. Maybe it was in a grocery store in the vegetable isle. Or maybe you saw one crossing a parking lot or you sat behind one at a stop light. Sometimes they wear a uniform. Sometimes they just wear a cap. Sometimes they just blend in and you'd never know that the person standing in front of you at the check-out counter laid their life on the line for you.

They are our active military and veterans and, because they were willing to sacrifice everything for you, you owe them... well, everything.

That is precisely the point behind the new project under way at the Supervisor of Elections' office in Spring Hill. **The Wall of Honor** is a mural with framed photos and some amazing stories, told by some incredible people.

Hernando County Supervisor of Elections Shirley Anderson understands the value of their service to this nation and is determined to use space at her offices to honor them.

"Hernando County has a great legacy of military service and is considered home to 23,000 veterans," Anderson reflected. "From World War II to the current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, Americans are always eager to show their support of our military and veterans. As your Supervisor of Elections I am proud to honor our veterans through our **Wall of Honor program**, aimed at honoring the service of our Veterans."

As the mural is being painted, active military and veterans are encouraged to bring in photos, which will be framed and hung on the wall along with a short biography. ([Biography form](#))

The unveiling of The Wall of Honor will be on **August 29, 2017 at 2:00PM** at the Supervisor of Elections office: *7443 Forest Oaks Blvd. Spring Hill 34606.*



Vote in Honor of a Vet is a program where local veterans are able to submit biographies which are posted on our **Veteran Biographies web page**. Biography forms may be completed by veterans or family members of deceased veterans, If you are willing to speak to students, please indicate on your form, however it is not necessary to speak in order to participate in the program.

[Click here to access the Biography form!](#)



Poll Worker Appreciation

It was a day to remember, a day well deserved. On **April 17, 2017**, over 200 of the Poll Workers who worked during the 2017 Presidential Election Cycle gathered in the Timber Pines Performing Arts Center to be recognized, awarded and literally applauded for their faithful dedication and service to the voters of Hernando County.

Poll Workers attend between two to four hours of training before putting in 12 to 14 days for an Early Voting shift or working on Election Day. They arrive at their polling locations by 6AM on Election Day, serve thousands of voters, complete countless voter activity and ballot accounting forms that will be used by the Supervisor of Elections to file election reports with the state within 24 hours after the polls close and they do it all with a smile on their faces.



“I thought it was a wonderful event,” said Arhonda Braggs, Precinct Clerk for one of Hernando County’s largest and busiest polling locations, Precinct 24 – Christian Church in the Wildwood. “I liked the way it was set up like the Oscars, and we all got dressed up. I appreciate that we were recognized.”

“We appreciate all the planning and work involved in making it a success,” said Aline Racicot, the Precinct Clerk for Precinct 29, Dayspring Presbyterian Church since 2008 and one of the event award recipients. “The luncheon gave all of us the opportunity to relax and enjoy each other’s company.”

“They work so hard,” said Poll Worker Coordinator Patricia Rummel, who is charged with recruiting, training and managing the near 400 Poll Workers who serve during an election cycle. “It’s important to acknowledge how valuable their dedication and service is to this community.”

“It is an honor to recognize our 300+ poll workers who get up, show up and are the face of the Elections Office,” Supervisor of Elections Shirley Anderson stated proudly. “Their dedication to the democratic process is above reproach and we could not be successful without them.”

✓ [View more pictures of this event.](#)

✓ [Apply to be a Poll Worker!](#)



Elections Training



Congratulations to Denise LaVancher, Chief Deputy; Jay Howard, Director of Election Systems; and Matthew McHugh, Systems Administrator for receiving their Certificates of Completion of the **Florida Certified Elections Professional (FCEP) program, Level III**

The FCEP program is offered through the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, providing supervisors and their staff the opportunity to receive additional election education on topics such as voter registration, media relations, elections workers, Human Resources, election laws, technology, just to name a few. The FCEP mission is to provide and support continuing education and certification programs that encourage the highest level of professionalism.

Upon completion of all three levels (121.5 hours) of the program, participants are awarded with the designation of Master Florida Certified Elections Professional.

FCEP Core Values

- *Apply the highest ethical standards, integrity, competencies and professionalism*
- *Seek to continuously improve the election experience in Florida*
- *Maintain transparency in relationships with citizens, colleagues, staff and other agencies*
- *Communicate openly and honestly, inviting the free expression of ideas*
- *Collaborate as a team acknowledging diverse roles and expertise*

Intern Success Story!

Working with the Elections Office has really been a stunning experience. I have been given numerous opportunities to work with the community during outreach events and through poll worker training classes. I was even able to work at the polls on Election Day! I am so excited to use all of my new knowledge to help me teach my future students. I recently landed a teaching position at a middle school here in Hernando County, and will be teaching Civics and Government to 7th graders. – How Exciting!! It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know the behind-the-scenes work that goes into running a smooth election, and the education and information I have gained over the last year will be invaluable when working with my students. I'd like to give a huge thank you to Shirley Anderson and the SOE staff for making my time at the SOE office memorable and enjoyable!

— *Amanda*

