



FROM YOUR SUPERVISOR — KATHY DENT



From your Supervisor.....

I hope you have all had a great summer and were able to stay just as busy or as free as you would have liked.

Elections office staff have spent the past few months gearing up for a busy 2014 election year, which kicks off with a countywide school board referendum, a municipal and possibly a couple of special district elections, all on March 25, followed by an August 26 Primary and November 4 General Election.

Preparations for 2014 have included incorporating the past year's legislative changes into our election processes and procedures and developing and testing new electronic poll books (EPBs) that will be introduced beginning with the March elections.

EPBs, which will replace the bulky paper registration books at the check-in table, have benefits for both voters and poll workers. Each EPB is a user-friendly mini iPad that communicates with the complete Florida voter registration database and is able to electronically access a voter's record by reading the bar code on his or her driver license. This will shorten the time it takes to check in a voter and reduce errors. For voters who show up at the polling place without a driver license, a poll worker can access the record by typing the voter's name and birth date on the unit's keypad. Once confirmed eligible, the voter will sign in a signature box on the EPB similar to what shoppers use for credit card transactions in a retail store.

The new system also has huge advantages for poll workers. Instead of having to count signatures to reconcile at the end of a long election day, EPBs will record those numbers. And, voters who make election day address changes from other Florida counties may no longer be required to vote a provisional ballot because the EPB updates voter history in real time.

Poll worker training on the new system will begin in early February and will include hands-on and online training. Be sure to watch your mail for more information from the poll worker department in January.

In the meantime, my staff and I wish you the merriest of holidays. See you in 2014!

2014 Elections

Elections	Election Day	Last day to register
<u>Special County School Board Referendum</u> <u>Holiday Park Park & Recreation District</u> <u>Tri-Par Park & Recreation District</u> <u>Longboat Key General</u>	March 25, 2014	February 24, 2014
<u>Primary</u>	August 26, 2014	July 28, 2014
<u>General</u>	November 4, 2014	October 6, 2014

COULD YOU BE A CITIZEN?

On August 19, I was fortunate enough to be invited to the Naturalization Oath Ceremony held at the John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art. Seventy-four individuals representing over 35 countries received their citizenship. This life-changing event captivated everyone in the audience, from the first welcoming remarks by the Executive Director of The Ringling to the singing of the National Anthem. After singing, we moved to the assembly and presentation of candidate for naturalization.

When the administration of the Oath of Allegiance started, hearing all 74 candidates renounce all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty of which they had been a subject or citizen was humbling. With their very next breath they repeated that they would support and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

The pride that I witnessed in everyone's face in the final moments of the ceremony while listening to them recite The Pledge of Allegiance was so moving. During the closing of the ceremony, with "Proud to be an American" playing loudly, all 74 now Citizens were standing proudly, waving the American Flag and singing at the tops of their voices!

What a truly amazing experience!

The SOE and staff were available to register new citizens to vote.

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to attend this type of ceremony I would encourage you to think what it would be like to be one of the individuals facing the steps needed to become a U.S. citizen. Take a moment to look at the questions below and see if you know the answers.

- 1) How many amendments does the U. S. Constitution have?
- 2) What is the economic system in the United States?
- 3) If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
- 4) Who is the Chief Justice of the United States?
- 5) What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives?
- 6) Name one benefit of being a citizen of the U.S.?
- 7) Name the right guaranteed by the first amendment?
- 8) How many times can a Senator be re-elected?
- 9) Who is the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. military?
- 10) What is the most important right granted to U.S. citizens?

Did you get at least six questions right? If you did, congratulations! You have achieved the 60% needed to pass this portion of the test. Less than six? Better luck next time, we will retest you in two to three months.

Contributed by T. Smith & E. Brennan, Voter Services

(Answers on the last page.)

National Voter Registration Day

"Every year, citizens forfeit the right to vote because they do not register or they register too late," Supervisor of Elections Kathy Dent said. In recognition of the 2013 National Voter Registration campaign, we wanted to highlight the importance of participating in the electoral process and give people another opportunity to register or to update their voter records prior to the 2014 election cycle. Registration drives were held across the county at several locations such as, Venice YMCA, North Port Library, Venice High and Imagine Schools, and the Miakka Hootenanny. SOE staff collected a total of 320 voter registration applications from these events scheduled during the week of September 23, Fall College Night Oct 1, and the Miakka Hootenanny Oct 6. Our big winner was Tom Dagg of Voter Services Department, Venice, who registered 83 voters. Cheers to you and all of those who are now eligible to vote in the coming elections.

REGISTRATION STATISTICS

(As of November 10, 2013)

Republican	122,462
Democrat	89,406
Other	<u>72,456</u>
Total	284,324



Elections by the Numbers

1. 709,760 —Is the number of people in a congressional district.
2. 683,149—Is the number of signatures required to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot in Florida.
3. 16— Is the age a student can preregister to vote.
4. 3 — Is the number of ballots a voter may be issued if mistakes are made.
5. 99— Is the number of precincts in Sarasota County.
6. 20— Is the number of days prior to an election that poll workers are appointed for an upcoming election.

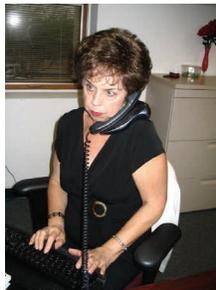
Farewell Betty Maddox



After eight years of dedicated service to the Supervisor of Elections office, we bid adieu to Betty Maddox. Betty's attention to detail, pleasant personality and professionalism in the voter services department, as early vot-

ing clerk at Gulf Gate Library, and in the phone bank on election day, insured that our voters received the best possible service.

At Betty's farewell luncheon, everyone had an opportunity to share our fond memories of this great co-worker, friend, and team player. Betty and her husband, Howard, have rejoined family in Kentucky. She will be sorely missed by all, but our good wishes for happy and healthy times ahead go with her.



POLL WORKERS

Update from the Poll Worker Department

It's an exciting time at our office as we head into a busy election year for 2014. The new electronic poll books are going to be a wonderful benefit for the poll workers and voters. More information on this new technology will be shared as we get closer to the training.

The renewal notices for next year's election dates will be going out next month with a self addressed envelope for you to complete and return to our office to let us know your availability.

We sincerely hope that all of our current poll workers will continue to serve. However, if you find that you are no longer interested or unable to serve as a poll worker, please call the poll worker department at 861.8640.

Share the fun!

If you are already a poll worker, share your experience with a friend or family member and send them to one of our orientations to find out how important and FUN it is to be a poll worker!

Orientation Calendar 2014

North Sarasota Library..Tuesday, January 7, 1 p.m.
Fruitville Library....Wednesday, January 8, 11 a.m.
Jacaranda Library.....Thursday, January 9, 11 a.m.
Selby Library.....Friday, January 10, 11 a.m.

Habla Español?

We are in the process of recruiting bilingual poll workers to assist at the precincts on election day. If you are able to help in this capacity, please call Pam at 861-8640.

Thank you! Alan Demieville

Alan, a temporary employee at the voting equipment facility, was presented a certificate of appreciation by Kathy Dent at Sarasota County Commission chambers on August, 27, 2013. The citation honoring him read, "In recognition of his dedication and outstanding volunteer service to the Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections office and the voters we serve." It's great to have temporary staff like Alan whom we can count on and who is willing to go the extra mile.

**Life becomes harder for us when we live for others,
but it also becomes richer and happier.**

Albert Schweitzer



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!!
www.SarasotaVotes.com
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DID YOU KNOW...



Linette Capierseho? Linette joined the staff of the supervisor of elections office in April, 2012 as a deputy registrar in the voter services department. Linette is also an early voting clerk at the Fruitville Library and believes it is the best part of her job. "I really enjoy interacting with and helping the voters," she says.

Originally from Ohio, Linette spent many summers in Sarasota and attended Manatee Community College (now State College of Florida) and the University of Central Florida. After school, she returned to Ohio and worked for the Butler County Board of Elections office on and off from 1991 until returning permanently to Sara-

sota in 2009.

Linette married Daniel Capierseho in July, 2012. She has two wonderful sons, Martin, a junior at The Ohio State University, and Devan, who works for Pepsi. Linette also has two stepdaughters. Olivia graduated from Riverview High School in June, and Lily is a freshman at Riverview this year. Linette is very excited to be a part of the Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections team and looks forward to the next election.

Sharon Swierczynski? Sharon was born and raised in the Washington D.C. area and was employed by both the USPS and the SEC. She also worked in the airline industry after moving to Connecticut before her husband, Richard retired.

They moved to Florida in 2000. Sharon became a poll worker in 2004, and the clerk at Precinct 341 – Holiday Park until recently. Prior to becoming full-time, she had been a temporary employee in the North Port SOE office.

Her three grown children and six grandchildren in Connecticut miss her cooking and baking, but she still finds time to sew for them.



Answers –Could you be a citizen?

- 1) twenty-seven (27)
- 2) capitalist economy
- 3) the Speaker of the House
- 4) John Roberts (John G. Roberts, Jr.)
- 5) John Boehner
- 6) Freedom of: Speech, press, religion, peaceable assembly, market economy and requesting change of the government.
- 7) Obtain federal government jobs, travel with U.S. passport, or petition for close relatives to come to the U.S. to visit
- 8) There is no limit
- 9) The President
- 10) The right to vote