



Election Connection

From Your Supervisor

Whatever happened to those lazy days of summer? And isn't this an off year for elections? You could not tell it by the activity in your supervisor of elections office.

First of all, we have the City of Venice election scheduled for November 8, 2011. Up until yesterday we were also expected to have one for the City of Sarasota, but commissioners changed their minds and are postponing the charter amendment referendum until next year. For those of you working in precincts in Venice, get ready for training.

Your Legislature was also hard at work this session and passed an extensive election reform act – HB 1355. This legislation changes the date of the Presidential Preference Primary from January 31, 2012 to ? The date will be set by a committee of 10 who has until October 1 of this year to set the date. The election, by law, can be set anywhere from the first Tuesday in January to the first Tuesday in March.

The Primary was changed from August 28, 2012 to August 14, 2012. This presents a challenge for all of you snow birds who may not be back that early for training and an early election.

The bill also returns to a two general election cycle for absentee ballot requests. Any request made now for an absentee ballot will be good through December 31, 2014.

Another significant change is that early voting has been reduced to eight days beginning on the 10th day before an election and ending the Saturday before the election. (Municipality early voting may differ.)

These are just a few of the changes in the 158-page bill. Others will be introduced during training.

My staff and I are up to the challenge of a three major election year along with redistricting and reprecincting in 2012. We hope you are up for an exciting year, as well!

2011 – 2012 Elections

Election	Election day	Last day to register
<u>City of Venice General Election</u>	Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011	Oct. 10, 2011
<u>Presidential Preference Primary</u>	TBD	TBD
<u>Primary Election</u>	Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012	July 16, 2012
<u>General Election</u>	Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012	Oct. 9, 2012

FROM REAPPORTIONMENT TO REDISTRICTING AND REPRECINCTING

The 2010 census put Florida's population at 18,900,773, up from 15,982,378 in 2000. These population counts are used to decide the number of seats that each state gets in the U.S. House of Representatives. The dividing of seats in the House among the states is called **apportionment**. Based on the latest census, Florida gained two U.S. Congressional seats, bringing its total to 27. Seats are apportioned according to a formula that guarantees that each congressional district in the United States has roughly the same number of people.



Over the next several months, our state legislature will be looking closely at where those people are, as it redefines Florida's congressional and legislative voting districts, to account for the population shifts. This process is known as **redistricting**. The Legislature will hold public meetings throughout Florida during the summer and fall of 2011 to receive public testimony on redistricting. The Florida Attorney General, Florida Supreme Court, and U.S. Justice Department will all have to review and approve the legislature's final redistricting plan before it is implemented in time for the 2012 elections.

At the same time, the Sarasota County supervisor of elections will work with the Florida Legislature and our county commissioners, school board, hospital board, the four municipalities that make up our county, and the voters to redefine local district and precinct boundaries. Certain principles are followed during the redistricting process, to provide optimal districts. These include:

- o Complying with federal requirements, such as the one person, one vote rule, and the Voting Rights Act,
- o Defining geographically compact districts with roughly equal population counts, and
- o Respecting existing political subdivisions, communities of interest, and natural geographical features and barriers.

Changes in local district lines will dictate changes in precinct boundaries that determine where a person votes and what ballot he or she will receive. This process is known as **reprecincting**, and presents opportunities for us to streamline the electoral process here in Sarasota County.

For example, with the increase in the number of people who vote early and absentee in Sarasota County, we will be able to consolidate precincts, which will result in substantial savings of taxpayer dollars. We will also be able to select the best polling locations available and draw from an outstanding pool of poll workers to staff them.

The Florida Legislature has set a hearing for August 30, at 6 pm at Sudakoff Center, New College of Florida, to discuss redistricting of the Sarasota area. The public is invited to take part in the redistricting conversation during this hearing, the only one set for Sarasota, Manatee or Charlotte counties.

Please visit our Web site (www.SarasotaVotes.com) often for the latest information and updates on redistricting and reprecincting activities in Sarasota County.



PRECINCT REGISTER CHANGES...

We are now partnering with the County Print Shop to print the precinct registers the day before the election. Printing the registers this close to election day will provide poll workers with the most current information on a voter. There will be no supplemental lists and no need to stamp registers with "Call Phone Bank" on election day.

The pages are conceptually unchanged, allowing poll workers to use the same procedure for processing voters at the registration table. However, you will notice some changes in the appearance of the precinct register page. For example, pages in the register will be printed on both sides, the ballot style is identified in a separate column and each page now uses gray shading for the notations instead of red print.

All voters' names will appear in alphabetical order, ignoring extra character spaces that appeared in the middle of a last name. For example: McIntyre and Mc Intyre will appear together on the same page. This will make it easier to find voters' names on a busy election day.

The notation language has been simplified. The Inspector's Registration Guide will reflect all of these changes, which are designed to simplify the process for voters on election day. We also anticipate this to be more cost effective for the taxpayers of Sarasota!

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
 SARASOTA COUNTY

Atencion Voter / Atención Votante
 Your signature certifies that you are fully registered and qualified to vote in this election, as follows
 Su firma certifica que usted esta registrado/abdomente y calificado para votar en esta eleccion.

Page #

FVRS ID Number	Voter Name / Information	Style	SIGN BELOW YOUR NAME / FIRME DEBAJO DE SU NOMBRE	Primary Election Date	OVAL	PW Initials
12345678	1 VOTER NAME Date of Birth, Gender, Ethnicity, Party	Ballot Style	1		<input type="radio"/>	
128895673	2 MACINTYRE, ALAN	ADDRESS	2 VOTER NAME MACINTYRE, ALAN 123 MAIN ST		<input checked="" type="radio"/>	klc
52694885	3 MACINTYRE, SAMANTHA	ADDRESS	3 MACINTYRE, SAMANTHA 123 MAIN ST		<input type="radio"/>	
3264951	4 MACKAY, MOLLY	ADDRESS	4 MACKAY, MOLLY 123 SOUTH ST		<input type="radio"/>	
8946521	5 MAZZY, ALFRED	ADDRESS WITHHELD	5 MAZZY, ALFRED ADDRESS WITHHELD		<input type="radio"/>	
1234691	6 MCALISTER, LAWRENCE	ABSENTEE ISSUED	6 MCALISTER, LAWRENCE 58 WEST AVE		<input type="radio"/>	
1234621	7 MCINTYRE, MARY ELLEN	FIRST TIME VOTER	7 MCINTYRE, MARY ELLEN 51 UNION RD		<input type="radio"/>	
1249735	8 MC INTYRE, MARY LOU	VOLED EARLY	8 MC INTYRE, MARY LOU 611 NORMAN AVE		<input type="radio"/>	
8634621	9 MCKENZIE, MORRY	ASSISTANCE	9 MCKENZIE, MORRY 899 FISH PL		<input type="radio"/>	

Sig Count

What's on your bucket list? We compiled a list of our TOP 10 "To Do" goals:

1. Kayak across Big Pass
2. Eat a bucket of mussels
3. Bike the length of Longboat Key & back
4. Learn to sail
5. Help at the local food bank
6. Swim with the dolphins
7. March in a parade
8. Read the Constitution
9. Mail a care package to a service member
10. **Become a poll worker**



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 2011

- Fruitville Library _____ Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2 pm
 Jacaranda Library _____ Wednesday, Sept. 28, 11 am
 Selby Library _____ Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2 pm
 Fruitville Library _____ Wednesday, Nov. 16, 11 am
 Jacaranda Library _____ Thursday, Nov. 17, 11am

Get Ready...Get Set....Go!

We are gearing up for a very busy 2011-2012 election year. The training schedule for elections is:

- * City of Venice General Election - Oct. 31, 2011
- * Presidential Preference Primary- Jan. 4-25, 2012
- * Primary Election-July 16-Aug. 3, 2012
- * General Election- Oct. 10-30, 2012

The IGOC, off Fruitville Road, will be the training location for north county and the Venice Community Center, for south county. Check your calendars and keep this schedule in mind when planning for the upcoming year.

There will be lots of opportunity to work with your busy schedule.

Sarasota Votes!

Keeping your name, address and signature updated with the elections office will help to keep the election process quick and easy.

If you're not sure if we have your current information, call our office at 861-8600. Bookmark www.SarasotaVotes.com for easy reference and check out all the updates on our Web site.

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PYRRIMA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TVORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BLATOL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TEELC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Clue: Tea for the American Colonists

Answer:

Do you know...

Ron Turner? Ron joined the elections office May 1, 2011 as the new chief of staff. Previously employed as executive director for Habitat for Humanity in Manatee county and deputy chief of staff for Congressman Vern Buchanan, he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience. A self-described "elections nerd," Ron served two terms as the supervisor of elections for DeSoto county as well as a council member and vice-mayor for the city of Arcadia.



A sixth generation Floridian, Ron is a veteran of the U.S Army and has lived in Sarasota County since 2001.

REGISTRATION STATISTICS (As of July 21, 2011)

Republican	118,857
Democrat	87,229
Other	63,640
Total	269,726



SARASOTA COUNTY
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

WE'RE ON THE WEB!!
www.SarasotaVotes.com

101 South Washington Boulevard
P.O. Box 4194
Sarasota, FL 34230-4194
(941) 861-8600

4000 Tamiami Trail South, Room 114
Venice, FL 34293
(941) 861-3760

13640 Tamiami Trail
North Port, FL 34287
(941) 423-9540



For the past nine years in May, Katherine Herron, Absentee Ballot Dept., has helped to organize an annual golf tournament and dinner to fund the Cathryn Herron Memorial Scholarship, in honor of her daughter.

Cathryn was a teacher at Alta Vista School, a middle school youth leader at her church, First Presbyterian of Sarasota, and a coach for the Sailor Circus. While on vacation in 2000 in New Mexico, she was killed in an automobile accident. To honor her memory through this event, her mother, Katherine has helped to develop a scholarship fund to help support anyone who is interested in obtaining a degree in education, Christian education or the ministry.

The weekend celebration of life begins on a Friday night at First Presbyterian of Sarasota with a dinner of great food, music, and a raffle that has lots of wonderful door prizes. Early the next day, as many as 48 golfers meet for some friendly competition at the Rolling Green Golf Course.

Nearly \$50,000 has been raised and \$30,000 of that has been awarded to students. The scholarship is available to anyone who can exhibit a need. You can contact Katherine Herron at 941-922-5461 if you are interested in further information about the fund raiser or the scholarship.



Pictured: SOE participants, Antoine Henry, Bobby Walker and Marcus Crowe with Katherine Herron

OUR STARS!

Terrina Powell, Voter Services, gives a new definition to "man's best friend". Terrina and her dog, Acai, work tirelessly together with Peace River K9 Search and Rescue to develop skills that could save your life! Evenings after work and weekends are not time for rest. That is their time spent working on rescue skills, training an average of one to three hours each evening and Saturday morning & Sunday evening. The pair may be seen trudging through the undergrowth, following clues that may lead them to their final goal.

All teams must have First-Aid and CPR training as well as Pet First Aid that is presented by the Red Cross. These team members are highly trained in GPS, Map & Compass and must have SARTEC III (Search and Rescue Tech) as a minimum as well as FEMA ICS/NIMS (Incident Command System/National Incident Management System). Terrina's partner also has her own special training requirements including Obedience, Critter Avoidance and Wilderness Training.

Terrina works hard so when the time comes that her services are needed, she will be well prepared to assist in search and recovery of those who are lost or victims of crimes or natural disasters. To learn more about the Peace River K-9 search and rescue program, visit <http://www.prsar.org>



Pictured: Terrina Powell & Acai

