

Citrus County Supervisor of Elections 2017 Spring Newsletter



Citrus Students Register and Learn About Elections

Supervisor of Elections Susan Gill and staff members Patrick Thomas and Laura Zayas visited all the Citrus County high schools presenting students an election education program and an opportunity to register to vote in February and March.

Students learned about the elections process and especially about what they need to do to request a ballot if they are away at college or in the military. After high school is a busy time and young adults are adjusting to life and are often preoccupied with other things and may overlook voting on Election Day. We show them how easy and convenient voting is and how you can vote by mail or at an early voting site prior to Election Day.

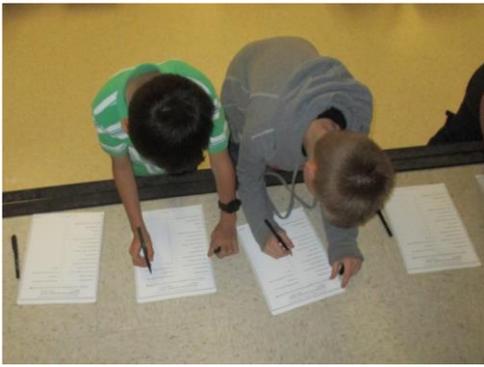
The students also learn about government, the next election in 2018, the offices and issues on which they may vote. Especially interesting to the students is the mock election they participate in, where students are asked to mark their choices on a mock ballot. Their results are tabulated on the voting equipment and given an explanation of how the tabulation equipment works. They always seem to enjoy seeing how the equipment works.

Students may also earn community services hours for graduation or for the Bright Futures Scholarship, by volunteering with the elections office. Our voter outreach takes us to many events in the community and we welcome the students to assist us. The students learn about the election process as well as dealing with the public. We have had a great group of students who have worked with us through the years. Anyone interested can call Patrick Thomas at 341-6742.



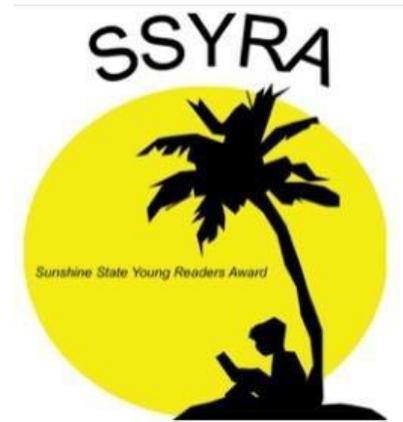
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Sunshine State

Young
Readers
Award



The Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA) program is a statewide reading motivational program for students in grades 3 through 8, sponsored by the Florida Department of Education and Florida Association for Media in Education. The purpose is to encourage students to read independently for pleasure and to read books that are on, above and below their reading level in order to improve their reading fluency.

Over the past 12 years, the Citrus County Supervisor of Elections office has partnered with the Citrus County School District to conduct (SSYRA) elections for the students, at the same time providing voter education to our next generation of voters. The election office creates and produces the ballots based on the book titles, uses our voting equipment and provides every student who votes with an "I Voted" sticker. We tabulate the votes and announce the winners at the end of each election. This allows students to have a live version of an actual Election Day experience. There are 15 books selected for this year.

There is a separate list of books for the Pre-K students. Teachers read their books to them. Citrus Springs Elementary includes their Pre-K students in the (SSYRA) election. The ballot for Pre-K students are printed with a picture of the book's cover and they learn to mark the oval by their favorite, which is their vote. They get really excited and know what they are doing when it comes to making their vote count.

*** 2017 Sunshine State Young Readers Book Selection Pre-K-2nd Grade***



SOE visiting our Citrus County High Schools



Top L-R

Classes attended by our office were the Environmental Science, Citrus, Seven Rivers, Crystal River, and Lecanto High Schools.

The students were introduced to the election process and given a chance to register or preregister to vote which they can do at 16 or 17 years of age.