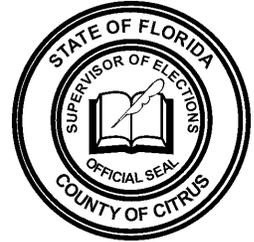


# CITRUS COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2019



## New Legislative Changes



After the 2018 election, which resulted in three statewide recounts, the Florida Legislature passed a comprehensive election reform package that will change a number of election processes and procedures in our state.

**Primary Election** - SB 7066 moved the Primary Election to August 18, 2020. This change will provide an additional week before the General election moving the Primary election back from 10 to 11 weeks before the General election. Candidate qualifying will be moved back a week as well.

**Vote-By-Mail Ballots** –A request for a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed to a voter must be received by the elections office by 5 p.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup> day before the election, and the deadline for elections officials to send out vote-by-mail ballots has been moved from four to eight days before the election. This gives the USPS more time to deliver ballots and electors more time to vote and return them. Domestic VBM ballots may be mailed between 40 to 28 days before an election.

**Signature Verification Training** - Signature verification training for supervisors of elections and canvassing board members is mandated.

**Secure Drop Boxes** – Requires elections supervisors to provide secure drop boxes at the main SOE and branch offices including each early vote site for voters to return their vote-by-mail ballots.

**Solicitation Zone** – Expands the no-solicitation zone from 100 feet to 150 feet from the entrance of a polling place or early voting site, and prohibits polling place owners or operations from restricting solicitation outside of the no solicitation zone during polling hours.

### 2020 ELECTION DATES

Presidential Preference Primary	- March 17, 2020
Primary Election	- August 18, 2020
General Election	- November 3, 2020

## **Supervisor of Elections Office Moving November, 2019**

The Citrus County Supervisor of Elections Office will be moving to the West Citrus Government Center at Meadowcrest in mid November of 2019.

The Tax Collector and the Property Appraiser have offices on the north end of the building at Meadowcrest. The Supervisor of Elections Office will be located at the south end of the building previously occupied by SunTrust Bank.

After we move in, we will invite the public to come by and see the new location. People living in the center and west side of the county are encouraged to take advantage of the convenience of early voting at the Meadowcrest site. Stay tuned in for specific details on days and times of early voting. Avoid lines...vote early or Vote-By-Mail! Go to [www.votecitrus.com](http://www.votecitrus.com) to request a Vote-By-Mail ballot or call 352-341-6740.

The Supervisor of Elections will maintain an office at the Inverness Tax Collector's Office at the Courthouse Annex. Voters will be able to register to vote at the Tax Collector's office. A direct line will be available with a connection to the office in Meadowcrest for any voter questions.

We thank the Board of County Commissioners as well as the County Staff for making the new space a reality!

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### **Information on Local Candidates and Candidate Qualifying**

Local candidate qualifying for the 2020 election will be held in June 2020. Almost a year away, we already have local pre-qualified or pre-filed candidates, 15 to be exact as of today. The constitutional offices will be up for election this cycle, along with county commission, school board, and special district seats.

If you are interested in running for office, our website has plenty of information that can help navigate you through the process. You might just be curious on the process and might find the information interesting, yes, there are some of us out there!

Select the "Candidates/Committees" tab on our website. This is where you will find all things candidates. You will find a document that will list all the offices up for election. By selecting the "Candidate Profiles and Financial Reports" you will be able to view all the candidates' filing papers, financial reports, bio and picture. You can also find the qualifying fees information for each race.

The Candidate Guide and Candidate Workshop Presentation are two of the best pieces of information to get an overall review on running for a local office, including qualifying, petitions, political advertising, collecting money, spending money, and laws.

We also have candidate packets in our office with this information along with the required forms. Give Elizabeth a call at 341-6751 to set up a candidate appointment to discuss the packet or if you have any questions or comments regarding candidates and candidate qualifying.



## **Local Student Receives Scholarship**

**from the Florida**

## **Supervisors of Elections Association**

On May 30, 2019, Supervisor of Elections Susan Gill was pleased to present Francesca Little a \$1200 scholarship from the Florida Association of Supervisors of Elections. Francesca received her International Baccalaureate Diploma from Lecanto High School in 2016. She is currently a senior at the University of South Florida Honors College enrolled seeking concurrent B.A. degrees in Political Science/World Languages and Culture with a concentration in Spanish. The Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections presents scholarships to outstanding students who are in their junior or senior year of college majoring in Political Science, Public Administration, Business Administration or Journalism/Mass Communications.

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## **Elections Office**

### **Staff Changes**

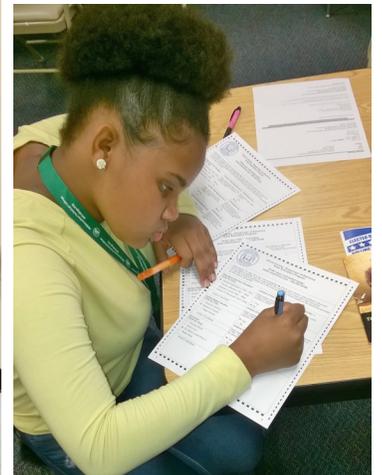
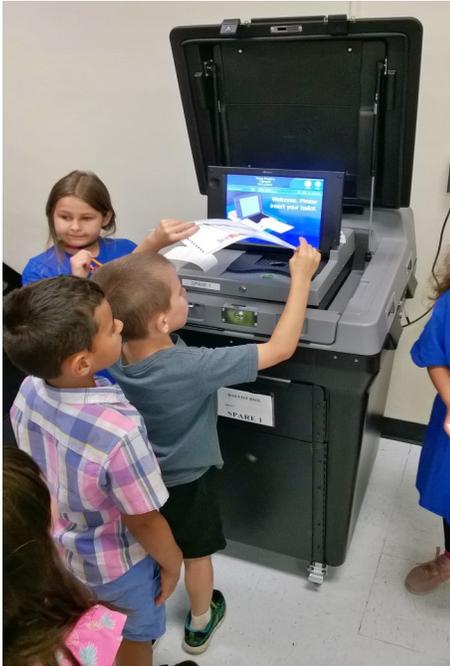
Laura Zayas, Elections Services Administrator in Voter Registration is retiring on September 6, 2019 after 20 years with the Citrus County Supervisor of Elections Office. Laura is well known in the Florida election world as an expert in voter registration. She has done a great job for us in Citrus County. We will miss Laura and wish her well as she is looking forward to spending more time with her family.

Megan Gaule will move in the vacated Voter Registration role. Megan worked in the elections office on a temporary basis in the last two election cycles. She worked full time with Library Services until she returned to the elections office full time in April, 2019. With Laura's retirement, it presented a perfect opportunity for Megan to step into the voter registration position. Megan is a graduate of the University of South Florida with a degree in Mass Communication. Megan has a great future with the Supervisor of Elections office.

## Teach and Reach

As an outreach within the Education system we help our future voters experience the voting process. We are able to find willing helpers to assist their peers.

The SOE visits primary, middle and high schools throughout the county. The opportunity to interact with our future decision makers was fun.



## Teach and Reach

The college visits by the Supervisor of Elections office provide an opportunity to reach the students that are not registered or need to update their voter record.



### REMINDER:

Florida Statutes require that you provide photo and signature identification or you must vote a Provisional Ballot.