



SPRING 2019

Important Voter Tip

Anytime you move, please contact our office and update your address.

Florida law requires that you vote in the precinct in which you reside.

**(239) LEE-VOTE
(239-533-8683)**

**www.lee.vote
elections@lee.vote**

**Office Hours
Monday — Friday
8:30 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.**

Main Office
Melvin Morgan
Constitutional Complex
2480 Thompson Street
3rd Floor
Fort Myers, 33901

**Bonita Springs
Branch Office**
Bonita Commons
25987 S Tamiami Tr. #105
Bonita Springs, 34134

**Cape Coral
Branch Office**
Lee County Government
Center
1039 SE 9th Ave
Cape Coral, 33990

**Lee County Elections
Center
South Branch**
13180 S Cleveland Ave
Fort Myers, 33907



Message from Tommy...

The Florida Legislature is currently in session through May 3, 2019, and the Lee County Elections Office is anxiously monitoring their actions. The 2018 General Election generated several measures on the agenda of the Legislature that will change some laws and redefine the conduct of elections in this state.

Given the challenges and historic significance of the 2018 General Election, Supervisors of Elections across the state of Florida performed remarkably. Because of this overall success, Florida’s Supervisors of Elections are hoping for minor changes, and not a complete overhaul of the voting process.

Decisions made by the Legislature affect many areas of the elections process. When the 2019 legislative session ends, we hope to have definitive information about how to proceed in the 2020 election cycle. I am confident that most changes will be good for the citizens of Lee County and Florida.

Florida has some of the strictest election laws in the United States, and many other states want to copy our system. Our voting systems are safe, secure, accurate, and verifiable, as proven by the statewide recount in November 2018. Numerous jurisdictions around the nation are in the process of purchasing new paper-based voting systems similar to the system used in this state.

We are already planning and preparing for the 2020 election cycle. Voting by mail is the most popular way to vote, and we expect the demand to increase. In the 2018 General Election, our Vote-by-Mail Department processed over 150,000 returned ballots. For future elections, we plan to implement an efficient automated processing method for accepting returned mail ballots. The new process will be effective in saving time and money long term.

There are also plans for some physical transformations to our Main Office location that will feature additional security measures and streamline the tabulation process for Vote-by-Mail ballots.

In addition to preparing for the 2020 election cycle, our staff is taking advantage of the educational and certification opportunities available to election professionals.

These are very exciting times at Lee County Elections, and I’m excited about the future!

Tommy Doyle

IMPORTANT SPECIAL ELECTION INFORMATION

**LEHIGH ACRES FIRE DISTRICT
Tuesday, June 4, 2019**

**Voter Registration Book Closing Deadline
Monday, February 4, 2019**

Women's History Month!

March is Women's History Month. We chose to feature, on all of our social media platforms, some prominent women in the Lee County Supervisor of Elections Office who have been a part of the team for at least ten years.



Bernie Feliciano, Chief Deputy of Administration

Our most notable and longest tenured employee is Chief Deputy of Administration, Bernie Feliciano. Bernie has served the citizens of Lee County for 32 years and has unselfishly given of herself to mentor and help motivate many employees to achieve their best. Bernie is always available to assist staff and is greatly respected and admired by the entire Lee Elections team!

“Elections are continually evolving, and change is inevitable. In the years I have worked here, extensive legislative changes and election reform have visited our doorsteps. I believe that the most significant changes, by far, are the ones that involve the technology by which we conduct elections.

In three decades, we have implemented three different types of voting systems. To progress with the digital times, we switched from a punch-card to a touchscreen voting system. When touchscreen voting was no longer allowed, the switch to the current paper ballot voting system had its challenges.

Lee County has undergone a tremendous growth transformation in the last thirty years, and with that growth comes more voters. You can now register to vote, update your voter record, or request a Vote-by-Mail ballot— all online. Back-in-the-day, I never imagined using a computer, much less a smartphone to do these things.

With technological advancement in elections, voting, and voter registration, there is also the challenge of security. Cybersecurity is a real thing, and it is central to the function of our office. We have a duty and responsibility to ensure that we securely protect the integrity of our elections. Our implementation of security measures gets more advanced and sophisticated with each election.

I began working in the Elections Office when there was no "E" in "mail." A "text" was a book. Faxing a document was pretty awesome. My typewriter was at least electric. The phone still had a rotary dial. The new copier was the scariest toy in the office. You HAD TO register to vote in person. Curbside voting was a thing. Voter records were on large index cards and kept in an electronic carousel file!

I am privileged to have witnessed and been a part of so many changes that have helped shape the growth of this office and its staff. More changes and advancements are headed our way, and this office will meet them with determination and resilience.

When change comes, I want to be a part of them, even if they are challenging. When I think back on those I have worked with and those I work with now, I know they have all been instrumental in helping to implement changes, learning new ways, and bringing forward great ideas. That is what keeps me motivated to take pride in my work and in the career field that chose me.”

2018-2019 Annual High School Voter Registration Challenge!

Oasis High School wins the 2018 - 2019 High School Voter Registration Challenge!



Pictured Left to Right: Oasis Charter High School Teacher, John McNamarar, Principal, Dr. Christina Britton, South Fort Myers High School Teacher, Kristina Casterioto, Principal, Ed Mathews, Island Coast High School Teacher, Casey Brown, Community Education Services Director, Artemis Kahl, and Community Education Coordinator, Juan Diez.

Each school year, the Lee County Supervisor of Elections Office partners with the Lee County School District to provide voter education presentations and voter registration drives in local High Schools. The purpose of this partnership is to ensure that every eligible student has the opportunity to register to vote and is educated about the voting process and the importance of voter participation. The winning school is determined by whomever has the highest percentage of eligible students register to vote during the Challenge.

This year, the Lee County Supervisor of Elections Community Education Services Department provided voter registration services to students at 12 Lee County High Schools.

Congratulations to Oasis High School on their exceptional achievement of winning the Lee County Supervisor of Elections' 2018-2019 Annual High School Voter Registration Challenge! They are the first ever charter school to win the Challenge!

The statistics for the top three High Schools:

- Oasis High School– First place winner with 23% of all eligible students ages 16 and above registered to vote
- South Fort Myers High School– Second place winner with 12% of all students ages 16 and above registered to vote
- Lehigh Senior High School and Island Coast High School– Third place tie with each having 11% of all eligible students ages 16 and above registered to vote

Honorable Tommy Doyle, Lee County Supervisor of Elections, started a new tradition this year. He exchanged the travelling trophy that moved each year for trophies presented to the top three winners that they will be able to keep and display at their locations for years to come.