

FALL 2021



# LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS

## A MESSAGE FROM TOMMY...

Lee Elections continually focuses on the importance of security, accuracy, and transparency of elections held in Lee County. It is paramount in election administration to guard and protect the physical and cyber security of our network databases and computer systems through advanced ongoing sophisticated high-tech measures.

We are active and engaged with the Department of Homeland Security, the Center for Internet Security, FBI, and other partners to ensure preparedness against threats.

In 2020, Florida received national recognition for conducting the most successful election in history. Despite distinguishing acknowledgment, misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation (MDM) undermine voter confidence and cause distrust in elections integrity.

We are committed to providing facts that strengthen confidence in the security of Lee County and Florida elections. What is MDM? Know the different types of false information:

- **Misinformation** misleads. It is false information that is communicated and spread, regardless of intent to deceive.
- **Disinformation** deceives. It is false information that is intentionally crafted and spread to deceive.
- **Malinformation** sabotages. It is factual information that is taken out of context and presented to cause harm.



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I invite you to follow us on social media and encourage you to like and share our posts to help us reach more voters. We are in this together and play a vital role in taking a stand against MDM. You can help us stop the spread of MDM by reinforcing our efforts to safeguard voter trust in the elections process.

In other news, we are diligently working on other projects in preparation for the 2022 election cycle and welcomed the busy fall season with the start of our High School Voter Registration Challenge. The event is an enduring successful partnership with the Lee County School District that has registered thousands of new young voters and provided them with voter education since 1999.

As 2022 approaches, each county's Florida Supervisors of Election are involved in the required process of redistricting and reapportionment that occurs every ten years after the release of new census data. In Lee County, our office is responsible for ensuring that our voting precincts meet statutory requirements associated with redrawn boundaries for state congressional, legislative, county commission, and school board voting districts subject to the election process.

As a result, Lee County voters may be assigned to new voting precincts. To acquaint voters in advance with changes, we will mail all Lee County voters a new Voter Information Card reflecting their assigned precinct, polling location, and voting districts before the Primary Election of August 23, 2022.

I encourage you to make sure your voter information is current and up to date in the interim. Have you moved and need to change your address? When was the last time you updated your signature? Have you requested your Vote-by-Mail ballot? It is not too early to be election-ready! Visit our website, **LEE.VOTE** or call us at **(239) 533-8683**.

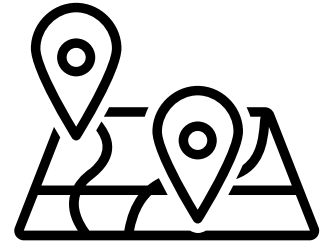
As we begin the holidays with Thanksgiving, I am inspired and thankful to live in a country where you have the privilege to elect its leaders. I wish you and yours a joyous and healthy season!

*Tommy Doyle*

# REDISTRICTING & REAPPORTIONMENT

## WHAT IS REDISTRICTING?

Redistricting is the redrawing of congressional, state, and local district boundaries to adjust for uneven population growth rates in different parts of the state. Districts divide states and the people who reside there into geographical territories. Districts determine which voters participate in which elections.



At a state level, the Florida Legislature redraws congressional and state legislative districts from which Florida voters select their state representatives, state senators, and members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

At a local level, the Board of County Commissioners is responsible for the redrawing of the boundaries of Lee County's five at-large commission districts to ensure the population sizes are evenly distributed.

## WHEN IS REDISTRICTING?

Redistricting occurs every ten years following the completion of the U.S. Census.

The boundaries for voting districts for state and congressional seats must be redrawn and approved in time for the August 23, 2022, Primary Election and the November 8, 2022, General Election.

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## WHAT IS REAPPORTIONMENT?

Reapportionment is the redistribution of seats in the United States House of Representatives among the 50 states, based on the decennial census. Each state gets at least one seat. Due to an increase in population from the last decade, Florida will add a 28th seat.

## LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS ROLE IN REDISTRICTING

Redistricting of congressional, state, and local boundaries may affect the precinct in which voters reside. Lee Elections uses the new and verified district boundaries provided by the State and County government to modify precinct lines and meet redistricting requirements.

Our Geographic Information System Mapping Specialist, Sharilynn Domain, begins the process of redistricting by verifying street names and ranges to ensure that voters are placed in their proper districts.

Sharilynn; Precinct Coordinator Jerry Davis; and Election Center staff, use the new boundaries to examine how they affect our precincts and precinct splits. This includes checking the size of all 127 precincts to make sure they are not overpopulated and reevaluating precinct lines to ensure they are in the correct state and congressional districts.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 mandates that electoral district lines cannot be drawn in such a manner as to "improperly dilute minorities' voting power."

"No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color."

# CYBERSECURITY

Did you know October was National Cybersecurity Month? Every year, the National Cyber Security Alliance and the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), a Department of Homeland Security division, set an overarching theme for October to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity across our Nation. The theme this year is "Do Your Part. Be Cyber Smart".

Securing our elections is a year-round operation. We have outlined different ways in which we keep our election infrastructure and your vote safe and secure!

## Paper Ballots

All voters in Lee County cast their vote using a paper ballot, which allows for a full audit of an election.

## Network Security

Our vote tabulation database, voter registration database, and website are maintained independently, on separate networks, with round-the-clock network monitoring and intrusion detection.

Numerous cyber-security systems, software, and procedures are in place, including active monitoring and intrusion detection, and a full-time cybersecurity specialist to protect and monitor both our administrative and tabulation networks.

## Pre-Election Testing and Post-Election Manual Audit

- Every piece of equipment used in an election is tested thoroughly prior to the election.
- The logic and accuracy testing (L&A) of the voting system is held during a public meeting of the Canvassing Board.
- After each election, the Canvassing Board randomly selects one race and one precinct to be audited during a public meeting. A manual, hand count of the ballots is compared to the machine total.

## Federal, State, and Local Partnerships

Lee County Elections is proud to partner with:

- FBI
- The Department of Homeland Security
- The Florida Department of State
- The Center for Internet Security
- Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
- Local law enforcement to further ensure the integrity of our elections and your vote.

## Physical Security

Our Tabulation Center, where Vote-by-Mail ballots are counted, is a highly secure facility.

The Tabulation Center is under continuous video surveillance with an isolated, stand-alone network that does not have internet access, thereby reinforcing security measures and preventing unauthorized access.

## Certified Voting System and Equipment

Any voting system and equipment used in Florida elections must be approved and certified by the Florida Department of State.

The Lee County Supervisor of Elections uses the state-certified voting system and equipment provided by Election Systems and Software, Inc.

# COMMUNITY SERVICES



Our annual High School Voter Registration Challenge began Tuesday, September 7, 2021, and will end on Friday, February 25, 2022. Every High School in Lee County is encouraged to participate and compete to register the highest number of voter registrations based on the percentage of eligible students who are 16 years of age and older.

Educating the youth of our community about the importance of voting is a service we are proud to provide. Our Community Education Services team is open to doing in-person as well as virtual voter education presentations.

We look forward to pre-registering and registering many students in this year's Challenge and surpassing last year's numbers! Best of luck to all participating high schools!

## National Voter Registration Day



Providing voter registration services is part of our everyday focus. On September 28, we welcomed the chance to celebrate National Voter Registration Day, a nonpartisan civic holiday celebrating our democracy! We partnered with the Lee County Library System to create more opportunities for citizens to register to vote.

To ensure citizens will be vote-ready for the 2022 elections, our extraordinary Community Education Services team and amazing Patriots (election workers) assisted with new registrations, voter information updates, and vote-by-mail requests at ten locations throughout our county. We look forward to celebrating National Voter Registration Day in 2022!

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Sandy Spinello began her new adventure as a retired Lee County Supervisor of Elections employee on October 1, 2021, after faithfully serving the voters of Lee County for 14 years as Voter Registration Coordinator in the Bonita Springs Branch Office.

Sandy especially enjoyed her experiences working with our Poll Workers during Early Voting. She shared, "It has been a pleasure and an honor to be part of a team of dedicated employees who take pride in providing superior election services to our public."

We will miss you and wish you well!

**MAIN OFFICE**  
**MELVIN MORGAN**  
**CONSTITUTIONAL COMPLEX**  
2480 THOMPSON ST, 3RD FLOOR,  
FORT MYERS, FL 33901

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**BONITA SPRINGS BRANCH OFFICE**  
**AT BONITA COMMONS**  
25987 S TAMIAMI TRAIL, #105  
BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34134

**LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS CENTER**  
**SOUTH FORT MYERS**  
**BRANCH OFFICE**  
13180 S CLEVELAND AVE,  
FORT MYERS, FL 33907

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**CAPE CORAL BRANCH OFFICE**  
**LEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER**  
1039 SE 9TH AVE  
CAPE CORAL, FL 33990

**LEE.VOTE**

**(239) 533-8683**



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