

FALL 2019



LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS

A MESSAGE FROM TOMMY...

Have you heard of Senate Bill 7066 (SB 7066)? The Florida Legislature passed SB 7066 at the end of its lawmaking session in May 2019. Governor Ron DeSantis signed the bill into law on June 26, 2019. SB 7066 makes many significant changes to Florida's election laws. Some changes became effective July 1, 2019, while others are effective January 1, 2020.

Some changes were legislative priorities for Florida's 67 county Supervisors of Elections. Overall, the passage of the bill will be beneficial for Florida's voters in the years ahead.

SB 7066 includes the implementation of Amendment 4 - the Voting Restoration Amendment. Amendment 4, passed by Florida voters in General Election on November 6, 2018, addresses the restoration of a felon's right to vote but does not consider the restoration of other civil rights such as the right to hold public office or serve on a jury.

SB 7066 defines felonies for which voting rights cannot be restored. Therefore, the screening of ex-felons is still a work in progress.



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The bill also specifies that the right to vote is not restored until the individual completes payment of fines and restitution. Several groups are suing the state, arguing that the law violates the 14th, 15th and, 24th Amendments of the United States Constitution because of this requirement.

I encourage all citizens, with felony convictions, who have served all of their time, paid all fines, and paid restitution to the victim(s) to register to vote – NOW.

With only six months remaining until the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, preparation is key. Every department in the Lee County Supervisor of Elections Office is working diligently to ensure we properly carry out all legislative changes that affect our office, voters, and candidates.

It is important to note that Florida is a closed primary state. This means that, in a Primary Election, voters not registered with a major political party, such as Democrat or Republican, may not have any partisan candidates to vote for, and may only be able to vote on non-partisan candidates or issues that may appear on their ballot.

Here are a few reminders to help you prepare for the Presidential Preference Primary:

- The deadline to register to vote or change your party affiliation is February 18, 2020, or 29 days before the election.
- Request your Vote-by-Mail ballot now! Check with us, to make sure your request to receive your ballot by mail is current. Do not wait until the request deadline, Saturday, March 7, 2020, to request your ballot.
- Update the signature on your voter registration record to ensure your most current one is on file with our office.

All the information you need to be election ready in 2020 is on our website, www.Lee.Vote

As a prepared voter, you will help us meet our mission to “Deliver superior election services to the voters of Lee County.”

Tommy Doyle

FULL SPEED AHEAD TO 2020!



Vote-By-Mail Department

The Vote by Mail (VBM) Department is one of the busiest departments at the Lee County Supervisor of Elections Office. VBM Staff have been busy learning, reviewing, and creating the adjustments necessary to implement the laws enacted this year that have a large impact on their department.

The recent changes in the law that directly affect Vote-by-Mail voters are:

- The last day to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot, is now by 5:00 p.m. on the Saturday, 10 days before an election.
- A voter may choose to have someone else pick-up their ballot with an *"Affidavit to Pick-up a Vote-by-Mail Ballot for a Voter"* or a written notice, no sooner than 9 days prior to an election, and no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election.
- When a voter forgets to sign their ballot or their signature does not match the elector's signature on record, they now have until 5:00 p.m. the second day after an election to submit a cure. Our office will make every attempt to contact the voter with:

- A letter that contains a cure affidavit through the United States Postal Service.
- Via email, if the voter provides their email address.
- By cell phone or landline, whichever is provided by the voter.
- Voters may now drop-off their Vote-by-Mail ballots in an authorized secure drop box available at every Early Voting location and all four Lee County Supervisor of Elections locations.

Voting by mail is the most convenient way to vote. The number of voters who choose to Vote-by-Mail increases with every election.

The 2020 Elections will be here before you know it. We encourage you to save time, take your time, and vote at home! Request your Vote-by-Mail ballot now.



Pictured left to right: Jim Barone, Kurtis Nelson, Trish Tripi, Debbie-Ann Phillipps, & Joanie Howe

FULL SPEED AHEAD TO 2020!

I.T. Department

The Information Technology Department is involved in many key aspects of election preparation, the Vote-by-Mail process, Early Voting, and Election Day activities.

Every pre-election protocol includes ensuring all election hardware is operating at peak performance. This includes scheduled visits from our vendors to make sure that voting machines, high-speed tabulators, etc. are all in proper specification for the upcoming mammoth tasks.

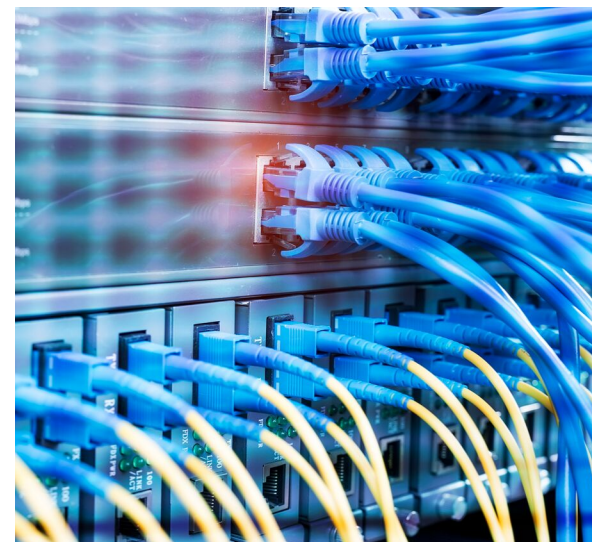
To document our interaction with the public and add an extra layer of safety for Lee SOE

employees, we installed security cameras and door lock systems at all four of our office locations.

We continually review all network hardening procedures and verify industry standard practices for network monitoring and security.

As Lee County's population continues to grow, and the number of registered voters rises, we anticipate an increase in voters who choose to Vote-by-Mail. To this end, we have enlarged the tabulation and ballot preparation area to handle the high volume of ballots.

We welcomed a new member, Stephen Rumer, to our team, and preparations have begun for the Presidential Preference Primary, March 17, 2020.



Pictured left to right: Russ Bryan, Sharilynn Domain, Stephen Brittain, Todd Putnam, & Stephen Rumer

FULL SPEED AHEAD TO 2020!



Voter Registration Department

The Voter Registration Department has been busy with the comprehensive requirements of the state mandated List Maintenance Program to ensure the accuracy of our voter rolls and protect the integrity of elections in Lee County.

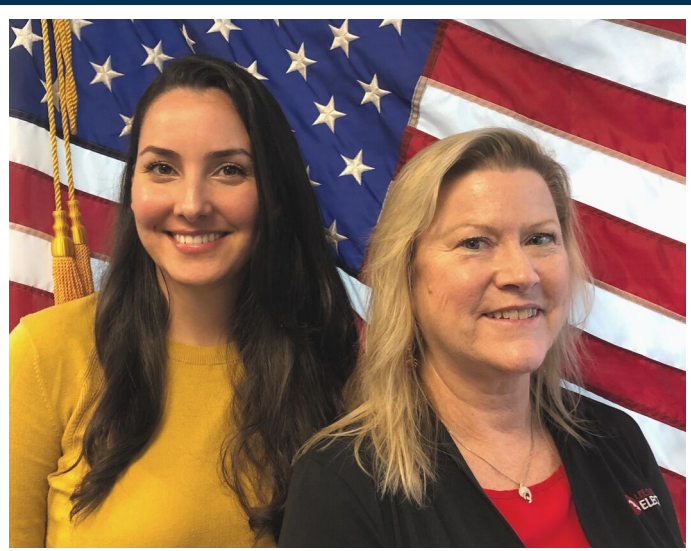
The process included the mailing of Address Confirmation Notices to all registered voters who have not voted in the last two years, and who did not make a written request that their voter registration records be updated during that time.

It is only six months until the 2020 Presidential Preference Primary and we have begun planning for the anticipated increase in the volume of submissions of new voter

registration applications, party affiliation changes, and voter information updates prior to a General Election cycle of this magnitude.

The Voter Registration Department continues to stay on top of new developments after the passing of Amendment 4, The Voting Restoration Amendment. We rely on the Division of Elections and the Department of State to provide us with the most current and accurate information available to assist returning citizens with voter registration services.

We welcomed a new member to our Voter Registration team, to help with our mission to deliver superior election services to the voters of Lee County.



Pictured left to right: Maybety Bonachea & Cheryl Johnson

ELECTION DATES

March 17, 2020

**Presidential Preference
Primary Election**

•Federal, Countywide

Regular Election

•Town of Fort Myers Beach

August 18, 2020

Primary Election

•Federal, State, County

•City of Cape Coral

•City of Fort Myers

November 3, 2020

General Election

•Federal, State, County

•City of Cape Coral

•City of Fort Myers

Regular Election

•City of Bonita Springs

FULL SPEED AHEAD TO 2020!



Poll Worker Department

A well-organized election requires months of preparation. The Poll Worker Department has begun planning for the Presidential Preference Primary in March. It is a monumental undertaking to recruit and train workers who will staff 10 Early Voting sites and 127 precincts on Election Day in 2020.

We are in the process of updating the active poll workers list that contains their qualifications. The list is used to evaluate and place them in their position at the polls. This immense task is required before every election to staff our Early Voting sites and precincts on Election Day with qualified and trained election workers.

To meet Florida State law requirements we provide mandatory hands-on training

classes and online training for every Poll Worker position.

Our Poll Workers are essential and a crucial asset to our elections. They aid our office in our mission to deliver superior election services to the voters of Lee County!

To show our appreciation for our Poll Workers and their dedication, Supervisor of Elections, Tommy Doyle, and department staff are planning a Poll Worker Appreciation Celebration for the fall of 2019

We are always looking to hire new Poll Workers. Prospective Poll Workers who want to make a difference in their community and be a part of history are required to apply online at Lee.Vote and complete a Poll Worker Interest Application.



Pictured left to right: Sharon Smith, Jesse Carcamo, and Jean Marie Sauer

NEW HIRE SPOTLIGHT!



We are pleased to announce the recent hiring of Pierre Alix Aponte as our Election Support Technician! A veteran of our armed services, Alix was in the U.S. Marine Corps for eight years. He went on to work for Homeland Security in New York as a TSA agent. It was there that he developed an interest in systems technology and security.

Before joining our team, Alix worked for the election management company, Elections Systems & Software (ES&S), where he was responsible for the installation, maintenance, and repairs of election tabulator equipment.

Alix hails from New York but says he is “happy and proud to call Fort Myers home. He enjoys spending quality time with his family, which includes his “incredibly amazing wife and soulmate of 15 years”, their 14-year-old daughter, and their five-year-old rescue pit-bull.

Some of his hobbies include traveling, nature walks and keeping up-to-date with the latest technology. He has a special interest in self-improvement and hopes to provide a better future for himself and others.

We are proud to have Alix share his skills and unique experience with us. Welcome to the team!

Stephen Rumer recently joined the Lee County Supervisor of Elections Information Technology (IT) Department as a Systems Administrator.

Drawn to computers from a young age, Stephen decided to make a career out of it. He worked for Eye Associates of Fort Myers as their Systems Administrator before entering the world of elections.

He is one of the rare Florida born natives who grew up in Seminole County. Stephen is married with two children. When he is not taking care of his kids he enjoys crafting and painting miniatures for tabletop games.

We welcome Stephen's knowledge and expertise to our team as we head into the 2020 Elections!



FLORIDA TO JOIN ERIC



Governor Ron DeSantis (middle), Secretary of State, Laurel Lee (left), and various Florida Supervisors of Elections at a press conference in Orlando, FL on August 21, 2019, announcing that Florida will join ERIC.

To enhance the security and integrity of elections, and with the support of Governor Ron DeSantis and all 67 Supervisors of Elections, Florida will join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). As the largest member to join ERIC, Florida will be able to crosscheck voter registration records with 29 other member states to identify duplicate registrations and outdated records from voters who have moved or passed away, leading to cleaner and more accurate voter registration rolls.

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

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

CAPE CORAL BRANCH OFFICE
LEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
1039 SE 9TH AVE
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