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November 2017 Newsletter

A Message from Alan Hays...



I am happy to say we had a very successful election cycle with the five municipal elections this month. Clermont, Groveland, Mascotte, Minneola and Mount Dora had their contests on November 7th. These were the first elections in which we utilized our new electronic poll books, and our new ADA compliant Express Vote machines. In our Mount Dora and Minneola precincts, our ballot-on-demand process was introduced. This process will be used next year at all of our early voting sites.

Thank you to our voters! I deeply appreciate the wonderful spirit of acceptance of the new technology and the changes that were implemented. It is great to have your support of our efforts to enhance your election day experience. We have received many favorable comments from you and welcome your suggestions for improvement. Our goal is to serve you well and maintain your confidence in the voting process here in Lake County.

I am impressed with how well our Election/Poll Workers managed the new equipment and the updated processes that went along with their deployment. Everyone handled questions very professionally, and your commitment to provide excellent service to our voters was evident. As with any new system, there are always challenges, but our team was well prepared to troubleshoot any issues. I have to give a huge shout-out to our entire team, their efforts to make sure the process ran smooth were the keys to our success. During our post-election debriefing, we learned a lot and will be even better prepared for the 2018 elections.

The official results of these local contests are now available on our website: <https://lakevotes.com/information/current-election> and we have updated our Facebook page to help share the results. Please visit all of our social media pages @LakeElections, you can click on the icons at the end of this publication or access them through our website by clicking the news tab.

Please share this newsletter with your family and friends and encourage them to sign-up for important election information updates.

Sincerely,



D. Alan Hays, DMD
Lake County Supervisor of Elections

Please Help Us Keep You Informed!

Did you know that election mail is non-forwardable? It is very important that voters let our office know when they have an address change. Changing your address with the post office does not assure that voter information cards, sample ballots, vote-by-mail ballots or any other election mail will reach you at your new location. Mail is returned to our office, often without any forwarding information and even with outdated addresses. We make every attempt to re-send the information to any address provided on the returned mail, however, many times it is returned again as undeliverable. So keep us in mind, add us to your moving checklist, and we will do our part to make sure you have accurate information regarding upcoming elections, your designated polling locations, or any other pertinent election news.

Changing your address is easy. You can call our office at 352.343.9734, mail in an address update, complete an updated voter registration form and drop it by the office, or update your information online by visiting our website at <https://lakevotes.com/voting/update>. Help us find you so we can help you stay informed and maintain accurate voter rolls!

Voting-By-Mail

Voting-by-mail is one of the most convenient ways to vote and is always an option even during municipal elections when early voting is not always available. When requesting a vote-by-mail ballot, keep in mind that you can make your request for a specific election, or for all elections through the next two election cycles. Requests received now are good through the 2020 election cycle if the "all elections" option is selected. Once those two cycles have passed, the request expires and voters will need to renew their request. Requesting a vote-by-mail ballot is easy just visit our website, call, or stop by our office and drop off your request. All completed vote-by-mail ballots are due in our office by 7 pm on Election Day.

When voting-by-mail be sure to insert the ballot in the secrecy sleeve after marking your ballot. Place both the ballot and secrecy sleeve in the envelope provided. Voters must then sign the envelope after inserting their completed ballot. All signatures are verified in our office, so please ensure that we have your updated signature on file and that you sign the correct envelope (many households have more than one person voting-by-mail, so please double check the name on the envelope before finalizing your signature).

Failure to sign the envelope, having a signature that doesn't match what we have on file in our office, or signing the incorrect envelope will cause delays in processing vote-by mail

ballots. In these instances, we are statutorily required to send a signature cure letter to the voter. Voters will be required to affirm their signature and provide proof of identification (photo ID with signature). The signature cure affidavit along with proof of identification must be received in our office no later than 5 pm the Monday before Election Day. Keeping a current signature on file and taking a few minutes to verify you are signing the correct envelope will avoid these types of delays.

All vote-by-mail ballots received timely with the appropriate signature will be counted. It is a myth that vote-by-mail ballots are only counted during close contests. We are not really sure where that information originated, but it cannot be further from the truth. Vote-by-mail ballots are often the first ballots counted, and become part of the official results after the polls close on Election Night.

So skip the lines at the polls, save money on gas, vote in the privacy of your own home (in your pj's, we won't judge), and enjoy the convenience of voting-by-mail.

Attention Election Workers!!!

I cannot stress enough how proud I am of each of you. Your professionalism, dedication, and caring attitude demonstrated during this month's municipal elections is what made this election cycle such a success. You faced a challenge with new training, equipment, and processes and came through with flying colors.

Thank you for your feedback before, during, and after the elections. I encourage you to continue to share your Election Day experiences with us, along with your suggestions as to how we can continually improve our voter services. I look forward to working together during the next election cycle. Please share your experiences with your fellow election workers who may not have had an election this cycle, and let them know we will be reaching out to them soon to ensure their availability, schedule training, and update their files.

[Add Me To Your Email List](#)



HONORING OUR VETERANS

Veteran's Day is coming up this weekend. In honor of our veterans, our office would like to encourage you to register to vote, and vote your conscience in every election. Keep in mind that many have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom to choose. Please honor that sacrifice by participating in local, state and federal elections. If you have the opportunity this weekend, stop and thank a veteran for their service. We hope you enjoy the various festivities around your communities and have a safe and happy Veteran's Day.

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