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Election Office Highlights

January 2017 not only ushered in new leadership at the Lake County Supervisor of Elections office and likewise a series of consultations with team members. These strategic sessions, were aimed at preparing for the future and improving the voter and staff experience. These sessions as well as process improvements, continue today through our collaboration with other supervisor of election offices, advancements in technology and the creativity of our own high-performing team. Below are a few project highlights, in no particular order of importance nor sequence of occurrence, of the elections office.

One of the first major enhancements to take place was the conversion to an electronic poll book known as an EVID. This poll book displaced the paper precinct registers which had been in use for more than 100 years. EVIDs offer greatly enhanced security and provide for a more efficient check-in process for in-person voting.

Another successful project was the installation of the Ballot on Demand (BOD) process for all Early Voting sites. This measure reduces costs by eliminating the waste of pre-printed ballots and saves a few trees. Additionally, the utilization of BODs decreases the risk of incorrect ballots being issued to voters.

As mentioned in the May edition of Election News, 2017 saw the first-time enrollment of key election office leaders in The Florida Association of Supervisors MFCEP program. This professional and personal development program has proven to be invaluable to team members as we focus on the future of elections and the voter experience.

Whether you are a long- or short-term resident of Lake County, you just cannot miss the signs of the rapid rate growth of our community. This growth has provided opportunities and a few challenges for the office. In 2018 we relocated our office to our current location on US 441 in Tavares. The relocation not only provides better accessibility to voters but allowed us to consolidate the operation under one roof instead of being split between Mt. Dora and Tavares. Having the team together provides additional opportunities for collaboration and improves the overall efficiency of the operation.

Speaking of growth, our current facility is now undersized. We are currently engaged in relocation into a larger facility. Details will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

The growth of our county can also be seen in the increase in voter registration. Between the 2016 election and the 2020 election, voter registrations increased by more than 42,000 voters. From 2016 through 2022 we have added 53,761 new registrations. These growth figures show no signs of slowing in the next few years.

With these new voters, additional voting locations were added which in turn required equipment and supplies. That equipment and those supplies must be properly stored and maintained, which in turn necessitates additional storage space which is already in short supply. The domino effect continues when that same growth increased the workload of the office team and thus, we have added additional personnel to ensure the best possible voter and customer experience.

To improve the organizational structure of the office, we established five departments with a director guiding the work of each department. This new organizational structure enables us to define the responsibilities of each team member more clearly and better serve the needs of Lake County voters.

Significant improvements to our cybersecurity capabilities have also been made. We are protected by multiple layers of security measures. Our systems are constantly monitored for any activity which might be perceived as suspicious. Our entire team receives cybersecurity updates/advisories and participates in ongoing training to increase our cybersecurity posture.

The acquisition of ExpressVote equipment provides an inclusive voting experience for those who require assistive technologies. These machines have an array of accessibility features to capture the intent of every voter.

Voting by mail has never been easier! Our Vote-by-Mail (VBM) process is highly organized. We have adopted several uses of technology such as BallotTrax to better serve those who chose the VBM option to cast their ballots. Voters can rest assured that security measures related to VBM have been improved.

As so many aspects of our daily living are continuously changing, so too is the work of the elections team. As we move into the future, you have our commitment to maintain the level of professionalism and integrity you, the voters of Lake County, expect and deserve from your Supervisor of Elections office.

We invite you to visit our office for a tour of our facility and processes. Tour dates and times can be found by selecting [Facility Tours](#) or by visiting <https://www.lakevotes.gov/Educational-Resources/Facility-Tours>.

Thank you for the privilege of being the custodian of your voting systems.



D. Alan Hays, D.M.D., MFCEP
Lake County Supervisor of Elections

OUR COMMITMENT

- ✓ Voter Confidence
- ✓ Excellent Service
- ✓ Accurate & Efficient Elections
- ✓ Responsible Financial Stewardship