

# ELECTION NEWS



2019 Spring Newsletter

*Dana Southerland*

Supervisor of Elections

Taylor County

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tayloreelections.com

Email: [tayloreelections@gtcom.net](mailto:tayloreelections@gtcom.net)

Office hours: 8:00am to 5:00pm

## Voter Registration

Republican — 4,784

Democrat — 6,203

Other — 1,323

**Total — 12,310**

**Dear Voter,**

**We're having a Special Election !!!**

**Due to the vacancy in State Representative, District 7 we have been ordered to conduct a Special Primary and a Special General Election. Mark your calendars of the important dates listed below and stay tuned to our Facebook page at Taylor County Supervisor of Election as we continue to update you on what's happening in your elections office and with day to day updates on the Special Election.**

### **Special Primary Election—April 9, 2019**

**Book Closing Date—March 11, 2019**

**Early Voting Dates—March 30, 2019 thru April 6, 2019**

**8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. each day**

**Last date to request a Mail Ballot—April 3, 2019**

### **Special General Election—June 18, 2019**

**Book Closing Date—May 20, 2019**

**Early Voting Dates—June 8, 2019 thru June 15, 2019**

**8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. each day**

**Last date to request a Mail Ballot—June 12, 2019**

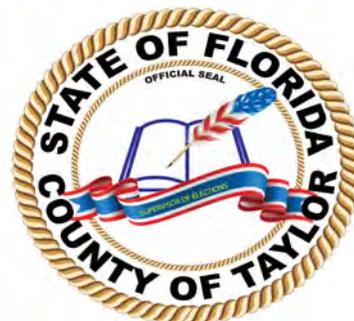
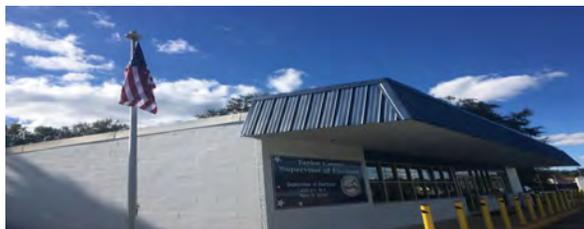
**All fourteen precincts will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.**

**If you need to make a party change, change of address, update your signature or register to vote, now is the time to do that. Make sure you are election ready !!!**

**With kind regards,**

***Dana Southerland***

Thanks to some awesome volunteers our flag pole finally went up. We are so proud to be flying the American Flag.



# Election News you need to know about....

## Election Security...

Your Supervisor of Elections takes election security very seriously and I want you to know the facts about how diligent we work to secure our elections...

1— Taylor County uses paper ballots—this means there is a paper trail for every ballot cast. These ballots are stored for up to 22 months after each election cycle and can be re-tabulated or hand-counted if needed.

2—Taylor County uses stand-alone tabulating equipment. That means that our voting equipment is not connected to the internet in any way. After each election we reconcile precinct-level results with composite election results to ensure the tabulation totals match.

You can view a full fact sheet concerning elections in Taylor County by visiting [taylorelections.com](http://taylorelections.com) and choosing the link under Election Information.



## 2018 Winter Conference—Sarasota

FSASE Conferences are important to elections offices across the state of Florida. These conferences give Supervisors the chance to discuss issues that counties might have encountered during the most recent election as well as issues that are forthcoming. Your Supervisor of Elections was honored to be able to attend the mid winter conference held December 2-5, 2018. Topics on the agenda were legislative priorities for the 2019 session, cyber security, Amendment 4 and its implementation, and disaster preparation. We are always working towards doing things more efficiently, more transparent and with the highest level of integrity we can possibly conduct election.



## Website—[www.taylorelections.com](http://www.taylorelections.com)...

If you're looking for up-to-date election information, just visit your Supervisor of Elections website at [www.taylorelections.com](http://www.taylorelections.com). We've worked hard to make it even easier for you to find the information you need about voting and elections. This site is updated regularly so check back frequently, we want to keep you informed.



## Public Records...

Did you know voter registration information is public record in Florida with a few exceptions. Information such as your social security number and driver's license number cannot be released or disclosed to the public. Your signature cannot be copied and released to the public as well. Other information such as your name, address, date of birth, party affiliation, and what elections you have voted in are public information.



## 4-H Rocks...

Thank you to the local 4-H students for remembering your Supervisor of Elections office. The Christmas cookies were absolutely delicious !!!



# What's going on outside your elections office...

## TCMS Class Officer Elections...

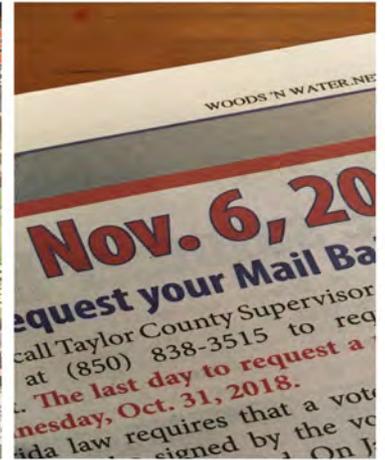


Thank you to everyone who assisted with making the 2018 Election Cycle a success. There are many dedicated individuals who gave of their time to work at the polls on election day, helped deliver and setup precincts, and waited patiently while precinct clerks brought their ballots and other election items back on election night. Those that stuck with us through the long hours and long days during the machine and manual recount, your dedication to the process is appreciated. Thank you to Judge Blue and Commissioner Demps, who served on the Canvassing Board this election season, your commitment to excellence is unwavering. And last but certainly not least, thank you to my staff. The days were long, the hours were endless, but your professionalism and service to the voters of Taylor County is always what is expected and exactly what is deserved. Thank you to those voters who felt this election was important enough to let their voices be heard by voting. Thank you Taylor County for allowing me to serve you. Nothing makes me prouder than to be from Taylor County.

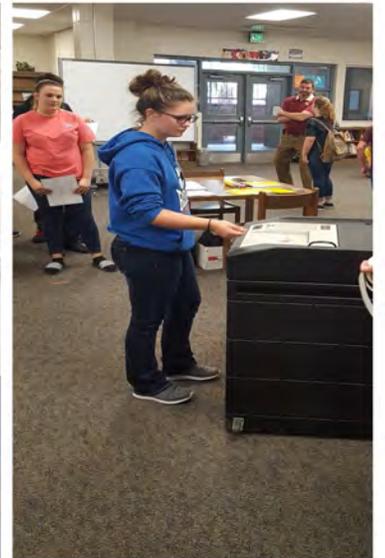
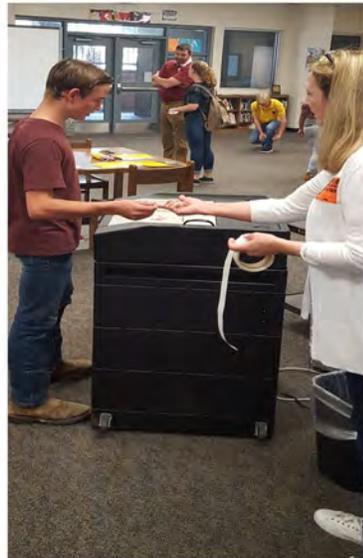


## Voter Outreach...

During the 2018 Election Cycle, your Supervisor of Elections tried something a little different in reaching our voters. We reached out to Woods 'N Water and inquired about possibly advertising in their newsprint. If you are a subscriber then you saw our ad in the October edition. We were extremely pleased and intend to continue this form of outreach during the 2020 Election Cycle.



## TCHS Homecoming Election...



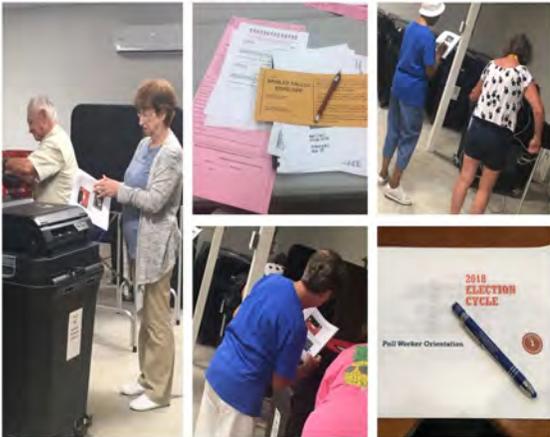
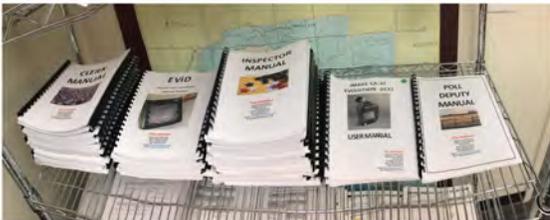
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# Interesting facts about elections...

## Poll Worker Training...

Many individuals do not realize that poll worker training is mandatory. Every person that works on election day must receive training prior to working. The hours required depends on the position that is assigned to that individual. During the 2018 Election Cycle we conducted 52 training classes that totaled over 107 hours of hands on training with the voting equipment as well as training that covered the paperwork and the issuance of ballots. We appreciate each and every one of our poll workers and realize each one of them is a very important part of conducting successful elections.



## Just hanging around...

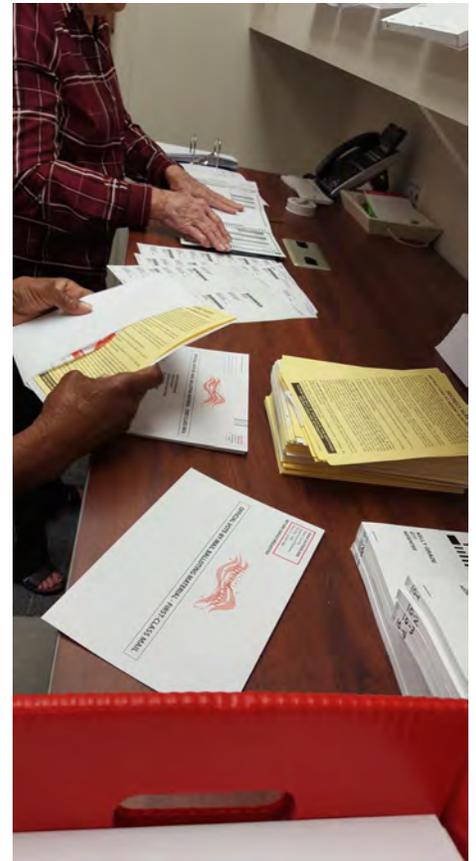
In the midst of the 2018 General Election Recount we had several observers on site watching our processes and taking page after page of notes. This is one of the observers we found just hanging around outside the building...no note pad in antenna



but he did stay for most of the day intrigued at what was going on inside. We're not sure what party he was representing but we guessed it might have been the Green Party.

## Vote-By-Mail Ballots...

Did you know that your Supervisor of Elections does not outsource the mailing of our mail ballots? Not outsourcing this job helps with our budget and allows us the opportunity to ensure the specific ballot that you should receive is in fact the ballot being mailed to you. During the 2018 Election Cycle your elections office hand folded and stuffed 4,992 ballots which accounted for almost 150 hours of staff time. This task is quite an undertaking and is a slow and meticulous process. To ensure the accuracy of the mail ballot process there is always two individuals who complete this procedure.



## Logic & Accuracy Testing...

Testing is a very important part of a successful election. During the 2018 Election Cycle we conducted logic and accuracy testing a minimum of two times before we ever held our public testing. It is important to us that every piece of equipment deployed during an election functions to the highest standard possible. We take this task very seriously and we encourage the public to take part by participating. All of our public logic and accuracy tests are properly noticed and are open to any of the public that might like to be present.



## Early Voting...

Voters are always looking for the most convenient way to cast their ballot. Early Voting has increasingly become a huge hit with voters in Taylor County. During the 2018 Election Cycle we exceeded our goal by almost doubling the amount of individuals who opted to vote early when comparing it to the numbers from the 2014 mid-term election. During both the Primary and General Elections we took advantage of every day possible and were open and available to the voters a total of 26 days. During these 26 days we were open to the public for 273 hours and voted over three thousand voters.



## Electronic Poll Books...

Several years ago your Supervisor of Elections made the decision to convert from paper poll books to an electronic version. You have probably heard us refer to them as EViDs. These electronic poll books streamline the check in process at polling places across the county as well as during early voting. Converting to an electronic version as saved our office the cost of printing and binding paper books as well as a huge savings on staff time to upload vote history into the database as that is now accomplished with a quick upload of a jump drive.



## Canvassing Board...

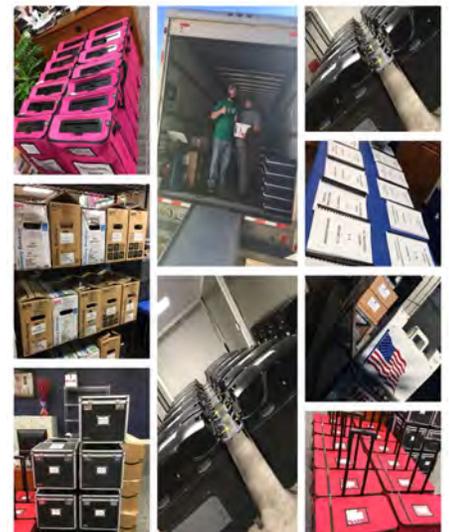
Your Taylor County Canvassing Board oversees many tasks during an election cycle. From the testing of the voting equipment, the opening and tabulating of mail ballots, to verifying election night results. The Canvassing Board's duties do not end until the Official Certification of results is uploaded to the Division of Elections. During the 2018 Election Cycle your Canvassing Board consisted of Judge Bill Blue as the Chair, Commissioner Thomas Demps as the appointed representative of the Board of County Commissions and Dana Southerland your Supervisor of Elections. To guarantee the flow of an election cycle is always moving forward as required by Florida

Statute and in case of the absence of one of the members, the Canvassing Board also has alternates. We appreciate Judge Parker and Commissioner Malcolm Page serving as the 2018 alternates.



## All Hands On Deck...

It takes a team of individuals to assist with election day preparedness. Our deliver crew might be small in number but they work from sun up to sun down to make sure all 14 of our precincts are set up and ready and that all election related items have been delivered to the proper place so that when you arrive at 7:00am on election morning everything is set up and ready for you to cast your vote.



## 2018 General Election Recount...

Over the course of an election cycle many people will say “Want you be glad the day after the election?” As your Supervisor of Elections I always smile and say, “I sure will”, knowing that the day after the election doesn’t end the election cycle for myself or my staff. The recount we experienced immediately after the General Election is a very good example. We spent days after the election preparing our 1st Unofficial Results to be uploaded to the Division of Elections, which was completed promptly and on-time just three days after the election. We anticipated there would be a recount and there was much buzz everywhere you looked and in everything you read. As expected the Saturday after the General Election, we received the official order to conduct a machine recount on three statewide races. Thankfully our equipment allowed us to conduct all three recounts almost simultaneously however, we still were required to hand feed all 8,000 ballots back through the reprogrammed tabulators. This in itself was a huge task. As if the machine recount wasn’t enough just five days later we received the order to conduct a manual recount of all the overvotes and undervotes that were cast in two of those statewide races. Even though the manual recount only requires you to view the ballots with either an overvoted race or an undervoted race we had approximately 250 ballots that fit into this category, so the Canvassing Board spent 7 1/2 hours actually looking at each individual ballot to see if we could determine voter intent. I am proud to say that all procedures conducted were completed in a timely manner and our Official Certification was uploaded to the state on time and without any discrepancies.

