Dear Voter,

The August Primary Election is just a couple of weeks away and your Supervisor of Elections office is busy making sure every detail is being checked and re-checked to ensure another successful election for the voters of Taylor County.

The right to vote is one of our most treasured constitutional rights and it is my desire to see each and every eligible citizen take advantage of this opportunity. Letting your voice be heard by voting is your way of letting those that represent you know how you feel. Your state and local government needs to know you are an engaged citizen and the first step to being an engaged citizen is to be an active voter.

As the 2016 Primary Election approaches, your Supervisor of Elections would like to encourage you to begin looking at the candidates who will be on the primary ballot so that you can make an educated decision concerning your party affiliation. If you have any questions concerning this process, now is the time to call your elections office and ask those questions. Do not wait until the books close on August 1, 2016 or on election day to seek those answers, because once the books close only changes to a name, address or signature are allowed.

This election cycle we have experienced a record number of local candidates and for the first time ever we will see a Libertarian Primary being conducted along side the major parties primaries. Every voter in the county will have something to vote on in August and with the ease of vote by mail, early voting and election day there truly is no excuse for not voting. Now is the time to think about your choices and plan accordingly.

Always know that if you ever have questions concerning your voter registration, your options for casting a ballot, or election questions in general, your elections office is just a phone call away, 850-838-3515.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you,

Dana Southerland

Registered Voters:

Republican—4,221
Democrat—7,448
Other—1,300
Total—12,969

Looking for Election Information???

Check out the Supervisor of Elections website at www.taylorelections.com. You will find all the latest and greatest election news happening right here in Taylor County.
Election News you need to know about.....

What is a Universal Primary Contest?

A Universal Primary Contest or “UPC” means a contest in a primary election in which all candidates have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the general election. All qualified electors in the district that race represents may vote on a Universal Primary Contest regardless of party affiliation.

On April 1, 2016 Governor Rick Scott signed Senate Bill 666. This bill allows for three additional forms of identification to be added to the current list of acceptable items that voters may use for picture and signature identification when voting at the polls on election day or during early voting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 NEW ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ID AT THE POLLS PASSED BY SENATE BILL 666</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veteran health identification card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A license to carry a concealed weapon or firearm issued pursuant to s. 790.06.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee identification card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the Federal Government, the state, a county, or a municipality.</td>
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As we age our signature begins to change and so many things are now verified by our signature that it is very important to keep yours updated. If you vote by mail, your signature will be verified with the signature we have on your voter registration record. If your signature has changed and you fail to update that with us, then you risk your vote by mail ballot being questioned by the canvassing board. If due to health reasons you are no longer able to sign your name, please contact our office so that we may explain the proper procedure for documenting such. This will ensure that a voter's registration record is accurate and up-to-date before the next election. If you have any questions concerning your registration record or would like to update your signature please contact the elections office at 850-838-3515.

With a record number of candidates, this is going to be a busy and exciting Primary and General Election for the voters of Taylor County. So what can you do to get yourself ready. Ask yourself these five simple questions:

Are you Registered to Vote? Has Your Name Changed? Would You Like to Update Your Party Affiliation? Do You Need to Update Your Signature? Has Your Address Change?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you need to contact your Supervisor of Elections at 850-838-3515 or visit our website at www.taylorelections.com and click the Register to Vote/Update Current Registration link. By updating your voter record now, you will be “Election Ready” when it’s time to vote.

Your Supervisor of Elections is looking for civic-minded citizens to join our election team of poll workers. If you think this is something you might be interested in just contact us today at 850-838-3515 so we can get you an application. For additional information on election team members you may visit our website at www.taylorelections.com, look under the Election Information tab and click on the link Election Team Members.

Your Supervisor of Elections is looking for veterans to showcase on our Veterans Wall of Honor. We currently have 154 veteran pictures displayed and would love to honor and showcase your veteran as well. For additional information visit our website at www.taylorelections.com and click the Vote in Honor of a Veteran link or call 850-838-3515 to learn more.

Did you know you can view archived election results dating back to 1996 just by visiting your Supervisor of Elections website. Just click the Archived Election Results link on the left-hand side of the homepage, then choose what election you’re interested in.
On April 6-7, 2016 the Supervisor of Elections office visited Taylor County High School and held a voter registration drive to assist students in registering to vote. Dana Southerland, Supervisor of Elections, along with members of her staff were on hand during both lunches to give students an opportunity to register to vote and to answer questions students might have concerning election related topics. 43 future voters were registered during this event. Thank you to the TCHS administration and staff for allowing us the chance to interact with the students at the high school.

On Tuesday, April 19, 2016 your Supervisor of Elections and staff traveled to Columbia County for a small county regional roundtable. Many topics were discussed including candidates, voter registration, voting equipment and preparations for the August Primary and November General Elections. Any time your elections office can bounce ideas off of other election professionals we try to take advantage of that. It’s how we improve our processes and ultimately bring those best practices back to Taylor County and to our voters.

Your Supervisor of Elections and staff was honored to be a part of Main Street's Founder's Day event that was held Saturday, April 23, 2016. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to set a booth up and for the chance to be available to the voters of Taylor County.

Your Supervisor of Elections and staff spent April 26-27, 2016 at Taylor Technical Institute registering the students and young adults to vote. We were so busy we didn't have a chance to take pictures but we did get 27 new voters registered and we are so excited as most of them will be eligible to vote in the 2016 Primary and General Elections.

Your Supervisor of Elections office set a table up at Maddie's Market in Steinhatchee on May 5, 2016. This allowed the residents of Steinhatchee a chance to register to vote, update their voter record or browse our printed election information.

Thank you to United Way and Perry Primary School for allowing me to participate in Read United on Tuesday, May 10, 2016. I had the privilege of reading “Duck for President” to Ms. Hudson's first grade class and her students were awesome listeners. What a wonderful community outreach event, thank you to everyone that participated !!!

FSASE Summer Conference, Pinellas County, May 22-26, 2016

Your Supervisor of Elections office took advantage of the opportunity to set a table up at Rocky's in Shady Grove on Friday, May 13th to allow the residents of Shady Grove a chance to register to vote, update their voter record or browse our printed election information. Thank you Rocky's for allowing us to serve the many voters in the Shady Grove area.

If you didn't attend the Hurricane Preparedness Event held on April 28, 2016 at the TCHS gym you missed some very important information concerning your safety during a disaster. Thank you Taylor County Emergency Management for coordinating an awesome event and for allowing your Supervisor of Elections office the chance to set up a booth and be a part of this community outreach project.
Did you know you could view candidates treasurer reports through your Supervisor of Elections website. Just visit www.taylorelections.com, on the left-hand side of the homepage you will choose Candidate Profiles and Financial Reports, then just choose the candidate you wish to view.

Community involvement plays a vital role in our voter outreach and voter education projects. If you are interested in having your Supervisor of Elections attend a function you are coordinating or a group meeting you are conducting. Please reach out to us and let us know. If our calendar will allow it, we want to be involved. You can reach your Supervisor of Elections office Monday through Friday, 8:00am until 5:00pm each day at 850-838-3515 or email us at taylorelections@gtcom.net.

Your Supervisor of Elections office gets asked quite often for our county voter registration totals by party. This information can be found by visiting our website at www.taylorelections.com. Just look for Active Registered Voters posted immediately below the header, the totals are updated in real time and are constantly changing as voters register or move in or out of the county.

Election Tip: If you move, you must update your residential and mailing address on your voter registration record in order for us to maintain contact with you. This does not happen automatically, it's the voter’s responsibility to contact the Supervisor of Elections office and request this change.

Election Tip: If you were removed from the voter rolls because you moved out of the state and then you have moved back into Florida, you must re-register. Check your voter status today to make sure you are in fact registered to vote. The books close on August 1, 2016 for the Primary Election. Your Vote is Your Voice...let yours be heard!!! Visit your elections website at www.taylorelections.com and choose the My Registration Status link.

Election Tip: The voter registration books will close on August 1, 2016 for the Primary Election. Check your political party affiliation before the books close. Once the books close party changes cannot be made, so be a responsible voter and check that status early. It’s a terrible thing to not be able to support your candidate of choice when you get ready to cast that ballot.

Election Tip: If you did not attend the Memorial Day event held at Veteran’s Memorial Park on May 30, 2016, then you missed a very humbling and patriotic experience. It's not all about beaches, boats and bikinis...it's about the more than 101M Americans who have died while serving our country.

One of the many duties of your Supervisor of Elections is to process initiative petitions as well as candidate signature petitions used for candidate qualifying. A lot of voters don't realize each and every petition goes through a verification process where your elections staff checks for completeness as well as accuracy on each petition form. We then check each voter's signature against the signature we have on file in the voter's registration record. Since the first of the year your Supervisor of Elections and staff has verified 4,067 petitions in preparation for the 2016 election cycle.

There will be a Proposed Constitutional Amendment on the Primary Ballot for all voters in the county to consider. To view the language for the proposed constitutional amendment just visit your Supervisor of Elections website at www.taylorelections.com and click the link under the Election News section on the right hand side of the homepage titled Proposed Constitutional Amendment to be voted on August 30, 2016.

Dear Voter...Please be aware that the Voter Participation Center (VPC) out of Washington DC will be mass mailing to many of the residents of Taylor County before the General Election. The information contained in this mailing may be incorrect. It may state you are not registered to vote when in fact you are registered and very much an active voter. The Taylor County Supervisor of Elections office had NO involvement with this mailing and have no idea from whom they have received their database information. Please feel free to call your elections office at 850-838-3515 to verify your voter registration record is up to date and accurate. As always we are here to assist you with any of your election needs.