Your Vote is Your Voice...and Taylor County voters were sure to make their voices heard during the 2016 election cycle.

We hear about historical elections all the time, but during the 2016 calendar year we actually lived through one...and survived.

I do believe 2016 was the longest election year we, at your elections office, have ever experienced. We saw a record number of local candidates and we had a record number of voters requesting to vote by mail. Additionally, we had a record number of voters cast their ballot early and of course those traditional voters who like to cast their ballot on election day made sure to squeeze in enough time to make sure that was accomplished.

Yes – Taylor County, your voices were heard.

Over the last eight years I have worked diligently to bring you secure, accurate, and easily accessible elections. Change has been slow and steady and I look forward to leading the voters and the community through more positive changes as we begin the preparations to introduce our newly purchased voting equipment to each and every one of you. I am confident the transition will be smooth and seamless. 2018 will be here before we know it and your elections office is already building the foundation for another successful election, because we know that is what you expect of us and it’s what we expect of ourselves.

As your Supervisor of Elections, I would like to say thank you for allowing me to serve another 4-year term. I am deeply humbled by the responsibility you have entrusted in me. Even though there will never be a perfect election, it is my goal to strive for error-free elections and to ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have a question, comment, or complaint regarding your voter registration or voting experience. My office is located on the second floor of the County Courthouse and my door is always open.

With kind regards,

Dana Southerland
Supervisor of Elections

2016 Voter Comment Cards

During the 2016 election cycle your Supervisor of Elections decided to issue comment cards at the precincts to voters so that they might take the time to give us feedback on our level of service and areas that we might work towards improving. There is always a fine line when doing this because you must be willing to take the great comments with the not so great and be willing to listen to the public's concerns and work towards improving. I am pleased to report that your elections office received a 96% excellent rating during both elections. Most of the comments for improvement were related to election law issues and the procedures for handling primary elections. However, the comments that pertained to our specific procedures within the precinct have been heard and we will be addressing these concerns during future poll worker training classes. We appreciate each of you that took the time to complete these cards.

Vote in Honor of a Vet

For more information on our “Vote in Honor of a Veteran” program visit our website www.taylorelections.com or contact your Supervisor of Elections office at 850-838-3515.
We Take Security Very Seriously ..... 

During the 2016 Election Cycle we used 546 different seals to ensure the integrity of Taylor County's elections are never compromised.

Supervisors from across the state of Florida along with members of their staff showed up in mass numbers at The Elections Center workshop held in Savannah, Georgia during the week of February 15-19, 2017. Your Supervisor of Elections is proud to be amongst this elite group of election professionals.

Country in the Pines Music Festival ...

On September 24, 2016 your Supervisor of Elections office attended the Country in the Pines Music Festival. Our elections table included applications to register to vote or update an existing record as well as printed election materials and voter guides for the 2016 election cycle. We enjoyed the company of many and were able to register 16 new voters while listening to the many bands and solo artist throughout the day. Thank you Taylor County Chamber of Commerce and their many volunteers for all the hard work we know goes into such a successful event.

Notice to Voters registered with the Independent Party of Florida (INT). Your Supervisor of Elections received notice in February from the Florida Division of Elections that the registration status of this minor political party had been cancelled. As a result of this, we are required to change the party affiliation of all voters currently registered in the Independent Party of Florida to No Party Affiliation (NPA). As a convenience to the voter, we have mailed letters to the 195 voters who are effected by this change. If you choose to change to a different political party you simply need to complete the application enclosed with your letter and return it to your elections office. As always if you have any questions please don’t hesitate to make contact with your Supervisor of Elections at 850-838-3515.

Taylor County Elementary School 5th Grade Representative Elections...

On September 16, 2016 your Supervisor of Elections and staff visited Taylor County Elementary School to assist in conducting their 5th Grade Representative Elections. The students were able to cast their vote on ballots printed with the classroom nominees names and utilized the optical scan tabulating equipment. The students loved being able to vote on “real” equipment and the administration loved the instant election results. This is just one more layer of education your elections office uses to instill a positive voting experience in the lives of our young people in hopes of developing a tradition that will grow with them into adulthood. Thank you Mr. Finley and the staff for allowing us this opportunity to educate the students on the importance of voting and how each vote truly does make a difference.
What’s going on outside your elections office...

Community Involvement...

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 at 850-838-3515.

Taylor County Middle School Student Council Elections...

On September 15, 2016 your Supervisor of Elections and staff visited Taylor County Middle School to assist in conducting their Student Council Elections. The students were able to cast their vote on ballots printed with the student council candidates names and utilized the optical scan tabulating equipment to count the votes cast. The students loved being able to vote on “real” equipment and the administration loved the instant election results. This is just one more layer of education your elections office uses to instill a positive voting experience in the lives of our young people in hopes of developing a tradition that will grow with them into adulthood. Thank you Ms. Puhl and the staff for allowing us this opportunity to educate the students on the importance of voting and how each vote truly does make a difference.

Anderson wins 2016 FSASE scholarship

Florida State University (FSU) student Adam L. Anderson was named this year’s recipient of the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE) scholarship.

Anderson was selected from a field of 17 applicants statewide and was one of three winners.

“He received the Dorothy Walker Ruggles Scholarship in memory of Dorothy Ruggles, who was the Supervisor of Elections for Pinellas County from 1988 until the time of her death in 2000,” Supervisor of Elections Dana Southerland said.

The Taylor County native graduated magna cum laude from Taylor County High School in 2013 and is majoring in political science/pre-law at FSU.

Anderson recently accepted a position at the executive office of the governor in the Gubernatorial Appointment Office, where he will be working while attending college.

He is the third recipient from Taylor County since 2010 to be awarded one of the statewide scholarships: Cory R. Thompson won in 2010 and Benjamin (Trey) Blue, 2011.

Supervisor of Elections Dana Southerland, right, presents Adam Anderson a certificate and $1,200 check as winner of this year’s state association of supervisors scholarship.
Hurricane Hermine Visits Taylor County

On Friday, September 2, your Supervisor of Elections along with the other members of the Canvassing Board had a regularly scheduled meeting that had been noticed for 9:30 am. So here is how your elections office gets things done, canvassing provisional ballots by battery operated lanterns because our entire county is without power...things that must get done regardless of what is going on around you. We were able to count thirteen additional ballots ensuring that more voters had their voices heard.

Poll Worker Training...

During the 2016 Election Cycle we held 41 poll worker training classes. These classes gave each poll worker the opportunity to learn the duties and responsibilities of their specific job description as well as absorbing general information pertaining to other areas within a precinct. Knowledge is power and I encourage all poll workers to cross-train. The more a poll worker knows about what's happening in their precinct the better they become equipped to assist a voter who might need assistance on election day. Taylor County has the best poll workers and I am so proud to have each of them on our team.

COOP Plan In Action...

Performing our mandated machine and manual recount by battery operated lantern. Proof that your Supervisor of Elections and staff are dedicated to getting the job done...no matter what it takes.

Election Information...

Are you looking for election information? We have a little something for every age. Drop by your Supervisor of Elections office and check out our public information display. We even have items for children of all ages.

Hurricanes, Chaos and Getting the Job Done...

In the midst of the chaos during Hurricane Hermine and with a scheduled meeting of the canvassing board to canvass provisional ballots on the Friday after election day, your Supervisor of Elections and staff rode around town looking for any spot that might have power that would let us take up a small space in their place of business to continue to take care of pressing election needs. We couldn't find anything suitable...that is until we happen to hear the sound of a generator outside the courthouse. When I noticed it was coming from the Hometown General Store I immediately reached out to Mike Anderson and asked if he would mind if we borrowed a small space in the corner somewhere within his establishment so we could upload our results to the Division of Elections as required by Florida Statute. He never hesitated and simply said yes, come on over. The this might be the first time in the history of elections (or at least in a very long time...that election results were completed on a laptop with an air card on a picnic table in a corner meat market working off a generator. Thank you Hometown General Store, Mike Anderson and Leslie Anderson, we appreciate all you do for our community. !!!