



STATE LAW CHANGE AFFECTS THIRD-PARTY VOTER REGISTRATION ORGANIZATIONS

Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Deborah Clark announces a change in state law that will affect the way organizations conduct voter registration drives. House Bill 1355 includes revisions to the Florida Statutes regarding third-party voter registration organizations.

Clark reminds organizations that with advance notice, the Supervisor of Elections will continue to provide voter registration staff for community events, as long as the staff collects the applications for processing. To schedule, call (727) 464-5700.

A third-party registration organization is defined as “any person, entity or organization soliciting or collecting voter registration applications.” The law does not apply to anyone registering family members; or employees of the elections division, supervisors of elections, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or federally mandated voter registration agencies. It does not include groups who solicit persons to complete voter registration applications and submit them to the Division or the Supervisor of Elections.

Recent changes to section 97.0575, Florida Statutes make the registration process more complex for organizations, shorten the deadline to submit completed registration applications, and require elections officials to note the organization’s identification number on all applications provided to the organization.

Organizations who wish to register with the Division of Elections must file a form (DS DE 119) to receive an identification number. Next, the organization must file another form (DS DE 120) for each person conducting voter registration on its behalf.

If a third-party organization collects and keeps any voter applications longer than 48 hours (or the next business day if the elections office is closed), a fine of \$50 per application applies. Previously, an organization had 10 days to submit applications it collected before penalties began. If an application is mailed, it is considered delivered on the date of its postmark.

In addition, if the organization submits any voter applications past the voter registration deadline for an election, there is a fine of \$100 per application. The organization also will be fined \$500 per application it does not submit. And, if the action was committed willfully, the fines will be higher. Fines are capped at \$1,000 per calendar year per organization. Third-party registration organizations must file monthly reports with the Division of Elections.

For more information about third-party voter registration procedures, contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections at (850) 245-6286 or (850) 245-6290 or email at 3PVRO@dos.state.fl.us. All forms are available on the Division of Elections Web site.



Many East Lake High School students registered or pre-registered to vote at our Voter Education event on April 19, 2011.

NEW ELECTION PHONE NUMBER

Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Deborah Clark recently announced a new phone number available for Pinellas County residents.

The current phone number can still be used in addition to 727-464-VOTE. The new number will be the main phone number for voting and election questions.

“We are pleased that the phone number is available and that the County’s Business and Technology Services Department is able to provide the number at no additional cost,” Clark said. “We think voters will appreciate having a number that is easy to remember when they need to reach us.”

464-VOTE



ELECTION CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 8
St. Petersburg General
& Largo Municipal Elections