

ELECTION EXTRA



Deborah Clark, Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections

SEPTEMBER 2017

SPOTLIGHT ON SERVING OUR VOTERS



Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections' I.T. Team: David, Nicole and Marc (left to right)

One question we often hear is, "Was my ballot actually counted?" The answer is always a resounding yes – and these are the individuals who can give a first-hand account of the process!

Marc, David and Nicole make up the Supervisor of Elections' Information Technology (I.T.) Department. With nearly 30 years of combined experience, this team is responsible for not only creating each election ballot, but also for counting the ballots and producing election results.

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Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections' Finance Team: Susie and Holly (left to right)

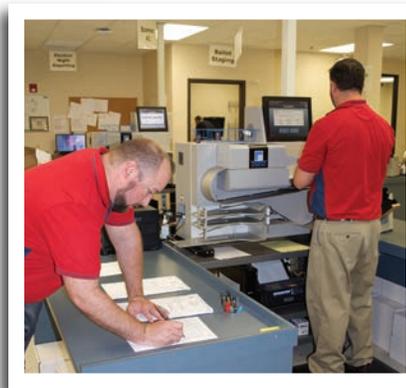
Susie and Holly staff our Finance Department. They are responsible for preparing and managing the budget—including managing all monies received from the County General Fund, as well as federal and state grants.

Additionally, the Finance team handles all accounts payable and receivable, along with processing payroll for our full-time staff and nearly 2,000 part-time election workers. The department also chips in with election-related duties including opening mail ballots and election night equipment check-in.

Susie and Holly's dedication and knowledge are appreciated by the entire staff!



Nicole arranges bins to prepare ballots for the St. Petersburg Primary Election.



Marc and David test the ballot counting equipment prior to the election.

SPOTLIGHT ON SERVING OUR VOTERS (CONT.)

The trio is responsible for programming each election and conducting the mandated pre-election tests of our ballot tabulation system. On election night, they process all incoming vote totals and upload results to our website.

The I.T. Department also has extensive GIS mapping skills, playing a pivotal role in the redistricting and reprecincting process and administering the voter registration database.

Marc, David and Nicole are committed to helping us conduct fair, secure and accurate elections for Pinellas County voters.

TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

The election team provided some extra support to Mt. Vernon Elementary School teachers for the start of the 2017-18 school year through the Adopt-A-Classroom Program. Staff collected a total of \$600 to be donated to help three teachers –

Ms. Novakovich, Ms. Carlson and Ms. Peers – to provide

necessary supplies to assist their students during the upcoming school year. The donation was made as part of our “Day of Caring” program, in which we select a community initiative to support each quarter.

Ms. Novakovich is in her first year at Mt. Vernon Elementary, teaching first grade. She previously taught at Campbell Park Elementary. Ms. Peers is the behavior specialist at the school, focusing on positive rewards, crisis prevention and intervention. Ms. Carlson has been at Mt. Vernon for 10 years and currently works with the third grade drop-out prevention students, encouraging them to become more motivated about learning, helping to find their strengths and believing in themselves.

Kudos to these educators and their efforts to educate our future voters!



SOE Staff (left to right - blue shirts) - Janet, Holly, David and Matt; Mt. Vernon Elementary School Teachers (left to right) - Ms. Carlson, Ms. Peers and Ms. Novakovich.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 26 - National Voter Registration Day

October 9 - Columbus Day (Offices Open)

October 10 - Voter Registration Deadline

October 28 - November 5: Early Voting at SOE Offices ([Click here for times](#))

November 7 - County Referendum and Municipal General Elections

For additional information, please visit VotePinellas.com

BACK TO SCHOOL

Pinellas County schools recently returned to session, which also means the Supervisor of Elections staff return to the classrooms.

Each year, our team visits Pinellas County schools to educate our future voters on the voter registration and election processes.

During the last school year, we visited Pinellas County schools to conduct elections for Student Government, Homecoming and Prom, and present our Vote in Honor of a Vet program. More than 11,000 future voters got hands-on experience using the voting equipment and learned the proper way to mark and cast a ballot, while nearly 1,000 students registered to vote.



A RIGHT TO VOTE FOR EVERYONE

August marks the anniversary of two very important events in our history – the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, granting women the right to vote.

Both pieces of legislation granted voting rights to citizens who had fought for many years for the right to cast a ballot.

Signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on August 6, 1965, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was crafted to enforce the 14th and 15th Amendments at the state and local levels, providing protections for voting rights and prohibiting racial discrimination.

The adoption of the 19th amendment on August 18, 1920 was the centerpiece of the women’s rights movement, which began back in the late 1840’s – known as Women’s Suffrage.

Access to voter registration and ballots for all citizens remains the fundamental principle of our representative democracy. Our right to vote is a responsibility and a privilege fought for by many brave men and women over many generations of this great nation.