



From the desk of...

Kaiti Lenhart

FLAGLER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

February 2016



A message from your Supervisor of Elections

The Elections Office has been increasingly busy this year and especially for the past several weeks as voters are changing their party affiliation and new voters are registering for the first time. Since December 1, 2015, we have received a total of 1,471 party affiliation changes and 1,315 new voter registrations. Voter outreach events have been very successful, with 138 voter registration applications received at events throughout the county, just this year.

In addition to serving the public, this month we are testing voting equipment, training election poll workers, mailing absentee ballots and finalizing preparations for early voting and the fast-approaching Election Day. I expect a great turnout for this election.

It's an honor to serve you.

Kaiti Lenhart

Flagler County Supervisor of Elections

BE ELECTION READY

Flagler County Citizen's Guide

We received nearly 600 pieces of mail during the first week, in response to the Citizen's Guide! Voters all over Flagler County have updated their address or party affiliation. Many citizens registered to vote for the first time! Thank you to everyone who returned the Florida Voter Registration Application or called the Elections Office to ask questions. It only takes a few minutes to prepare now and be election ready this year!

My goal in creating the Citizen's Guide was to have a single, printed resource that any voter could use for this entire Presidential election year.

Here's the best part: Federal grant funds paid for the production and mailing of the Citizen's Guide. Federal grant funds have not been applied for or received by the Elections Office since 2010.



VOTER FEEDBACK:

"Dear Ms. Lenhart, I have just finished reading the "Citizen's Guide to Registering and Voting" that I received earlier this week. I think that this brochure is perhaps the single best expenditure of tax dollars that I have seen in many years. Succinct, easy to read, and filled with valuable information, I believe that EVERY citizen of Flagler County would benefit from reading it if they will only take the time to do so. Again, I congratulate you and your office for a job well done."

Robert Norris, Palm Coast
Shared with permission.



2016 ELECTION DATES & DEADLINES

Presidential Preference Primary Election

Deadline to register to vote or change your party:

February 16

Early Voting:

March 5 - March 12

Election Day:

March 15

Primary Election

Deadline to register to vote or change your party:

August 1

Early Voting:

August 15 - August 27

Election Day:

August 30

General Election

Deadline to register to vote or change your party:

October 11

Early Voting:

October 24 - November 5

Election Day:

November 8

Polls are always open from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Vote By Mail ballots must be received by our office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Voter Registration Deadline

The voter registration books are now closed for the Presidential Preference Primary election to be held on March 15. Florida is a **Closed Primary State**, which means if you wish to vote in a partisan Primary Election, you must be a registered voter in the party for which the primary is being held. Voters affiliated with a minor political party or those with no party affiliation (a.k.a. "Independent" voters) only vote for nonpartisan offices and issues during a Primary Election. **Are you election ready?** If you need to change your party affiliation, the change must be made in writing, at least 29 days prior to Election Day. That deadline was February 16, 2016.

Vote By Mail Ballots Delivered

To date, we have mailed a total of 7,728 absentee ballots to voters who have requested to vote by mail. Mail was not delivered on President's Day, so the ballots are being delivered this week to absentee voters throughout the county.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Over the past several years, I have taken note of the most frequently asked questions which we receive in the Elections Office. This section of the newsletter will highlight one question and provide an answer to a question we hear often.

Q: I have been a registered voter in Florida for many years. Do I need to re-register to vote?

A: If you do not vote OR if you do not contact our office in four years, your voter registration may be removed due to inactivity. To keep your voter registration active:

- Always inform the Elections Office when you move or have a new mailing address within the county or state. Your address determines your precinct and district representation in government.
- Respond to any request for address confirmation from the Elections Office.

OFFICE HAPPENINGS

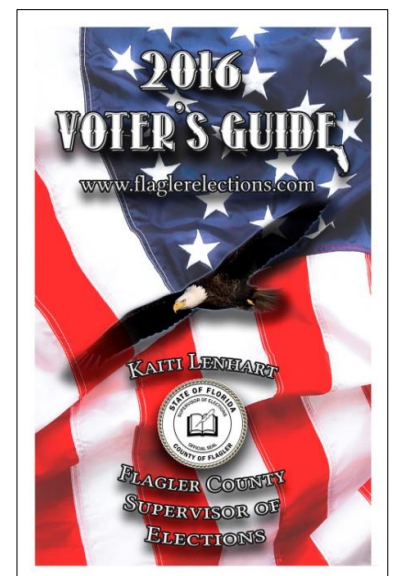
2016 Voter's Guide Cover Design Contest

The designs have been submitted! We received a total of 28 designs from both Flagler Palm Coast High School and Matanzas High School for this year's Voter's Guide Cover Design Contest. These high school graphic design students have gained experience working on a real-world design project and one of the designs was chosen by the Flagler County School Board at the workshop held on February 16, 2016.

And the winner is Travis Woods of Flagler Palm Coast High School

Congratulations Travis!

The 2016 Flagler County Voter's Guide is available for voters who visit the office and we always bring plenty to pass out during voter outreach at special events throughout the county. Travis will receive a \$50 gift card from Supervisor Lenhart and be recognized publically at the School Board meeting on March 1, 2016.



WINNING VOTER'S GUIDE COVER DESIGN BY TRAVIS WOODS, FLAGLER PALM COAST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.



2016 FSASE Scholarship

Please help spread the word by forwarding this newsletter on to friends or family who are attending college in Flagler County and pursuing a degree in Political Science, Public or Business Administration or Journalism and Mass Communication. These students are encouraged to apply for the FSASE Scholarship.

Each year, the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections will award three \$1,200 scholarships to Florida college students. Eligibility requirements are detailed in the scholarship information below. Completed applications must be submitted by March 14, 2016.

[2016 FSASE Scholarship Information & Application](#)

Please download the application and submit to the Elections Office by March 14, 2016 to be considered for the scholarship. For additional information, contact Kaiti Lenhart, Supervisor of Elections at (386) 313-4170.

VOTER OUTREACH

New Residents Voter Packet

We are fortunate to live in a diverse community of people who have moved to our beautiful county on the coast of Florida from places around the world. Flagler County was the fastest growing county for many years in Florida and our voter registration totals reflect that as of January 2016, we have grown into a mid-sized county with over 75,000 voters! To help our new residents understand the laws related to elections in Florida, Kaiti Lenhart has created a New Residents Voter Packet, filled with elections information to help educate citizens who have recently moved to Florida. This packet includes a current Voter's Guide, Election Dates and Deadlines, Vote By Mail Request Forms and information explaining the Closed Primary process in Florida. New residents in Flagler County are welcomed to visit the Elections Office and pick up a New Resident Voter Packet. Ask for your packet at the front counter when you register to vote.

Voter Registration Drives

One of the most important responsibilities of the Supervisor of Elections is to educate voters and encourage citizen participation in the electoral process. Supervisor Lenhart is taking the Elections Office out into the community with a targeted Voter Outreach Program. Elections staff members and volunteers will be on-site at these events to help citizens register to vote or update their voter registration.

February 24	Registration Drive at FCAR	9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
<p>This voter registration drive is open to all citizens of Flagler County and will be held at the Florida County Association of Realtors building on SR 100 in Bunnell. Come early to hear about the Latest Election News and What To Expect in 2016, a speaking event by Kaiti Lenhart. Elections staff will be at the event to help citizens register to vote or update their voter registration.</p> <p>More information about this event, contact Supervisor Lenhart: (386) 313-4170</p>		

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