



Mark S. Earley

Leon County Supervisor of Elections

Winter 2017: Feb-April 2017

Election News and Information for Florida's Capital County

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Mark Earley
Supervisor of Elections

Wow. The long and very successful 2016 election season is behind us.

The success of this past year is due in large part to the hard work and dedication of you, our Election Day and Early Voting poll workers. A sincere "Thank you!" is owed and offered to you all - from this office, from the voters you so ably serve, and from me.

Well done and thank you!

I also want to commend the leadership, support, and training of our poll workers, led by Diana Mitchell and Monique Duncan-Jones. The organization and planning needed to bring so many people together, motivate them, train them, and get them all working towards the same goal in the high pressure environment of the 2016 General Election is difficult to appreciate unless you have seen it first-hand.

As you all know, the New Year brings many new faces representing the citizens of Leon County – mine among them. But hopefully my face is not all that new to you, the finest poll workers in the state. As many of you know, I have been a part of the Leon County Elections team across four decades, and I look forward to many more years of service to our citizens.

I am proud to lead this office forward after the long and dedicated service of my friend and mentor, Ion Sancho. I take very seriously the responsibility entrusted to me, both in the support Ion offered me and the many votes of confidence marked next to my name in the secrecy of the privacy booth. And I thank

those of you who offered words or prayers of support this past year.

From outreach to technology, budgeting to logistics, and whether serving our voters across the front counter or in each and every polling place, the Leon County Elections team brings a commitment to excellence that is a model for the state and nation. That is a reputation I intend to protect and build upon.

Part of protecting and building that reputation is assuring open communication in an environment of mutual respect. My door is always open.

To that end, I am keeping our strong team intact. As a team, we re-dedicate ourselves to excellence in service, transparency, and results. And as always, we will be out in the community, listening intently to new ideas, working tirelessly in the service of our citizens, and continuing our tradition of innovation in elections for which we are renowned across the nation.

With high regard,



Mark Earley was sworn in as the new Supervisor of Elections Leon County on January 3rd by Jonathan Sjostrom, Chief Judge, 2nd Judicial Circuit. Stacey Shearer Rodriguez, Mark's fiancée, stood beside him during his ceremony.

LeonVotes.org

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Chris's Corner



Christopher Moore
Deputy Supervisor of Elections

2016 was not a normal election year. All election cycles have unique character, oddities and challenges. We saw an unprecedented number of candidates on the 2016 Primary ballot, largely due to the retirement of three

long-time Constitutional Officers. Even though we did not achieve the turnout we hoped for in August, the Primary was a very complex election. We found ourselves pressed to meet statutory deadlines and scrambling to retrieve signs and equipment before the Hurricane Hermine made landfall in the wee hours of Friday morning after the Primary. We were also required to conduct a recount on the Congressional District 2 (D) contest, much of which was done during power outages and strain on our staff due to the storm. Thankfully, we met our deadlines and retrieved all of our equipment ahead of the storm thanks to the dedication of an

amazing SOE team.

Of course the big event for 2016 was the General Election where voters cast over 155,000 ballots; a record for Leon County (75% turnout). Supporting poll workers was a priority for the SOE office in 2016. We learned from a series of post-election meetings after the 2016 PPP that our phone support on Election Day had not kept pace with the call volume. Hearing that, we expanded our phone bank three-fold. Phone support for the Primary and General Election was much improved talking to poll workers and examining call logs from election days.

Leading up to the General Election in 2016, many conspiracy theories were circulating regarding voting equipment, voter registration and computer hacking into sensitive databases. Our office is very confident in our ability to conduct secure, fair and accessible elections in Leon County. We accomplish that by having rigid security procedures for handling election equipment and ballots; using a state-of-the-art ballot audit system and a well trained team of election officials working with the voters. It actually gave me great pride to talk about our equipment and procedures when asked about "rigged" elections.

This year we will welcome in new Supervisor Mark Earley and wish well our retiring Supervisor Ion Sancho. There will be a "Thank You Ion" event (see insert on this page) that all are welcome to attend on February 23rd at The Moon. We also will be moving our downtown staff to the Voting Operations Center late in the summer of 2017 so we can all be under one roof for the first time. We are excited about the move and look forward to welcoming you there during the next election cycle in 2018.

The invitation card features the Leon County Supervisor of Elections logo at the top center. The main title "Thank You Ion" is prominently displayed in a large, bold, serif font. Below it, the text reads: "Celebrating 28 years of Ion V. Sancho's service as Supervisor of Elections in Leon County, FL". The event details are listed as follows: "Thursday, February 23, 2017" and "5:30-9:30 pm Appetizers & Cash Bar". A note states, "Tickets are \$20 each & must be purchased in advance." Below this, the website "tallahassee.moonevents.com/events/thank-you-ion" is provided. At the bottom, it says, "Performance by Laughing Stock, video tributes, music and more! Wear a hat, or bring a 7 1/8 size hat for Ion." The address "The Moon, 1105 E. Lafayette Street, Tallahassee FL 32301" is listed at the very bottom.



Gearing up for the 2017 Legislative Session

As the Legislature starts to gear up for the next session, new ideas and issues are discussed and data is gathered for new proposals.

There are several key issues that election offices around the state are interested in pursuing with our representatives. Here is just a short list of a few:

- Pursue statutory language to allow Florida to join other states in implementing ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center). ERIC helps states share information that improves the accuracy of America's voter rolls. For more information about ERIC visit the website at <http://www.ericstates.org/>
- Protecting pre-registered 16 and 17 year olds personal information in the voter registration files from public access.
- Felon rights and restoration. Expect to see

Taste of Spring



Mediterranean Lemon Chicken

Ingredients

1 lemon
2 tsp dried oregano
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tbsp of olive oil
1/4 tsp of salt
1/4 tsp of pepper
6 chicken legs

Directions

Preheat oven to 425.

In a 9x13 baking dish, grate the peel from 1/2 of the lemon, squeeze out the juice (about 1/4 cup).

Mix the grated peel with the oregano, garlic, oil, salt and pepper. Stir until mixed. Set aside.

Remove the skin from the chicken

pieces and discard. Coat the chicken pieces with the lemon mixture and arrange, bone-side up, in the baking dish.

Cover the dish and bake for 20 minutes. Turn and baste the chicken.

Reduce heat to 400 and bake uncovered, basting every 10 minutes, for about 30 more minutes.

Great served with roasted potatoes, and works well with any chicken parts.



some debate about this subject. Under the Florida Constitution, a convicted felon cannot vote, serve on a jury, or hold public office until their civil rights have been restored. Some members of the Florida Legislature, as well as local voting-rights groups, are pushing for a state constitutional amendment that would return the vote to convicted felons (except those found guilty of murder or sexual offenses) after they have completed their sentence, parole and probation.

- Having the 100% automated post-election auditing system that we use in Leon County approved for use as a tool for recounts. This system was born right here in Leon County and has been a valuable tool in auditing our elections and providing accuracy and transparency to the elections process.

SOE Staff Notes

Mark Earley is the new Supervisor of Elections for Leon County.

William Stewart has been promoted to Voting Systems Manager, replacing Mark Earley.

We welcome four new permanent staff members on board! **Cory Logan** and **Laurina Osborne** are new Election Records Specialists, **Scott McGirr** is our new Elections Systems Specialist and **Bill Calhoun** is our new Voting Systems Technician.

Karen Williams and **Stephen Usztok** are celebrating their 5th year with the SOE.

Renee Llewellyn is celebrating 25 years with the SOE.



Election Worker News and Updates

A national survey conducted by the Democracy Fund reflected that 85% of Americans had a pleasant experience voting in the November 2016 General Election. In the same report, almost half of voters responded they believed that the 2016 elections were “very fairly” determined, but expressed concern about the integrity of the U.S. election system.



Diana Mitchell
Elections Coordinator

“Despite rhetoric about potential widespread election rigging or hacking, local election officials successfully ensured that ballots were securely cast and accurately counted. Their efforts are clearly reflected in a positive voter experience and the fact that no significant improprieties have yet come to light in canvasses or audits.”

Adam Ambrogi, Elections Program Director
Democracy Fund

In a presentation provided by the Florida Department of State on December 5, 2016 during the FSASE (Florida State Association of Supervisor of Elections) conference, there were three interesting developments in Florida regarding the 2016 election cycle.

First, the number of voters that took advantage of voting at an early voting site increased overall and more voters chose to vote in early voting sites in November than by mail or at the precinct on Election Day. This was a trend that was also reflected in Leon County.

Secondly, voter turnout statewide was 74.48% with voters casting over 9 million ballots in November. This turnout is average for a presidential election in the State of Florida.

Lastly, based on the Conduct of Election reports submitted to the Division of Elections, for both the Primary and the General Elections, 63% of the statewide Election Day problems reported were caused by human error. Of that, 41% were procedural errors made by poll workers, 6% were wrong ballots provided to voters and 4% were disruptive voters. 32% of the events reported were mechanical in nature. The remaining 5% included media failures.

Each and every election worker should feel proud of the hard work they put into making the 2016 election year the success it was. In Leon County, we have, once again, administered an excellent election to the voters of our capital county.

Happy Birthday Election Team Members!

- **Happy Birthday to 224 February Celebrants!** Shauteryika Henderson turns 18 and Virginia Campbell a young 86!
- **Happy March Birthdays to 237 lovely people!** Sarah Fields turns 18 and Audrey Folsom 89 years young!
- **Happy Birthday to 184 April babies!** Riann White will be 18 and Henry Murphy will be 92!

LeonVotes.org



Thomas "TJ" James,
Elections Systems Manager

Technology Talk from TJ

Social Media Tech Tip

Be aware that some lenders take a look at social media to make loan decisions. During the underwriting process, lenders can make judgment calls based on your social media friends and activity.

In addition, you are also susceptible to ID theft with all of your personal information being on-line, so choose carefully what you post and consider protecting yourself with an identity protection service.

Voter Outreach:



Monique Duncan-Jones
Outreach Coordinator

The 2016 election year was full of community outreach and social media connections. Students from Godby and Chiles High Schools enthusiastically competed in a Voter Registration High School Challenge registering over 350 students to vote!

What else was new? We boosted our outreach presence all year through social media. We successfully used Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube to get the word out in an effort to keep voters connected. From Ion Sancho's Fact vs. Fiction and other PSA videos, to our office selfies and our first Facebook Live videos.



Lawton Chiles High School



GET REGISTERED.
Make your voice HEARD.



Looking ahead, the year 2017 will be focused on getting our voters ready for the 2018 election year in innovative, interactive and exciting ways. Our community calendar is always available at LeonVotes.org where you can see what events we are attending. Our Community Involvement Request Form is also available on-line to take requests for voter registration services and our participation in your next big event.

Follow us on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook or YouTube using our LeonVotes handle.



Amos P. Godby High School



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