

SUMMER 2020



LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS

A MESSAGE FROM TOMMY...

As your Supervisor of Elections, I represent every voter in Lee County, regardless of his or her party affiliation. My office's responsibility is paramount in ensuring we conduct elections as required by the laws of this state.

Voters in Florida have three options available when casting their vote: Vote-by-Mail, Early Voting, or Election Day. A great deal of misinformation is shared on many platforms about voting by mail. As a trusted source for election information, I would like to help clear that up by providing some background on voting by mail in Florida.

Our state has not required an excuse to request to vote by mail since 2002. The number of voters who choose to vote by mail increases with every election in Florida. Statistics show that it is the preferred way to vote in Lee County, with 51% of the votes cast by mail in the 2018 General Election.

To protect your vote, Florida has strict laws that provide checks and balances we must adhere to when processing Vote-by-Mail ballots.



**INSIDE
THE ISSUE**

**A MESSAGE
FROM TOMMY**

VOTE-BY-MAIL

**NEW HIRE
SPOTLIGHT**

**COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

**PRIMARY
ELECTION GUIDE**

CONTINUED...

Fraudulent activity is rare because of the rigorous procedures put in place to safeguard the integrity of the election.

The Vote-by-Mail process calls for transparency in statutory procedures that include numerous public meetings of the County Canvassing Board for the testing of voting machines and tabulating equipment, and preparation and review of ballots for tabulation, and the ensuing tabulation.

We are prepared to meet the challenges of conducting elections and the health risks associated with COVID-19 as the August 18, Primary Election approaches. CDC guidelines will be followed to ensure a safe environment for our staff, poll workers, and voters at all Early Voting sites and Election Day polling places.

Poll workers will be required to wear masks and use hand sanitizers. We will practice social distancing outside and inside of voting rooms, wipe down and sanitize stations between voters. Executing these safety precautions may result in increased wait times. We welcome your patience and understanding when voting in person, as we navigate the uncharted territory of conducting elections amid a pandemic.

Given these circumstances and required actions on our part, it is reasonable to anticipate that there may be lines when voting in-person. I encourage you to request your Vote-by-Mail ballot now. Voting by mail is not a requirement, but with the current health risks and the possibility of hurricanes, you will have a guaranteed way to cast your vote.

I urge you to be an informed voter and be proactive about voting. Attend a Canvassing Board meeting. Familiarize yourself with your ballot. If you choose to Early Vote or go to the polls on Election Day, mark your sample ballot ahead of time to take with you and use it as a guide when you vote.

Stay connected, visit our website, and follow us on social media. We are your trusted source for credible election-related information.

Lee Elections strives to conduct fair, accurate, transparent, and secure elections. Whether you Vote-by-Mail, during Early Voting, or on Election Day, we ensure every valid vote counts. Our mission is to provide superior election services to the voters of Lee County.

Tommy Doyle

REQUESTING A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT

A Vote-by-Mail ballot may be requested for a specific election, or for all elections through the next two general election cycles. A Vote-by-Mail ballot request for a voter may only be made by the voter, the voter's legal guardian, or an immediate family member.

PROCESSING AND VERIFICATION

Vote-by-Mail ballots are counted first in an election. In Florida, all Vote-by-Mail ballots are counted if properly completed and go through a signature verification process. This means making sure that the return envelope (Voter's Certificate) is signed and that the signature matches the signature in the Florida Voter Registration System.

- **The Election Reform Bill CS/SB 7066** signed by Governor DeSantis in 2019 requires formal signature matching training for Supervisors of Elections and County Canvassing Board members.
- If there is an issue related to a missing signature or a signature mismatch on the voter's Vote-by-Mail ballot, the voter has until 5:00 p.m. the 2nd day AFTER the election (or Thursday after the election) to cure the signature deficiency.

Florida law requires election supervisors to notify any voter whose signature is missing or does not match our database.

Verified Vote-by-Mail ballots are stored in our vault until the law states they may be opened and counted. Once ballots are removed from their envelopes, they are counted in our high-speed Optical Scan Tabulator (DS850).

Florida law requires election supervisors to conduct a public Logic and Accuracy test on all tabulating equipment BEFORE processing ballots to ensure the equipment is functioning and processing ballots accurately.

CHECKS AND BALANCES: CANVASSING BOARD

In Florida, an elections Canvassing Board (a county judge, county commissioner, and the Supervisor of Elections) is responsible for overseeing all public pretesting of a sample of the tabulation equipment used in an election, examining ballots or groups of ballots, determining voter intent when required by law, compiling election returns, conducting recounts when required by law, determining the official results of an election, certifying an election, and conducting post-election manual audits to check voting system performance.

In addition to the Canvassing Board, the Elections Office has procedures in place for accounting and reconciliation of Vote-by-Mail ballots. Our voter registration system keeps track of the number of Vote-by-Mail requests, Vote-by-Mail ballots mailed, and Vote-by-Mail ballots received and counted.

PHYSICAL SECURITY

Both our vault and tabulation room are under 24-hour video surveillance and require two-factor authentication for access.

Security cameras capture anyone who enters and exits all areas of our office. Only authorized personnel have access to our vault and tabulation room.

TRACKING A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT

Anyone who votes by mail can track their ballot online through our website, www.lee.vote. Tracking a ballot gives the voter the ability to see when their request was received and when their ballot was mailed, received, and counted.

If there is an issue such as a missing signature or signature mismatch on the Vote-by-Mail ballot, it will be indicated on the voter's website profile record. The website profile record will provide the voter with information on how to obtain the instructions and forms necessary to remedy the situation.

DID YOU KNOW?

"Immediate family" means:

- Child
- Parent
- Sibling
- Grandparent
- Spouse
- Spouse's parent
- Spouse's child
- Spouse's sibling
- Spouse's grandparent

It is illegal for any person to offer or accept any benefit in exchange for distributing, ordering, requesting, collecting, delivering, or otherwise physically possessing more than two vote-by-mail ballots per election, except as outlined in Florida Statute 104.0616.



For the first time, our office hosted a Vote-by-Mail Q&A on Facebook Live, with Supervisor of Elections, Tommy Doyle, and Director of Communications, Vicki Collins.

Our office opened this channel of communication to ensure voters gained a clear understanding of the process and security of Vote-by-Mail. Questions and concerns were addressed, and many common myths were debunked during this live session.

Watch the virtual Q&A by clicking the image above or following link: [Vote-by-Mail Question and Answer Facebook Live Video](#)

Life Cycle of a Vote-by-Mail Ballot



Voter requests a Vote-by-Mail ballot.



The Vote-by-Mail ballot is mailed approximately 35 days before an election.



The voted and signed Vote-by-Mail ballot is returned to our office.



As a security measure, the Vote-by-Mail ballot goes through a signature verification process.



The Vote-by-Mail ballot is stored in a secure and supervised location until the tabulation of ballots begins.



The Vote-by-Mail ballot is counted.

A voter may track and view the status of their Vote-by-Mail ballot at www.lee.vote

VOTE-BY-MAIL



Your health and safety are important to us. We encourage you to Vote-by-Mail in the August 18, Primary Election and November 3, General Election!

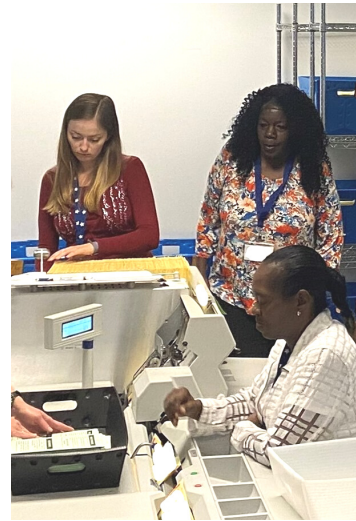
VOTING BY MAIL IS SAFE, SECURE, AND CONVENIENT

SAVE TIME AND TAKE YOUR TIME. VOTE AT HOME!

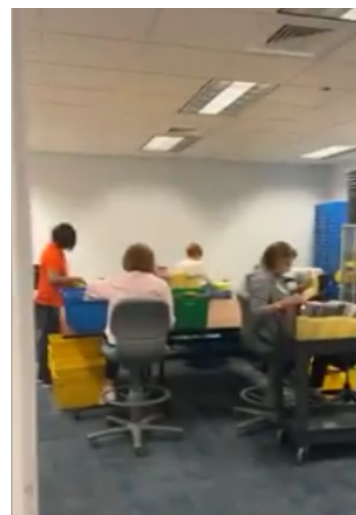
THE RETURN POSTAGE IS PAID!

To request your Vote-by-Mail ballot

→ **CLICK HERE** ←



Election Support Staff during the Presidential Preference Primary Election in March.



Election Support Staff help process the Vote-by-Mail ballots during elections.

Many of them work multiple election cycles and fill several essential roles.

Work completed by staff includes ballot sorting, ballot extraction, ballot layout, quality control, and duplication.

NEW HIRE SPOTLIGHT!

The county's population continues to increase and so does the number of registered voters. As we inch closer to half a million constituents, we need more staff to ensure we continue to provide superior election services to the voters of Lee County.

To that end, there are several people who have served as temporary election support that now join us as full-time employees. Lee Elections is proud to introduce the newest members of our team.



Before joining our team, Voter Registration Coordinator, Amanda Melendez, worked at retirement homes in various positions and as a hairstylist at a salon. Amanda is not a Florida native. She was born and raised in Salem, (the witch city, boo!) Massachusetts, and spent a brief time in Puerto Rico before moving to Florida as a teenager.

She loves the holidays, especially decorating for them! Amanda enjoys dabbling in the art forms of doodling, graphic design, and video editing. She finds them relaxing when it is for herself but stressful when asked to do it for others.

Amanda has a sweet fun ball of a furry dog named Tico. She tries to dress Tico and herself in matching Halloween costumes every year!



Kurtis Nelson is married with two children, a daughter, Noella, 5, and son, Kaiden, 3. He was born and raised in Lee County, Florida, and has lived here his entire life. He is the youngest of three siblings, with two older sisters.

He worked as a line cook at First Watch and at Harbor Freight Tools as a logistics team member before joining our team as a Vote-by-Mail Coordinator. Kurtis' son, Kaiden, was born in 2016 while Kurtis was serving as temporary election support preparing ballots for tabulation on the General Election's Vote by Mail Board.

Gaming is one of Kurtis' favorite pastimes and he is an avid sports spectator who actively follows the sports he competed in High School. He also enjoys learning about and caring for freshwater fish aquariums.



Gaby Aguirre joined our office as a Communications Specialist. She describes the elections environment as ever-changing, and finds working here to be a unique and rewarding experience.

The Washington DC area is where Gaby grew up but she is happy to call Lee County her home. She moved here over ten years ago and welcomes the change of pace that SWFL has to offer.

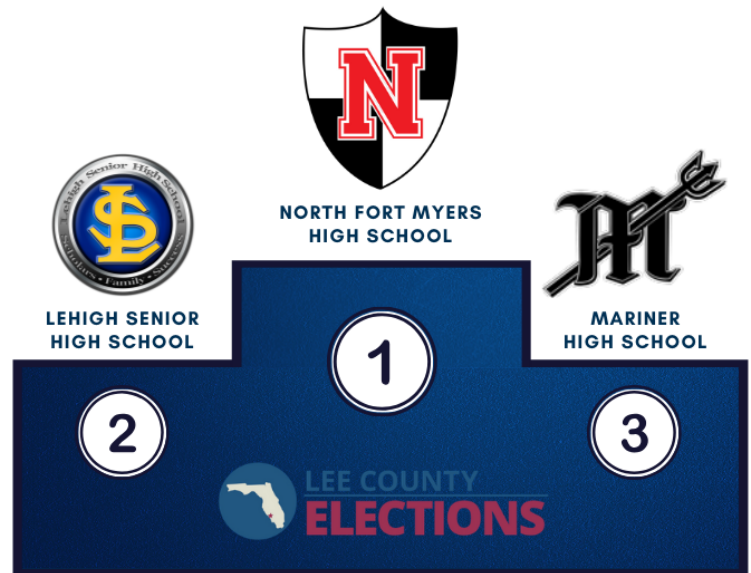
Gaby describes traveling and exploring different cultures as a great passion of hers. She enjoys sharing her knowledge and experience with others and hopes to write about her adventures in the near future. Gaby also enjoys learning different styles of dance and playing guitar in her free time.

2019-2020 HIGH SCHOOL VOTER REGISTRATION CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the winners of the 2019-2020 High School Voter Registration Drive Challenge!

Lee Elections invited county high schools to compete among themselves in this challenge.

The objective was to register the highest percentage of eligible students to vote and educate them about the elections process.



2019-2020 ARTS VOTE CONTEST

Join us in congratulating the winners of our 2019-2020 Arts Vote Contest!

This year's theme highlighted the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote.

Supervisor of Elections, Tommy Doyle, and his panel of judges had the task of selecting the winning pieces from a total of twelve entries; eleven from Cypress Lake High School and one from North Fort Myers High School.



Winner for Best Artwork:
Chloe McCrumb (Cypress Lake HS)



Winner for Most Original Artwork:
Genesis Quiros (Cypress Lake HS)

Join our team as a Poll Worker for the 2020 Elections!

Primary Election - August 18, 2020
General Election - November 3, 2020



REQUIREMENTS

- Be a registered voter in Lee County
- Read, write, and speak English
- Have an email address
- Be able to lift 15-30 lbs
- Be able to sit or stand for extended periods
- Complete online and in-person training
- Have dependable transportation
- Be courteous, patient, and efficient
- Be nonpartisan on Election Day
- Be able to work a minimum of 14 hours
- Abide by a no smoking policy at the polls

All Poll Workers
positions are paid
positions on
Election Day!

For more information
or to submit a
Poll Worker
Interest Application
visit lee.vote.



TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020

Primary Election

- Federal, State, County
- City of Cape Coral
- City of Fort Myers

Special Election

- Fort Myers Shores Fire Referendum
- Lehigh Acres Fire Referendum

DEADLINES

- **MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020**
Deadline to Register to Vote or Change Party Affiliation.
- **SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2020, BY 5:00 PM**
Deadline to Request your Vote-by-Mail Ballot.

FLORIDA IS A CLOSED PRIMARY STATE

In a Primary Election, voters not registered with a major political party may not have any candidates to vote for, and may only be able to vote on non-partisan candidates or issues that may appear on their ballot.

Voters who wish to register to vote or change party affiliation, visit www.lee.vote or call (239) 533-8683.

EARLY VOTING

DATES/TIMES/LOCATIONS

PRIMARY ELECTION

WHEN: 08/08/20 - 08/15/20

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM DAILY

Bonita Springs Elections Office

25987 S. Tamiami Trl., #105
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Cape Coral Elections Office

1039 SE 9th Ave.
Cape Coral, FL 33990

Cape Coral - Lee County Library

921 SW 39th Ter.
Cape Coral, FL 33914

East County Regional Library

881 Gunnery Rd. N
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Estero Recreation Center

9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd.
Estero, FL 33928

Lee County Elections Center

13180 S. Cleveland Ave.
Fort Myers, FL 33907

North Fort Myers Recreation Center

2000 N. Recreation Park Way
North Fort Myers, FL 33903

Northwest Regional Library

519 Chiquita Blvd. N
Cape Coral, FL 33993

Dr. Carrie D. Robinson Center

2990 Edison Ave.
Fort Myers, FL 33916

Veterans Park Recreation Center

55 Homestead Rd. S.
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936

BE ELECTION READY 2020

We want you to be informed, prepared, and election ready!
Below is the **Election Ready Checklist** to get you started.



**REGISTER
TO VOTE**

VOTER REGISTRATION
IS UP-TO-DATE WITH:



NAME



ADDRESS



SIGNATURE



PARTY AFFILIATION



**VOTE-BY-MAIL
BALLOT REQUEST**

I HAVE THE
FOLLOWING INFORMATION:



MY PRECINCT NUMBER



MY POLLING LOCATION



MY SAMPLE BALLOT

**MAIN OFFICE
MELVIN MORGAN
CONSTITUTIONAL COMPLEX**
2480 THOMPSON ST, 3RD FLOOR,
FORT MYERS, FL 33901

**BONITA SPRINGS BRANCH OFFICE
AT BONITA COMMONS**
25987 S TAMIAMI TRAIL, #105
BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34134

**LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS CENTER
SOUTH FORT MYERS
BRANCH OFFICE**
13180 S CLEVELAND AVE,
FORT MYERS, FL 33907

**CAPE CORAL BRANCH OFFICE
LEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER**
1039 SE 9TH AVE
CAPE CORAL, FL 33990

LEE.VOTE

(239) 533-8683



LeeCountyElections



Lee_Elections



Lee_Elections