

SUMMER 2021



LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS

A MESSAGE FROM TOMMY...

Have you ever wondered what happens after elections are over? I am often asked what my office does during a non-election year. Election administration requires critical oversight. We continually prepare and train for a frequently changing, expanding, and evolving environment.

Comprehensive Budget Planning

The Lee County Supervisor of Elections Office consists of four branch offices, a warehouse, and 45 full-time employees. Each year, our office must prepare a budget for the fiscal year that begins October 1 and ends September 30. My staff and I begin the budget development process early in the year and conduct a detailed review of each office and department's administrative and operational needs. By mid-May, we submit an organizational comprehensive budget plan to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), which will undergo multiple reviews and public hearings before approval by the BOCC.

During election years, the budget increases due to extra costs in conducting elections that necessitate additional expenditures.

These costs can include hiring essential poll workers, temporary election support staff, printing, and postage for mailings, newspaper publishing of legal advertising, operating early voting sites and polling locations, enhanced cyber and physical security.



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The added expenses associated with managing elections play a critical role in election administration and operations and ensure that we can provide voters safe, secure, and transparent elections.

Voter Registration List Maintenance

In non-election years, every Florida Supervisor of Elections must conduct, in their county, a uniform, non-discriminatory biennial (every two years) list maintenance program. Performing list maintenance protects the integrity of the electoral process by ensuring the maintenance of accurate and current voter registration records in the statewide voter registration system.

Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)

The Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) is another list maintenance tool used to enhance the integrity of our voter rolls. ERIC member states share voter information across state lines to help identify dual registrations and deaths outside Florida. Currently, 31 member-states participate in ERIC.

Florida Certified Election Professionals (FCEP)

In this non-election year, we resumed our investment in election education training for staff in the Florida Certified Election Professionals Program (FCEP). I am proud to have eight members of my team graduate from the program! They are the first staff in the office to add Master Certified Election Professional (MFCEP) designation to their name.

New Legislation and Lawsuits

Election reform is a current topic in the news. During Florida's 2021 legislative session, every Supervisor of Elections adamantly opposed many portions of the first version of Senate Bill 90. Fortunately, the passage of the bill's final version dropped parts of the legislation that would be the most disenfranchising for voters.

Upon passage of Senate Bill 90, several organizations filed lawsuits against all 67 Florida Supervisors of Elections. The plaintiffs argued that the new legislation is designed to suppress many people's ability to vote. As the lawsuits mount, we are often required to produce a significant volume of documents and respond to numerous questions concerning information requested in connection with the cases.

As we quickly approach the 2022 election cycle, my staff and I have an ongoing commitment to administering elections in Lee County. It is paramount to maintain the integrity of our elections in a safe, secure, transparent, and accurate manner while working toward civic engagement and increasing voter participation.

Tommy Doyle

Voter Registration Department

List Maintenance

Florida's Election laws require all 67 Supervisors of Elections conduct biennial list maintenance of the voter rolls.

Supervisors may use a statutorily authorized method to conduct the program. We initiate the process by utilizing the United States Postal Service National Change of Address Program (USPS NCOA) and contracting with a USPS licensee to receive change-of-address information that identifies registered voters whose address might have changed.

The USPS NCOA Program isolates Lee County voters who have moved within the county, to another Florida county, or out of the state. In this non-election year, trained staff diligently processed over 50,000 entries on the list. Staff members review each entry on the list and the corresponding voter record to ensure that the affected voter is mailed the appropriate notice concerning the information provided by the USPS NCOA Program and allow the voter to respond accordingly.

The process generates a tremendous amount of mail. Depending on the information provided through the USPS NCOA Program, the voter will receive one of the following notices: an Address Change Notice, an Address Confirmation Request, or an Address Confirmation Final Notice. If you receive one of these notices from our office, you may use the online Notice Reply form to respond.

When a notice comes back as undeliverable, the voter will be sent an Address Confirmation Final Notice. If a response is not received in 30 days, the voter will be marked as "inactive" in the statewide voter registration system. A voter on the inactive list may be restored to the active list upon updating their registration, requesting a vote-by-mail ballot, or appearing to vote. Under section 98.065(4), Florida Statutes, if the voter does not do any of the aforementioned by the second general election (two years), they will be removed from the statewide voter registration system and must re-register to vote.

Electronic Registration Information Center

Florida is a member of the multi-state voter registration organization Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) to enhance election security, ensure clean and accurate voter rolls and help to foster public confidence in elections.

ERIC is a non-profit organization with the sole mission of assisting states to improve the accuracy of America's voter rolls and increase access to voter registration for all eligible citizens. ERIC is governed and managed by states who choose to join and was formed in 2012 with assistance from the Pew Charitable Trusts.



[Click here to watch a video on ERIC](#)

Poll Worker Department

We are proud of our Poll Worker Department's professional management of the training, staffing, and recruiting of over 2,500 poll workers to staff Early Voting sites and precincts on Election Day. They are always busy updating poll worker information records, communicating with existing poll workers, and recruiting new poll workers.

To help with the department's goal of increasing communication with all poll workers and providing an in-depth understanding of the process at the polls, they are creating poll worker position-specific training videos. It will enable poll workers to review their responsibilities online in addition to attending a hands-on training class.

The next county-wide and state-wide election is in August of 2022. At the beginning of 2022, the Poll Worker

Department will mail availability letters to all existing poll workers.

When the Department receives the responses, poll workers will be assigned depending upon the number of open positions for the August 2022 election. Availability does not guarantee a place in a precinct.

The safety of our poll workers and staff is always our number one priority. The past year was challenging dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic. We will continue to practice safety precautions at the polls by following up-to-date CDC guidelines.

All are welcome to join the poll worker team! For those interested in serving their community as a poll worker, please refer to the Poll Worker Information tab on our website, www.lee.vote.



FSE Summer Conference



The Florida Supervisors of Elections (FSE) is a professional membership organization representing the Supervisors of Elections of Florida's 67 counties. The goal of FSE is to support fair, honest, and accurate elections in the state of Florida.

FSE meets at least twice a year, once for an Annual Summer Conference/Convention and once for a Mid-Winter Conference. Attendees include Florida Supervisors of Elections and their staff, state officials, and Division of Elections staff.



Nina Mendes, a Journalism major from FGCU, was one of the four winners of the 2021 FSE Scholarship! She was awarded at the FSE Summer Conference in Tampa on June 16. Nina was the only applicant from Lee County and received the highest score from the Scholarship Committee for her academic achievements and civic engagement!

Nina currently works at Valerie's House, a Southwest Florida-based nonprofit dedicated to helping children grieve the loss of a parent or sibling.



Supervisor Doyle and elections staff attended the FSE Summer Conference in Tampa. Several of our team members recently completed elections training sponsored by the FSE and were awarded the Master Florida Certified Election Professional (MFCEP) designation.

We're proud of our team for their commitment to providing superior election services to the voters of Lee County through continued election education!

Congratulations to our FCEP graduates: Vicki Collins, Tawanna Dillon, Faith Enes, Cheryl Futch, Joanie Howe, Tammy Lipa, Lisa Ruiz, and Sharon Smith.



Did you know that the Florida Certified Election Professionals (FCEP) program is a nationally-awarded program that provides additional election education to Florida election officials, their staff, and vendors? The program covers various topics, including voter registration, media relations, and election security.

The FCEP mission is to provide and support continuing education and certification programs that encourage the highest level of professionalism.

Stay Connected

Social Media is one of the most popular forms of news consumption in today's world. Lee Elections uses Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to keep our public informed about the many things happening in Lee County and Florida elections.

We provide information on election dates, voter registration deadlines, early voting dates, times, and locations, outreach events, current affairs, how to be election-ready, and fun facts about elections.

Lee Elections has two Facebook accounts, Tommy Doyle's official Facebook as Supervisor of Elections and the Lee County Supervisor of Elections page. Our Lee County Supervisor of Elections Facebook page continues to be our most popular platform, with just over 2,600 followers.

Our goals are to impart valuable information to our constituents through our social media platforms, foster engagement with our online community, and encourage voter participation.

We encourage you to follow us and stay connected with Lee Elections!



Lee County Elections



Lee_Elections



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