

# The Patriot

POLL WORKERS OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

SPRING 2013



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## **PATRIOT SUPPORT TEAM:**

Supervisor of Elections  
Paul Lux

Poll Worker Coordinator  
Jane Linihan

Election Services Manager  
Karen Nennig

Voter Education/PR Coordinator  
Bridget Richard

Elections Warehouse Foreman  
Alan Freiberg

Voting Machine Technician  
Dustin Ball

Voting Machine Technician  
Matt Cunningham

Patriot Poll Workers,

Let me begin by thanking each and every one of you for your dedication and commitment to making the 2012 elections a huge success. I certainly can't do this job without your support, and that of my staff; whom I would also like to recognize for their outstanding efforts to make everything run so efficiently and smoothly.

Despite the fact that we fell just .3% short of the record we set back in 2008 (fewer than 800 voters difference), 2012 was a year that required a great deal of preparation and planning, and you delivered! It was also yet another year of (in many cases) unwarranted scrutiny of Florida's processes. Many ideas of how to "fix" Florida's election "problems" are already on the drafting table, so stay tuned for more changes this year before elections in 2014.

As always, though the November election is long-over, we are already geared up for the March Municipal Elections coming up in Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, and Laurel Hill. If you haven't been asked to work, please enjoy the time off. There will be opportunities for extra training later this year as we continue to work on making our finely-honed processes even better!

As I already mentioned, we are keeping a close eye on Tallahassee as well as Washington DC for any developing legislation that may impact our elections here. Many of the bills already filed center around reversing some of the more objectionable changes passed back in 2011. Many proposals—even from the Governor and the Secretary of State—have requested that the Legislature restrict further amendments to 75 words, and both the Florida House and Senate seem agreeable to it; so that is good news!

If I think we need your direct support, I will ask Karen and Jane to send out a "call to action" to either support or oppose any pending legislation. Also, if you read or hear something about a "new law" that concerns you, please don't hesitate to contact me!

In addition to keeping busy here in the office, I am honored to be invited to participate in a "Future of Voting Systems" symposium at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) being sponsored by the federal Election Assistance Commission (EAC). As our voting system ages and new technologies are adopted, I hope to keep us in the conversation as well as on the cutting edge. I know that whatever changes are made, I can count on you to rise to the occasion!



# Jane's Corner

Greetings! The presidential election year is the hardest to work – both mentally and physically. Our poll workers came through it all with flying colors as usual, but I know you are all glad we have four years to rest up before the next one! Here are the numbers for how Okaloosa County voters took advantage of the numerous ways provided for them to vote:

Total Turnout 95,252	Absentee Voters	21,805	22.9% of Turnout
	Early Voters	32,847	34.5% of Turnout
	Election Day Precinct Voters	40,600	42.6% of Turnout

Thank goodness for early voting – just imagine if all these people had come to the precincts to vote on election day!

Successful elections don't happen without a lot of hard work by our poll workers. In addition to classes and time spent studying, a lot of volunteer hours are spent at "work parties" getting materials ready. I want to especially thank those volunteers who gave their time to help the voters at the nursing homes and assisted living facilities. You are a great asset to our county.

We have only one scheduled election in March with the possibility of an election in Destin in May. On March 12, we have Municipal Elections for the Cities of Crestview, Fort Walton Beach, and Laurel Hill. These elections will require fewer poll workers - so if you are needed, you have already been contacted. The classes are different for Municipals, and this time we have added a potluck lunch.

I know we say this over and over, but you are truly the best poll workers anywhere. Thanks so much for your loyalty and perseverance in trying to do the best job possible and make our voters happy they vote in Okaloosa County.

*Jane*



Volunteers tab all the PR/PL's.



Work party volunteers having lunch at The Glass Slipper Tea Cottage in Fort Walton Beach

## Bailiff Classes

Our hugely successful classes specifically for Bailiffs were held last September with Sheriff Larry Ashley as our guest speaker. Following each class, a delicious lunch was hosted by our Trainers and devoured by our Bailiffs.



*North County Class*



*South County Class*



Clerks and Assistant Clerks getting trained on the laptop



Accu-Vote training for Inspectors

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**Okaloosa County**  
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**Crestview, FL 32536**



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[GoVote-Okaloosa.com](http://GoVote-Okaloosa.com).*

## **WANTED**

### **Patriot Poll Workers**

We need your help recruiting new Patriot Poll Workers! If you know someone perfect for the job, give them an application. Applications can also be found online at [GoVote-Okaloosa.com](http://GoVote-Okaloosa.com) or in the back of your training manual.

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