



VOICE OF THE EAGLE

Clay County
Supervisor of Elections
Spring 2016 Edition



First, I want to congratulate the hundreds of Election Workers, Staff, and the countless Volunteers that worked tirelessly in performing a professionally conducted election in Clay County. Elections always bring their own challenges and I believe this election highlighted the importance of verifying your voter information prior to book closing, as well as, the need to understand what the effects of a Closed Primary State are with respect to party affiliation.

Reflecting over the last Presidential Preference Primary (PPP), I am reminded of the value of past trends as an indicator of the future and that was certainly the case in this election. Ever since day one, I have been interested in voter turnout and have spent countless hours trying to forecast election turnout, sometimes I'm close; other times not so much. PPP turnouts on average are 36% with the highest turnout set in 1988 at 50%. This year we tied the third highest turnout at 45% but more importantly when we look at the total numbers we begin to see some positive trends. For example, looking specifically at the percentage of the total vote that comes from early voting we saw an increase from an average turnout of 13% to 17% since the inception of early voting. Early voting is not the only growth area, as we are seeing an increase in vote by mail as well. Again, looking at the total vote that comes from vote by mail showed an upward trend from an average turnout of 8% to 9%. What is the data telling us? Turnout, like the economy, is growing at a slow but steady pace. Looking at the data, it appears that this growth in turnout should continue for the remaining elections this year and will surely result in a great election season; who knows maybe I will improve my election forecast averages. I look forward to seeing each of you soon, as we begin to prepare for another record breaking election.

Chris

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- Memorial Day RiverFest
- American Pride 4th of July
- Primary Election Worker Training
- Primary Early Vote
- Primary Election

Visit www.ClayElections.com for calendar details.

Update Your Voter Record

- ★ If you moved within the state of Florida, you may change your address by signed written notice, phone call or e-mail. You must provide your date of birth. With Clay County's use of electronic poll books, registered Florida voters may perform an in-state address change on Election Day.
- ★ If you move from another state into Florida, you must complete and sign a Voter Registration Application Form.
- ★ If you want to change your name or party affiliation, provide your date of birth or voter registration number along with signed written notice.
- ★ If you require a signature update, you must complete a Voter Registration Application Form. It is important to keep your signature up to date. Signatures can change with age or physical illness.

Election Workers

A big THANK YOU for all your hard work during the Presidential Preference Primary Election. You all did a great job! You should expect an email in May regarding your availability for the upcoming election season. Since there are only ten weeks between the Primary and General Elections, the letter will include your availability for both. If you are selected to work the Primary Election, you will receive an email in June with your assignment and a link to sign up for a training class. Training classes will begin on July 18th.
#BeElectionReady

Happy Birthday to our Election Workers with celebrations in May, June, July & August.

Clay County Election Workers are highly trained individuals, who serve our communities with great pride. If you know of anyone who you feel would be a great Election Worker, please ask them to contact the SOE Office or visit our website, ClayElections.com for Election Worker Information.

Outreach

Expect to see our Outreach Team at the following events:

- 28th Annual Memorial Day RiverFest in Green Cove Springs on Monday, May 30, 2016 from 10AM - 7PM
- Moosehaven American Pride 4th of July on Monday, July 4, 2016 from 2 - 8PM

Stop by our booth to say hello and utilize the following services:

Register to vote
Pick up literature
Update Name

Preregister to vote (age 16 & 17)
Voter Record/Status Printout
Vote By Mail Request
Question & Answers

Update Party Affiliation
Update Address
Update Signature

If you are interested in joining the Outreach Team, let us know by sending an email to Mail@ClayElections.com.

Primary Dates & Deadlines

Registration	Monday, August 1, 2016 is the last day to register to vote or change your party affiliation.
Vote By Mail	Wednesday, August 24, 2016 is the last day to request that a ballot be mailed from our office.
Early Voting	Thursday, August 18 th - Saturday, August 27 th from 8:00AM - 6:00PM at our six locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Clay County Supervisor of Elections Office◆ Keystone Heights Tax Collector's Office◆ Eagle Landing Residents Club◆ Fleming Island Library◆ Middleburg Civic Center◆ Orange Park Library
Election Day	The Primary Election is August 30, 2016 from 7:00AM - 7:00PM at all polling locations. Voters must vote in the precinct of their legal residence.
Mail Ballot	All mail ballots must be received in our office by 7:00PM on Tuesday, August 30, 2016.

Vote By Mail

Do you want to:

- ◆ avoid scheduling time to go vote?
- ◆ avoid styling your hair or shaving?
- ◆ avoid getting out of your pajamas?
- ◆ avoid Election Day lines?
- ◆ avoid Early Voting lines?
- ◆ avoid traveling/driving?



**Do you want to vote
without ever leaving your home?**

Then, **VOTE BY MAIL** is for YOU!

To request a mail ballot:

- ◆ Visit ClayElections.com
- ◆ Email VBMrequests@ClayElections.com
- ◆ Call (904) 269-6350
- ◆ In person 500 N. Orange Ave
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

Visit ClayElections.com to check your ballot status.

Changes to the postal standards for delivery of first class mail: **is now 3-5 days for local mail delivery.** We recommend mailing your ballot no later than Thursday so it reaches the Elections Office by 7:00PM Election Day, August 30th. If your ballot arrives late, it will not be counted.

Voting in our Schools



The Outreach Team has completed 15 Elections at our Clay County Schools for the Sunshine State Young Reader Awards. Students were encouraged to read as many books as possible and must read a minimum of three books in order to vote. In total, 1090 students participated in the voting process. Currently, we have four ballot styles:

SSYRA JR for Kindergarten through 2nd grade

Florida Teen Read (FTR) for 9th through 12th grade

SSYRA for 3rd through 5th grade

SSYRA for 6th through 8th grade

Congratulations to Argyle Elementary, our first place school, for having a total of 275 voters.

Oakleaf Junior High came in second with a total of 143 voters.

To view photos of the SSYRA events, visit ClayElections.com.

ALL ABOUT THE BALLOT

WHAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT ON THE PRIMARY BALLOT IN AUGUST

Now that the Presidential Preference Primary is over, many voters are asking what's on the ballot for the Primary Election on August 30, 2016. Remember, the purpose of a Primary Election is for members of political parties to select their candidates for the general election.

The Primary ballot will include the following races:

- ⇒ United States Senator
- ⇒ United States Congressional District 3*
- ⇒ State Attorney Circuit 4
- ⇒ Public Defender Circuit 4
- ⇒ State Senator District 5
(*candidate for this race is currently unopposed*)
- ⇒ State Representative District 18 *
- ⇒ State Representative District 19
- ⇒ District Court of Appeal District 1
- ⇒ Circuit Judges
- ⇒ Constitutional Amendment
- ⇒ Clerk of Court
- ⇒ Property Appraiser
- ⇒ Sheriff
- ⇒ Supervisor of Elections
- ⇒ Tax Collector
- ⇒ Superintendent of Schools
- ⇒ County Commission Districts 1, 3 and 5
- ⇒ School Board Districts 2 and 4
- ⇒ County Judge, Group 1
- ⇒ Multiple Community Development District seats

*** If all candidates in a partisan race are of different parties, the contest will be on the General Election ballot.**

Most county offices are partisan races and Florida's 'closed primary' laws will apply to them. Voters who are not registered with a party, or who are registered with a minor party, will have a voice in deciding the non-partisan offices on the ballot such as school board and judicial seats. If no candidate in a non-partisan race gets over 50% in the Primary Election, the top two candidates must face off in the General Election.

If all candidates have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the General Election, all qualified voters, regardless of party affiliation, may vote in the Primary Election for that office. This is known as a Universal Primary Contest.

We will know exactly which races will be on the ballot after the Candidate Qualifying period ends. Qualifying for the judicial offices closes at noon on May 6, 2016. For all other offices, the deadline is noon on June 24, 2016. New candidates may file to run for office any time prior to the deadline.

