

# FLAGLER COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



January - March 2014  
Volume 5, Issue 1

## Preparing For The 2014 Elections

We are gearing up for the election season! Flagler County voters will soon be deciding their representatives in federal, state, local and city offices during the 2014 Primary and General elections. There will also be two constitutional amendments on the General election ballot. *Read more on page 3.*

### Offices Up For Election in Flagler County

- ★ U.S. Representative, District 6
- ★ Governor & Lt. Governor
- ★ Attorney General
- ★ Commissioner of Agriculture
- ★ Chief Financial Officer
- ★ Florida Senate, District 6
- ★ Florida House, District 24
- ★ Circuit Court Judges, Group #s: 1, 7, 6, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26
- ★ Fifth District Court of Appeal: Retention of seven judges
- ★ Board of County Commissioners, Districts 2 & 4
- ★ School Board, Districts 1, 2 & 4
- ★ Soil & Water Conservation District, Seats 1-5
- ★ Dunes CDD, Seats 1, 5
- ★ Grand Haven CDD, Seats 1, 3, 5
- ★ Tomoka CDD, Seats 3, 4, 5

## City of Bunnell Election

Voters in the City of Bunnell decided two City Commission seats and seven charter amendments. Incumbent, John R. Rogers was re-elected to his second term as City Commissioner and newcomer Bonita Robinson was elected to her first term. All seven charter amendments passed and the city charter will be updated accordingly.



### City of Bunnell Election Results

BUNNELL CITY COMMISSIONER (Vote For Two)	TOTAL VOTES	PERCENTAGE
John R. Rogers	131	27.07%
Bonita Robinson	125	25.83%
Randall S. Morris	117	24.17%
Daisy M. Henry	111	22.93%

#### 2014 Turnout

Registered Voters: 1434  
Cards Cast: 281  
Turnout Percentage: 19.60%

#### Historical Turnout

2014 → 19.60%  
2013 → 15.42%  
2011 → 18.40%  
2009 → 03.87%  
2007 → 15.26%  
2006 → 16.70%  
2004 → 30.73%  
2003 → 22.13%  
2002 → 25.48%

★ VIEW ELECTION RESULTS ONLINE ★

# 2014

### ELECTION SCHEDULE

- MAR 4** **March 4, 2014**  
City of Bunnell Election
- AUG 26** **August 26, 2014**  
Countywide  
Primary Election
- NOV 4** **November 4, 2014**  
Countywide  
General Election



## Vote By Mail

*It's Convenient & Easy!*

Call 313-4170 or place your request online:

[www.FlaglerElections.com](http://www.FlaglerElections.com)



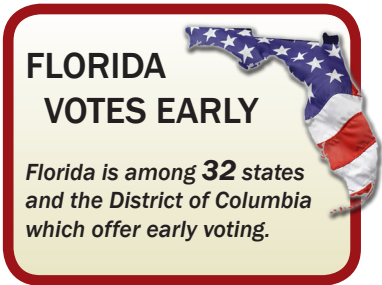
### Flagler County VOTER REGISTRATION STATISTICS AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2014

Republican: 25,537  
Democratic: 23,848  
No Party: 18,281  
Minor Party: 1,946

**Total: 69,612**

# Early Voting in Flagler County

During the 2012 General Election, 28.4% of voters in Florida cast their ballots during early voting. In Flagler County, 38.5% of voters took advantage of early voting. As early voting in Florida celebrates it's 10th anniversary this year, we have witnessed early voting becoming a popular option for voters across the state. Florida is among thirty-two states and the District of Columbia which offer early voting as a convenient way to cast a ballot before Election Day.



Last year, Supervisor Weeks worked with the City of Palm Coast to secure an additional early voting site in Flagler County, the Palm Coast Community Center. Voters may now choose from three early voting sites during the 2014 election cycle. Any registered and eligible voter in Flagler County may vote early at any one of the early voting sites prior to Election Day.

Primary Election Early Voting Period:  
**August 11 - August 23, 2014**  
 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. EACH DAY



General Election Early Voting Period:  
**October 20 - November 1, 2014**  
 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. EACH DAY

## EARLY VOTING SITES DURING 2014 ELECTIONS IN FLAGLER COUNTY

		
<b>FLAGLER COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY</b>	<b>PALM COAST COMMUNITY CENTER</b>	<b>SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE</b>
2500 Palm Coast Parkway NW Palm Coast, FL 32137	305 Palm Coast Parkway NE Palm Coast, FL 32137	1769 E. Moody Blvd. Bldg. 2, Ste. 101 Bunnell, FL 32110

## Election Day Forecast: Quick Voter Check-In

Voters can expect a faster check-in on Election Day as more Flagler County precincts will be using EVID (Electronic Voting Identification Systems) machines than ever before during the Primary and General elections in 2014. The EVID machines are used in many counties throughout Florida. These machines are electronic versions of the printed, paper poll register. EVIDs will streamline voter verification and check-in. They are efficient because they communicate with the county's voter registration system and other EVIDs at other precincts, continuously receiving voter activity. This prevents double voting and provides up-to-date status of the voter. Our goal is to use EVIDs at all polling locations for quick voter check-in during all future elections.

Voters can help make sure the line moves quickly by having proper identification ready.

- ★ Florida driver's license
- ★ Florida identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
- ★ United States Passport
- ★ Employee badge or identification
- ★ Buyer's club identification (Such as Sam's Club or Costco)
- ★ Debit/credit card
- ★ Military identification
- ★ Student identification
- ★ Retirement association identification
- ★ Neighborhood association identification
- ★ Public assistance identification



**ALL FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION LISTED MUST BE CURRENT AND VALID. EXPIRED IDENTIFICATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

All voters are required to provide ID containing photo and signature at the time of voting in the polling place. Without proper identification, a voter can only vote a provisional ballot.



## VOTE BY MAIL

Request a mail ballot now if you plan to be away during the elections this year. If you always vote by mail, call to be sure your request has not expired. One request for “all elections” is valid for two regularly scheduled general elections. Call the Elections Office for more information: (386) 313-4170 or request your ballot [online](#).

Many residents have their mail forwarded but unfortunately the US Postal Service will not forward an absentee ballot with the standard forwarding service. An accurate mailing address must be provided in writing at the time of your request. A ballot which is returned as undeliverable will cancel any future requests.

**Recent Law Change:** A written, signed request is now required if the **mailing address** for your mail ballot is not on file. This means if you are having your ballot mailed to an address you’ve never used before, your request must be written and signed by the voter. This written, signed request may be received by mail, fax or scanned and sent by e-mail.

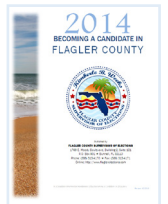


## CALLING ALL CANDIDATES

Interested in running for public office in Flagler County? Visit the candidate section of our website for helpful information:

<http://www.flaglerelections.com/Candidates-Committees/Becoming-a-Candidate>

We have prepared the *2014 Becoming A Candidate in Flagler County* guide for prospective candidates. Download yours at the link above or stop by the office to pick up a printed copy.



## SIGNATURE UPDATES

It’s natural for handwriting to change over time. If you have noticed a change in your handwriting and particularly your signature,



please update your signature on file with the Elections Office. It is important that we have your current signature on file. Your signature is used to verify your absentee ballot and/or candidate and initiative petitions. If your signature has changed, you may update it at any time by submitting a new [Voter Registration Application](#).



## AFTER-HOURS DROP BOX

Our after-hours drop box has been relocated due to a directive issued by the Secretary of State, Ken Detzner. The new drop box is now conveniently and securely located at the entrance to the Elections Office under the SOE seal and directional arrow. Voter applications and other paperwork, including absentee (mail) ballots may be deposited into our after-hours drop box. Absentee ballots must be received by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

## Planning a trip this year?

REMEMBER TO  
**VOTE BY MAIL!**



It’s easy! Call (386) 313-4170  
or request your absentee ballot online:  
[www.FlaglerElections.com](http://www.FlaglerElections.com)



PRIMARY ELECTION:  
AUGUST 26, 2014



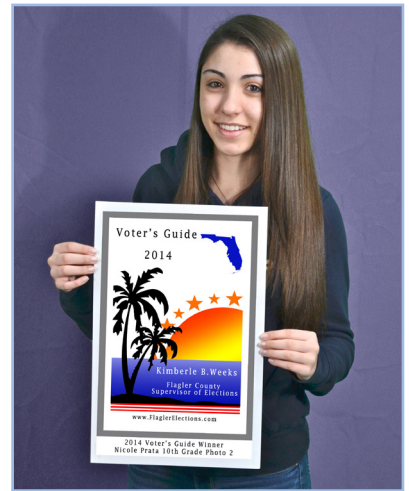
GENERAL ELECTION:  
NOVEMBER 4, 2014



# Voter's Guide Cover Design Contest

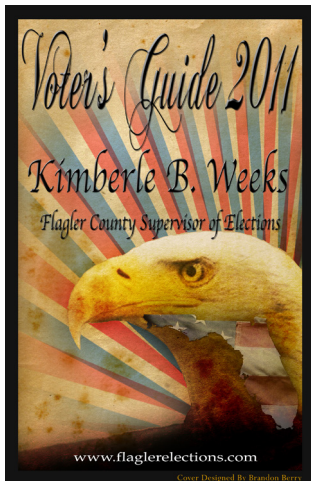
Congratulations to Nicole Prata, sophomore at Matanzas High School and winner of the fourth annual Voter's Guide Cover Design Contest! Each year, all Flagler County high school students and home schooled high school students are invited to participate.

The contest is a great opportunity for students to gain experience working on a real-world design project while teachers engage them in a discussion about the importance of the electoral process and civic duty. The winning designer will received a \$50 gift card from Supervisor Weeks and was publicly recognized during the 6:00 p.m. School Board meeting on March 18, 2014. **Great work Nicole!!!**



Nicole Prata, 2014 Winner

## Design Contest Winners:



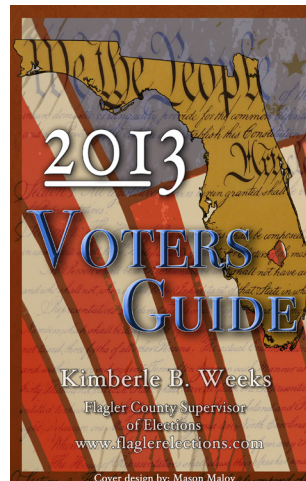
**2011**

Winning cover design by:  
**BRANDON BERRY**  
Flagler Palm Coast HS



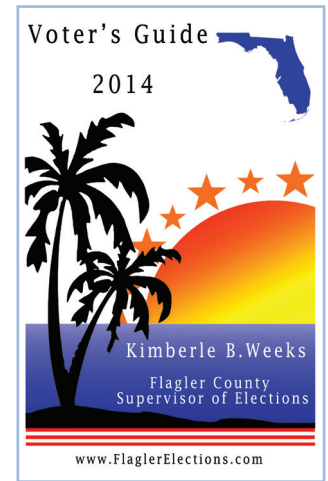
**2012**

Winning cover design by:  
**JOSIAH DAVISSON**  
Flagler Palm Coast HS



**2013**

Winning cover design by:  
**MASON MALOY**  
Flagler Palm Coast HS



**2014**

Winning cover design by:  
**NICOLE PRATA**  
Matanzas High School

## Billy Jones: Poll Worker and Volunteer

Recently featured in the *Palm Coast Observer*, Billy Jones has been a Flagler County poll worker and volunteer for the school system for many years. He volunteers his time giving presentations at local schools and teaches children a little bit about history, the military and civic duty.



*"Jones teaches them to respect the flag, to respect the veterans who fought for it. He teaches them about the history of Veterans Day, and how it began as Armistice Day after World War I. He tells them to thank veterans for their service. He teaches them that freedom isn't free. 'Freedom is paid for in two ways, with taxes and with lives,' he tells them.*

*He ends on a lighter note, usually with one of the 20 or so magic tricks he has taught himself. 'I entertain as well as educate,' he said. Jones, who grew up poor on his grandparents' farm in rural Arkansas and never forgot the people who helped him excel in high school and get a full track scholarship to LSU, said that by teaching kids, he's giving back."*

*Thank you Billy for your service in the Armed Forces and our community in Flagler County!*

# Events, Conferences and Workshops

## **FSASE Winter Conference, Longboat Key: December 8-11, 2013**



Conference meeting with many other SOE's in Sarasota County

Supervisor Weeks attended the FSASE Winter Conference hosted by Kathy Dent, Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections. Supervisors attended ethics training and break-out sessions covering a variety of topics: building partnerships with community businesses and organizations, implementing 2013 legislation, exploring electronic poll books. Supervisors from around the state also attended a workshop presented by the Division of Elections and discussed proposed rules and rule making, committees, statewide electronic filing, candidate qualifying and petitions.

## **Call Center Workshop in Pasco County: December 12, 2013**



Supervisor Weeks at the Pasco County Call Center Workshop

Brian Corley, Pasco County Supervisor of Elections hosted a workshop and many Supervisors shared their experience with training and managing temporary staff during a busy election cycle. Temporary staff is used in nearly every Elections Office in Florida to help answer phones, take absentee requests and other duties during election season. It was a great opportunity for Supervisors to share ideas and best practices.

## **Palm Coast Holiday Parade & Starlight Event: December 14, 2013**



Elections Office staff, Supervisor Weeks and our driver from Palm Coast Ford

Supervisor Weeks and staff attended the night-time parade featuring lighted floats in Central Park at Town Center. We had plenty of candy for those who braved the bad weather to attend the parade. Thanks to Palm Coast Ford for supplying vehicles and drivers for the Constitutional Officers and County Commissioners. Thankfully everyone made it home safely before the tornado!

## **Small County Workshop in Madison County: January 9-10, 2014**



Honey Lake Plantation located in Madison County: Greenville, Florida

Supervisor Weeks attended an IT class and Small County Workshop at the Honey Lake Plantation in Madison County. The IT class included many Supervisors from other counties who spoke on issues concerning information technology in elections. The Division of Elections Director, Maria Matthews, Assistant Director, Gary Holland, and Bureau of Election Records Chief, Kristi Bronson attended the small county workshop and everyone had an opportunity for a round table discussion concerning the best practices during early voting.

## **Flagler County Home & Lifestyle Show: January 25-26, 2014**



Supervisor Weeks helping a voter during the 2014 Home Show

The Elections Office booth was located in the tent this year and we handed out hundreds of Voter's Guides and answered questions from voters from across the county during the 28th annual Home Show. We had an EVID on site to verify voter information and took applications from anyone who needed to update their voter registration. Many people registered to vote for the first time. We were pleased to have so many interested persons complete poll worker applications and express an interest in being involved with the elections process.

## **Canvassing Board Workshop in Orlando: January 31, 2014**



RTL: County Commissioner Charlie F. Ericksen, Jr., Supervisor of Elections Kimberle B. Weeks, County Commissioner George Hanns

Supervisors of Elections, County Judges and County Commissioners from around the state attended the Canvassing Board Workshop at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando. The workshop was held to prepare the Canvassing Boards for their duties this year during the Primary and General elections. Chief Justice Charlie Wells was a guest speaker and he shared his experience during the election cycle of 2000. Supervisor Weeks brought back a book signed by Chief Justice Wells.



# A Note From The Supervisor

## The 2014 City of Palm Coast Elections

Written by Supervisor of Elections, Kimberle B. Weeks



Dear Voters of Flagler County,

The City of Palm Coast placed a charter referendum on the regularly scheduled September 13, 2011 ballot to change their election cycle from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years, and the ballot was clearly identified as the “Palm Coast Primary Election.” There were 49,575 eligible voters to vote in Palm Coast and 5,112 (10.06%) voters cast their ballot with 4,425 (86.56%) voting in favor of this measure.

In the fall of 2013, I began to prepare the election Interlocal Agreement for the City of Palm Coast elections to be held in 2014. It was discovered that the City charter had not been changed since the 2011 election. I researched to determine what was necessary for the City to change their charter. It was learned the City could modify its charter by following Section 10 (General Provisions) of the City charter. The City charter states “This Charter may be amended in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Powers Act, Chapter 166, Florida Statutes, as the same may be amended from time to time, or as may otherwise be provided by general law.”

Section 166.031, Florida Statutes reads:

### **Charter amendments.—**

(1) The governing body of a municipality may, by ordinance, or the electors of a municipality may, by petition signed by 10 percent of the registered electors as of the last preceding municipal general election, submit to the electors of said municipality a proposed amendment to its charter, which amendment may be to any part or to all of said charter except that part describing the boundaries of such municipality. **The governing body of the municipality shall place the proposed amendment contained in the ordinance or petition to a vote of the electors at the next general election held within the municipality or at a special election called for such purpose.**

(2) **Upon adoption of an amendment to the charter of a municipality by a majority of the electors voting in a referendum upon such amendment, the governing body of said municipality shall have the amendment incorporated into the charter and shall file the revised charter with the Department of State.** All such amendments are effective on the date specified therein or as otherwise provided in the charter.

I remembered the charter amendment was placed on a Primary election ballot instead of a General or Special election. I became concerned because the charter amendment that passed may not be valid and it may be illegal for the city to have an election in 2014.

During my research, I found the City charter had many conflicts with Florida Election Law, including the timing of their candidate qualifying period which occurred after the required mailing date for absentee ballots, canvassing of the absentee ballots and the possibility for delayed results because of the time line specified in the charter. I also found the charter had not been properly filed with the Department of State, as required by Chapter 166, Florida Statutes. I brought this matter to the attention of the City leaders and asked them to seek a Formal Opinion from the Florida Attorney General’s Office to confirm their charter had been modified properly and in accordance with Florida law.

(Continued on next page)

# A Note From The Supervisor

(Continued from previous page)

The City filed the updated City charter with the Department of State within two days of my notification. In January 2014, the City adopted ordinances and made them retroactive to 2011 in an effort to resolve issues that were brought to their attention. They continue to insist the City charter has been amended properly, however, the City has refused to request the virtually-free Formal Opinion from the Attorney General. I believe that opinion could provide an essential confirmation that all requirements have been met by the City to modify their charter and legally hold elections in even-numbered years. Because of this refusal, I began to have additional concerns and felt if they were so confident everything was done correctly, there would be no reason not to request a Formal Opinion, after considering the facts concerning their 2011 election and current City charter, which I presented to them. This Formal Opinion could help solve matters now, before the election, and avoid a situation where the election could be challenged in a costly lawsuit to the taxpayers.

I contacted the Attorney General's office to request the Formal Opinion and was told that although I am an elected official, and can request Formal Opinions, I cannot request a Formal Opinion on this matter as related to the City charter. I contacted our County Attorney, Al Hadeed, for assistance and he explained this was a City matter and he is a County Attorney that represents the Board of County Commissioners. I requested that Mr. Hadeed file for a Judicial Judgment and let a judge decide, and he refused.

I felt I needed confirmation from an attorney with Election Law experience. I hired the attorney from the Florida State Association of Supervisor of Elections, Ron Labasky. Mr. Labasky's response was sometimes vague and he used words like "if" and "I assume" when describing the City's actions. He stated a legal challenge could arise if an election were to be held in 2014, and that such a suit would be named against the City. He was clear that it would be up to the City to defend its charter, but warned that I could be named in a suit as the Supervisor of Elections, if one were to be filed. This did not give me a warm, fuzzy feeling and his response provided no confirmation that what has been done relating to the City changing its election schedule from odd-numbered years was proper, legal or illegal.

The attorneys have weighed-in with their opinions regarding the modification of the Palm Coast charter following the 2011 City elections and none have clearly stated the actions of the City have been correct or legal. All attorneys have used language such as "if, I assume, it appears," which does not provide a level of comfort to know the taxpayers are not at risk for a costly challenge.

Because uncertainty remains, I have provided the City of Palm Coast an Interlocal Agreement to conduct their election which includes language to hold the City fully accountable if any challenges should arise. By agreeing to conduct the City elections, I am not saying I believe the City has followed all requirements to modifying their charter, or that what they have done is legal and correct. In the Interlocal Agreement, I have placed as Addendum to protect myself, staff, this office and the County from expenses against challenges should they occur, as they can be very costly. I am hopeful they will enter into this agreement as soon as possible so we can continue to prepare for their City election.

Respectfully,



Kimberle B. Weeks  
Flagler County Supervisor of Elections

# Poll Worker Profile

## Join the Team in 2014

Flagler County poll workers serve the public by:

- ★ Conducting elections with the utmost integrity
- ★ Ensuring safe, accurate, and efficient voting processes
- ★ Allowing Flagler County voters to cast their ballots privately and independently
- ★ Protecting and promoting public trust and confidence in the democratic process

In order to become a poll worker you must be a registered voter in Flagler County. You must be able to read, write and communicate in English. All poll workers assist in moving and setting up equipment at the polling place and attend training prior to Election Day.

If you are interested in becoming part of the Election Team, please submit a completed Poll Worker Application. The application is available on our website for download or you may visit the Elections Office for a printed copy.



## Happy Birthday

To All Poll Workers Celebrating Birthdays in January, February and March!

Your commitment to public service is a tribute to you and your community.  
Poll workers serve on the frontline of democracy.

## Thank You Flagler County Poll Workers!



**Kimberle B. Weeks**

Flagler County Supervisor of Elections  
1769 E. Moody Blvd., Bldg. 2, Ste. 101 • PO Box 901  
Bunnell, FL 32110  
Phone: 386-313-4170 • Fax: 386-313-4171  
[www.FlaglerElections.com](http://www.FlaglerElections.com)

## Poll Worker Trivia

### TRUE OR FALSE?

Absentee ballots are counted only when the race is close.

### Answer: FALSE

All absentee or mail ballots are counted when received before the deadline and properly executed. The return envelope must be signed by the voter whose name is indicated on the envelope. The signature must match the voter's signature on record.



Download your copy of the newsletter online:

[www.flaglerelections.com/newsletter](http://www.flaglerelections.com/newsletter)