

## Martin County Supervisor of Elections

# Martin Votes

Volume 1, Issue 1 January 2007



What an extraordinary community we live in! As I reflect on the success of the 2006 elections, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication and support of so many citizens.

As you can imagine, there are too many to thank individually, however, I would like everyone to know I appreciate the energy, hard work and commitment that was required at every voting precinct and early voting site. As your Supervisor of Elections, I could not have achieved the high

### From Your Supervisor Vicki Davis

level of professionalism and integrity demonstrated during elections without your help.

The coming months are filled with activity; assessing the recent voter survey results, and meeting with government representatives to address issues that include increasing voter confidence at the polls.

Staff development is a goal for this year as we prepare for the 2008 Election cycle. We are only one year away from the Presidential Preferential Primary scheduled for the first quarter of 2008!

Additionally, I will continue the enhancement of procedures and policies of this office.

On a personal note, our youngest daughter, Jana, and her fiancé, Brian, will be wed on January 28, 2007.

I hope you enjoy this "inaugural" quarterly newsletter that we developed in an effort to remain connected with all of you during "on" and "off" election years.

My sincere wishes to everyone for a healthy, happy new year!

*Vicki*

### United Way of Martin County "Adopts-a- Precinct"

Many thanks to United Way of Martin County for being the first non-profit organization to take advantage of the recently launched "Adopt-a-Precinct" program. United Way volunteers and staff members worked at their assigned precinct during both the primary and general elections.

The "Adopt-a-Precinct" program is an excellent opportunity to engage people as poll workers while providing a unique fund-raising opportunity. Under the "Adopt a Precinct" program, earnings paid to poll workers may be donated to the local charity of their choice.

"With this initiative, we raised awareness about United Way as a community leader while taking advantage of a creative fund-raising opportunity," said Jim Vojcsik, executive director of United Way Martin County.

"We were pleased and appreciative of United Way's participation. They were a great partner in raising voter awareness, serving the public and participating in the entire election process," Ms. Davis said.

## Deputy For a Day

Did you know that Florida law requires poll deputies be hired for Election Day by the Supervisor of Elections and sworn in by the sheriff to maintain law and order outside every polling place?

A poll deputy performs many important duties, including supervising any

unlawful solicitation that may take place on Election Day at a polling precinct.

Sheriff Crowder deputized fifty-three poll workers whose diligence ensured integrity at the polls and protected the rights of others. We salute our dedicated deputies and sheriff.



Sheriff Robert Crowder performs swearing in ceremony to new poll worker deputies.

Quotable Quotes



**Our obligations to our country never cease but with our lives.**

John Adams  
*US diplomat & politician*  
(1735 - 1826)

## Adopt-A-Precinct for 2008!

To assist with the recruitment of poll workers, the Supervisor of Elections Office has initiated the Adopt-A-Precinct community partnership.

Each participating organization 'adopts' a precinct for the election cycle year by providing the personnel to staff a precinct.

With the proceeds earned for staffing a precinct, partnering organizations may choose to benefit a charitable

organization of their choice or support their own "fundraising" efforts!

An average precinct (eight workers) could earn your team members approximately \$1,400 by working the Primary and General Elections.

The Elections Office provides all necessary training, supplies and on-site support.

"The program is a win-win for everybody involved" said Poll

Worker Coordinator, Terri May. "It is an opportunity to share civic pride, support democracy, and assist the election board while benefiting the charity or organization of your choice. The goal for 2008 is to have all 53 precincts adopted by local businesses, PTA's and non-profit organizations."

For information about adopting a precinct or becoming a poll worker, call Terri at (772) 288-5637.

## You Spoke, We Listened!

Phone bank staff worked diligently to obtain feedback from voters regarding their Election Day experience.

Survey responses were collected via telephone, internet and US mail resulting in more than five hundred participants.

The majority of voters had positive experiences at the polls, thanks in great part to

our dedicated precinct election teams!

The limited negative comments will be evaluated and taken under consideration during planning for future elections.

Observations and recommendations from you, the voter, are of great importance and value to the Supervisor of Elections.

" I appreciate the time the voters took to answer our questions; we are always seeking ways to improve our procedures in order to better serve the voters of Martin County" said Ms. Davis.

We anticipate survey results will be posted on our website in late January.

Please visit us at:  
[www.MartinVotes.com](http://www.MartinVotes.com)

**"Poll workers were efficient and pleasant, my experience was very positive!"**

**(Voter Comment, Precinct 2)**

## Staff Attends State-wide Conference



Supervisor of Elections and staff.

Martin County Supervisor of Elections and staff members joined colleagues from around the state for a mid-winter conference held in Orlando.

Staff attended workshops that focused on poll worker recruitment and training, legislative issues, early voting, and systems operations.

Representatives from each of the sixty seven Florida counties attended the conference, providing valuable input and recommendations.

Staff development is a critical component for improving the efficiency and accuracy of the election process and the daily duties of the election

center staff.

Upon return from the conference, Ms. Davis commented "the staff received valuable information that will help them assist Martin County citizens to become better informed about voting and participating in upcoming elections."

## Cub Scouts Prepare for Future

Cub Scout Pack #899 received a hands-on lesson about the electoral process from the Supervisor of Elections.

Troop leader Tina Brennan created questions for the scouts to answer regarding the rights and duties of citizens. The scouts then had the opportunity to respond to the questions using an actual iVotronic voting machine. The "leaders of tomorrow" also

toured the Elections Center and listened with great interest as Ms. Davis presented an overview of voting procedures and discussed the importance of being an informed and active voter.

The scouts are fourth graders from St. Joseph's Catholic School and their special field trip culminated with earning their Citizenship activity badge and a certificate.



Cub Scouts from Pack #899 display their "I VOTED!" certificates presented to them by Supervisor of Elections, Vicki Davis

## Precinct Profile-10th Street Recreation Center

Their combined total service to the community is staggering — a whopping 2,200 hours! Even more unanticipated is the camaraderie, the genuine friendship that exists among this blended group known to many of us simply as Precinct 46-10th Street Recreation Center.

During a recent holiday gathering for the spirited poll worker group of ten, hostess

and Assistant Clerk, Barbara Griswold summed it up this way—" We work as one, we are all neighbors, we believe it is our civic duty and we really enjoy each others company!".

When asked what drives her longtime participation, Precinct Clerk Deborah Langston remarked " it's my sense of patriotism, community involvement, I'm

a people person".

This dedicated group of nine women and one man—the quiet, unflappable Rev. Paul Roberts work together seamlessly with a sense of ownership among them for their precinct.

As the get-together drew to a close, the team was already making plans for Election Day 2008!



L-R: Paul Roberts, Jennie Davis, Deborah Langston, Barbara Griswold, Lois Leggett, Pat Reidman. Not pictured: Joan Gibson, Charlotte Merricks, Gloria Powell & Barbara Booth.

## High School Students "Rock the Vote"

Public high schools throughout Martin County kicked off the "Get Out The Vote Awareness Campaign" directed at students age seventeen and older.

This campaign introduced an unprecedented statewide plan to register voters and push for voter turnout, through activities scheduled for every month.

April was themed "Register at School" through a partnership with the Martin County School Board and Dr. Sara A. Wilcox, Superintendent of Schools. Voter

registration drives on all three public high school campuses, resulted in registering a record total of 652 new voters.

"Raising awareness among our youth regarding the significance of every vote and the importance of exercising their right to vote has been well received" commented Kherri Anderson, Community Outreach Coordinator. "We anticipate each of our newly registered voters to participate in the 2008 elections!"



Students from South Fork High School register to vote.



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Supervisor of Elections**

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

**[www.MartinVotes.com](http://www.MartinVotes.com)**

***Visit Our Booth At  
The Martin County Fair!***

***February 9 ~ 18, 2007***

**Supervisor of Elections Committed to All Citizens**

Election poll workers enjoyed a unique "sensitivity" session courtesy of Angela Van Etten, Advocacy Specialist for the Coalition for Independent Living Options, Inc.

Ms. Van Etten addressed the obstacles a voter with a disability may encounter and how the poll worker might assist the voter in a respectful manner. As a "little person", Angela spoke openly and with humor about her special needs at the polls, demonstrating how she requires the voting machine to be placed on the seat of a chair in order to cast her vote.

Angela exhibited a keen ability to make people comfortable while discussing potentially awkward situations. Supervisor of Elections, Vicki Davis, commented "we felt Angela's input helped our poll workers recognize the importance of serving every voter, regardless of their limitations."

Additionally, Ms. Davis and Community Outreach Coordinator, Kherri Anderson, addressed special needs residents of the ARC of Martin County and Helping People Succeed (HPS). Hearing and visually impaired members of the Deaf Service Center of the Treasure Coast, and the 20/200 Fellowship also benefited from presentations. Many of the participants had never registered to vote or exercised their right to vote. Educating the audiences about Early Voting, utilizing the ADA voting machine and voter registration resulted in more than 55 new voters in Martin County!



Supervisor of Elections, Vicki Davis, thanks Angela Van Etten for her presentations during poll worker training. Ms. Van Etten shared her expertise on accommodating voters with special needs.