



# Martin County Supervisor of Elections Martin Votes



## A Message From Your Supervisor Vicki Davis

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Summer 2007

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### Dates To Remember

**January 29, 2008**

Presidential Preference Primary

**August 26, 2008**

Primary Election

**November 4, 2008**

General Election



With the 2007 legislative season behind us, Elections Center staff are busy preparing for the upcoming 2008 elections. One of the outcomes of legislative session was Governor Crist's signing of an election reform bill giving Florida an earlier role in choosing favored Presidential nominees. The Presidential Preference Primary (PPP), traditionally held in March, will be held on Tuesday, January 29, 2008.

The Presidential Preference Primary is one of the first steps in the process of electing the President of the United States. It provides a method for parties to nominate and unite behind their popularly chosen candidate for President.

As a registered Democrat or Republican, on January 29, 2008, you have the opportunity to vote for your preferred candidate for President. In addition to casting a vote for your favorite presidential candidate, all registered Martin County voters will have the opportunity to vote for or against an amendment to the state constitution giving homeowners the right to choose between a

new "super homestead exemption" or remain with the current Save Our Homes cap on property taxes.

Local candidates running for offices such as County Commission, School Board, and Constitutional Offices will appear on the Primary Election ballot to be held one week earlier than usual, Tuesday, August 26, 2008. The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

In addition to changes in election dates, the election reform bill standardized Florida's voting systems for all elections throughout the state, which was a top priority of Governor Crist. This change replaces Martin County's touch-screen voting machines with optical scan voting systems. Optical scan equipment allows voters to mark paper ballots to choose their candidate. The paper ballot is then inserted into the scanner to tabulate votes, producing a paper trail for recount purposes if necessary. One touch-screen machine will be available at each polling place and early voting site for use by visually impaired voters.

The Elections Center has also launched a "Vote by Mail" campaign for 2008. All registered voters may request a Vote by Mail ballot by calling the office or visiting our website. To receive your ballot in a timely manner, please make sure your Martin County residential address is up to date as Vote by Mail ballots **cannot** be forwarded.

A new addition to poll worker education is the introduction of online poll worker training! A portion of the **required** instruction will be provided via the internet. The program will be accessible from computers at home, work or the Elections Center, providing self-paced, convenient learning. I believe this enhancement will be a very useful tool for everyone involved.

Should you need further information, please contact the office at 288-5637 or visit our website at [www.MartinVotes.com](http://www.MartinVotes.com)

Thank you for your continued support to make these upcoming elections successful.

*Vicki*



(L-R) Vicki Davis presents Sheriff Robert Crowder with Candidate Packet

## Candidate Training Begins!

Thinking of throwing your hat in the ring? Ms. Davis and her staff will conduct a candidate training workshop Wednesday, July 18, 2007 at the Martin County Elections Center.

Topics to be covered include:

- Candidate and Qualifying Information
- Voting Equipment
- Legislative Changes
- Campaign Finance
- Political Advertising

- Requesting Data
- Absentee Ballots
- Ethical Conduct

Candidate training manuals were recently updated to reflect current election laws. Davis said, "Training will be offered to all local candidates running in the upcoming 2008 elections together with their treasurers. The training workshop is offered at no charge to candidates. All interested candidates are

invited to attend."

Local candidates running for offices such as County Commission, School Board, and Constitutional Offices will appear on the Primary Election ballot to be held Tuesday, August 26, 2008.

Please contact the Elections Center at 772.288.5637 for further information.

## Community Outreach

Summer is typically a quieter time in Martin County; however, you can't convince outreach coordinator Kherrri Anderson to slow down.

Voter drives throughout the month of June were well received from one end of the county to the other.

Many thanks to the following for their kind support of hosting a voter registration drive: all Bank

Atlantic branches, the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Recreation Center, the ARC of Martin County, IRCC Chastain Campus, and Martin Memorial Health Systems North & South .

These voter drives give citizens the opportunity to register to vote or update their address and signature on their voter record so they may participate in the upcoming 2008 elections.



Voter Drive  
Parks & Recreation Summer Kickoff



Martin Memorial Health Systems  
Voter Registration

## Get Caught Up In Our Web...[www.MartinVotes.com](http://www.MartinVotes.com)

If you have not visited our website recently, we encourage you to do so.

One of our primary objectives is to inform and educate the voters of Martin County in addition to increasing voter turnout.

The website provides answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about registration and voting procedures, as well as providing special announcements, helpful links, and information about voter education programs.

A recent addition to the site is the Spanish link. By simply clicking on the appropriate icon, the entire site may be viewed in Spanish. "This enhancement is another tool which we hope community members will utilize," remarked Davis.



## Poll Worker Training Goes Online

By now, every active poll worker should have received our first postcard communication regarding training via the internet. We have received a great deal of positive feedback from many of you.

We are pleased to provide you this state-of-the-art online training program to teach you everything required to open, run, and manage a polling place on Election

Day. Our goal is to offer you a convenient complement to traditional training that will allow you to learn at your own pace; to spread the training over several days, if you wish; and to review the courses as many times as you desire.

Our objective is to enhance your learning experience and to enable you to provide the voters of Martin County with a

flawless voting experience.

The training program is accessible anytime from anywhere that has an internet connection. We will have computers available at the Elections Center if you do not have computer access anywhere else.

Questions? Comments? Call Terri at 288-5637 ext. 8052



## Long Lines? Don't Wait, Vote By Mail in 2008!



The Elections Center is pleased to offer you the option to vote by mail in the upcoming elections. It is easy and convenient.

In early October, every household in Martin County will receive request forms. If you choose to vote by mail, you need to complete the request form, sign it and

return it to the Elections Center no later than six (6) days prior to an election. A request form is required for each individual voter. You may choose to vote by mail for any or all of the elections in 2008.

If you prefer to complete a request form prior to the October household

mailing, please contact our office at 288-5637, or visit our website at [www.MartinVotes.com](http://www.MartinVotes.com)

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue our efforts to make this election year a successful one.



## Office Updates

The entire staff at the Elections Center recently completed two courses through the Indian River Community College Corporate & Community Training Institute.

Customized customer service skills and team building strategies provided staff with valuable information in

order to be more effective and efficient in their job performance.

"Our goal is to consistently serve the citizens of Martin County in the most professional and accurate manner. Everyone, including myself, learned valuable skills that will assist us in serving the community and working well together,"

noted Ms. Davis.

A time and stress management course is planned for August.

Deep appreciation to Patty Winterburn, Jan Pagano, Chuck Kitzmiller, and Connie Gifford for their outstanding planning and instruction!



Elections Center Staff

(L-R ) Back Row: Marcia, Debbie, Beth, Liliana, Brenda, Amy, Glee, Terri. Front Row: Kherri & Vicki



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**Visit Us On The Web!**  
**[www.MartinVotes.com](http://www.MartinVotes.com)**



## **Elections Center Receives Image Awards**

On May 8th, the Supervisor of Elections Office received two Image Awards from the Florida Public Relations Association, Treasure Coast Chapter.

The awards were presented for outstanding programs implemented by Vicki Davis and her staff.

The first award was given for the "Count Me In!" campaign, a voter registration outreach to minority populations in Martin County that resulted in a 17% increase in voter registration and a 5% voter turnout increase.

The second award recognized the "Rock the Vote" project, a voter registration drive for age-eligible students at all Martin County high schools and the IRCC Chastain campus. More than 750 students completed applications.

Both awards met judge's criteria of achieving **maximum results while using a minimum amount of money.**



(L-R) Kherri Anderson, Community Outreach Coordinator & Vicki Davis, Supervisor of Elections