2018 – 2019
Budget Information
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May 18, 2018

Board of County Commissioners
St. Johns County
500 San Sebastian View
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Dear Commissioners:

I respectfully submit the proposed budget of expenditures for the 2018-2019 fiscal year pursuant to section 129.03(2), Florida Statutes.

Justifications for the required expenditures for the operation of the Supervisor of Elections Office and for the 2018 General Election are included.

I look forward to meeting with you to review our budget requirements. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Vicky C. Oakes
Supervisor of Elections

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0029-51100</td>
<td>Salaries, Fixed – Set by State Law</td>
<td>$144,302</td>
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<tr>
<td>0029-51200</td>
<td>Regular Salaries</td>
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<td>Overtime Employees</td>
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<td>FICA/Medicare Taxes – FICA 6.2%, Medicare 1.45%</td>
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<td>0029-52200</td>
<td>Retirement Contributions – Elected Official 49.43%; Senior Mgmt. 24.42%; Regular Class and Investment Plan 8.38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>0029-52202</td>
<td>OPEB Contributions – 11 employees</td>
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<td>0029-52300</td>
<td>Life &amp; Health Insurance - 11 employees</td>
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<td>Workmen’s Compensation – Percentage of salaries set by law</td>
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<td>0029-53120</td>
<td>Contractual Services – Consulting fees; On-line benefits system; Cybersecurity system monitoring</td>
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<td>0029-54000</td>
<td>Travel &amp; Per Diem – Attendance at Division of Elections workshops, FSASE yearly conference, FCEP classes, Election Center classes, various User group meetings and other election related programs; mileage Reimbursement for employees on county business</td>
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<td>0029-54100</td>
<td>Communications – Telephone and internet services; office cell phones</td>
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<tr>
<td>0029-54400</td>
<td>Lease/Rental of Equipment – Postage meter lease, computer leases, Printer/scanner/fax/copier multifunction device leases</td>
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<td>0029-54500</td>
<td>Insurance – General liability on office and all equipment; Coverage On all office vehicles</td>
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<td>0029-54601</td>
<td>Equipment Maintenance – Maintenance on folder machine, mail Opener and Printer/scanner/fax/copier multifunction devices</td>
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<td>0029-54602</td>
<td>Vehicle Maintenance – Maintenance on all office vehicles</td>
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<tr>
<td>0029-54617</td>
<td>Software Fees – VR Systems license fees, VR interface to GIS system Fees, VR Web Focus, Microsoft license fees, GeoElections, backup Software maintenance fees, all support services, misc. software</td>
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<tr>
<td>0029-54900</td>
<td>Advertising – Legal advertising for removal of registered voters per Section 98.201, Florida Statutes</td>
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<td>0029-55100</td>
<td>Office Supplies – All paper supplies, Voter Information Cards, Educational and informational materials; postage for all list Maintenance, daily voter Card mailings, certified mail, etc.</td>
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<td>0029-56401</td>
<td>Office Equipment – purchase of mail opener</td>
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<td>Computer Equipment – NAS storage</td>
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Department 0029 - SOE Budget Expenditure

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Actual Expenditures</th>
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<th>Estimated Expenditures FY 2018</th>
<th>Department Requested FY 2019</th>
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<td>56403</td>
<td>Computer Equipment</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$1,226,515</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,322,173</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,322,173</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,363,911</strong></td>
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Departmental Summary:

- Personnel Services: $933,076, $1,090,997, $1,090,997, $1,089,941
- Operating Expenses: $246,398, $231,176, $231,176, $258,265
- Capital Improvements: $47,041, $0, $0, $15,705
- Other: $0, $0, $0

**Total:** $1,226,515, $1,322,173, $1,322,173, $1,363,911
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0030-51300</td>
<td>Other Salaries – Part-time Elections staff including Voting Techs, Front Office Staff, Poll Worker Assistant and Vote-By-Mail Staff</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>0030-51301</td>
<td>Poll Worker Salaries – Election Day and Early Voting poll workers For one election</td>
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<tr>
<td>0030-51400</td>
<td>Overtime Employees</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>0030-52100</td>
<td>FICA/Medicare Taxes – FICA 6.2%, Medicare 1.45% (Poll worker earnings only taxed if $1,600 or over per IRS)</td>
<td>$15,453</td>
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<tr>
<td>0030-52400</td>
<td>Workmen’s Compensation – Percentage of salaries set by law</td>
<td>$524</td>
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<tr>
<td>0030-53120</td>
<td>Contractual Services – Phone Bank (staffing agency)</td>
<td>$6,948</td>
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<tr>
<td>0030-54000</td>
<td>Travel &amp; Per Diem – Mileage for Voting Technicians</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>0030-54100</td>
<td>Communications – Cell phones for poll workers at polls, Air Cards for countywide EViD communication and DS200 modems</td>
<td>$1,820</td>
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<tr>
<td>0030-54113</td>
<td>Transportation Charges – Delivery of voting equipment and election Supplies to all polling locations and early voting sites for one election</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>0030-54401</td>
<td>Lease/Rental of Building – Rental charges for polling places for One election</td>
<td>$2,325</td>
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<tr>
<td>0030-54500</td>
<td>Insurance – General liability on voting booths, DS200 tabulators, BOD printers, EViD’s, ADA Express Votes, and DS850 vote-by-mail Ballot reader</td>
<td>$10,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>0030-54601</td>
<td>Equipment Maintenance – Annual hardware maintenance on EViD’s, DS200’s, ADA Express Votes and DS850 vote-by-mail ballot reader</td>
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<tr>
<td>0030-54617</td>
<td>Software Fees – EViD Electronic Voter Identification System License Fee, EViD Stations software fees, Election Systems and Software Electionware fees, Ballot on Demand printer software fees</td>
<td>$64,164</td>
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<tr>
<td>0030-54900</td>
<td>Advertising – Legal and informational advertising required by Florida Statutes (notice of elections, book closing ads, polling locations, Public notice of voting assistance), Voting Information (Early Voting Dates, times and locations) and sample ballots for one election</td>
<td>$22,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>0030-55213</td>
<td>Election Supplies – Ballots (test, provisional, sample, vote-by-mail, Early voting, overseas, state write-in, precinct), precinct supplies, Postage for vote-by-mail and sample ballots, and all supplies necessary To conduct one election</td>
<td>$175,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>0030-56400</td>
<td>Equipment – DS200 Tabulators, Express Votes, EViD’s, replacement 4G Modems</td>
<td>$80,045</td>
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</table>
Department 0030 - Elections Budget Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Actual Expenditures</th>
<th>Adopted Budget Expenditures</th>
<th>Estimated Expenditures</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Other Salaries</td>
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<tr>
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Total $577,867 $466,585 $466,585 $686,714

Minus Federal Grants: $24,360 $16,475 $16,475 $0

Total Budget without Grants: $553,507 $450,110 $450,110 $686,714

Departmental Summary:

Personnel Services $221,298 $145,546 $145,546 $252,977
Operating Expenses $318,319 $321,039 $321,039 $353,692
Capital Improvements $38,250 $0 $0 $80,045
Total $577,867 $466,585 $466,585 $686,714
Grant Funding

As a cost savings measure, the Supervisor of Elections Office applies for and utilizes state and federal grant funds to offset direct costs to the County whenever possible.

The Department of State has recently established an online grants system. This system allows our office to apply for and manage Federal Elections Activities grants under the Help America Vote Act.

We currently have the following grants:

Sample Ballot Grant (2016-17) – Project 1319
Currently, $18,536.75 remains in the grant - $16,689.39 grant funds and $1,847.36 county matching funds. These amounts include interest earned through April 30, 2018. Our office will use the funds to offset the cost of printing and mailing sample ballots for the August 28, 2018, Primary Election. We will use all of these funds during the current fiscal year.

Sample Ballot Grant (2018) – Project 1328
Our office recently applied for this latest grant through the online grants system. This grant is in the amount of $31,673.46 – comprised of $27,542.14 grant funds and $4,131.32 county matching funds. These grant funds are also Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds and are to be used for federal election activities. We expect to receive these funds very soon. Our office will use these funds, if needed, to assist in offsetting the cost of printing and mailing sample ballots for the August Primary Election. The remaining funds, plus interest accrued throughout the rest of this fiscal year, will be carried forward into the new fiscal year to cover costs of sample ballots for the General Election.

ALBERT Server Grant Reimbursement
This grant will soon be available to our office in order to reimburse the County for the purchase of the ALBERT server and the monthly monitoring service for the initial year only. This service pertains to the new cybersecurity efforts undertaken by our office. The county will be responsible for the annual monitoring after the first year, and every year thereafter.
**Supervisor of Elections Overview**

The Supervisor of Elections budget varies annually depending upon the type and number of elections contained in each budget cycle along with anticipated voter turnout.

- The current budget (FY’18) contains the August 28, 2018 Primary Election with a 25-30% anticipated voter turnout.

- The FY’19 budget contains the November 6, 2018 General Election with a 50-60% anticipated voter turnout.

- For cost comparisons, it costs more to conduct a general election than a primary. There are more days of early voting (11 vs. 8 days), more early voting locations (8 vs. 6), more workers (325 vs. 275), voters participating (50-60% vs. 25-30%), more ballots printed and mailed, and additional advertising.

The 2018 General Election comes with some particular challenges, especially with regard to the budget. The three main items that greatly impact this year’s budget are:

- **Length of the ballot** - As a result of the 13 amendments scheduled to appear on the November ballot, each St. Johns County voter will have a two page ballot.

  Adding an additional page for each voter almost doubles the cost of an election. Here are some of the effects:
  - Ballot printing costs double
  - Sample ballot printing costs double
  - Postage for vote-by-mail and sample ballots increase per voter
  - Additional workers are required at early voting and election day precincts
  - Additional voting equipment is required at high turnout voting locations
  - Advertising costs increase for print media since sample ballots are required by law to be published in a newspaper of general circulation (second page)

- **Cybersecurity**
  - New challenges for election administrators listed on the following page

- **Growth in St. Johns County**
  - Tremendous growth is now translating into increasing voter registration numbers
  - The SOE must plan for future growth and continue to make voting easy and accessible for all voters of the County
  - See pages 8-10 for specifics on growth and future planning
Cybersecurity

There is nothing more sacred to our democracy than fair, honest and accurate elections. Following a secure and successful election in 2016, Florida has been focused on continued election security efforts as we look ahead to 2018 and beyond.

The Department of State (DOS) and local election officials, including your Supervisor of Elections, have taken significant steps to protect against the growing threat of cybercrime. We are proactive in our efforts to preserve the security and integrity of our elections.

Florida’s elections are supervised locally, and each Supervisor of Elections is in charge of the security of elections in their county. My top priority is the security and integrity of St. Johns County elections and voter information.

Here are just a few of the steps we have taken:
- Training staff
- Upgraded all computer equipment
- Added additional layers of security
- Perform regular security risk assessments on our systems so adjustments can be made as needed
- Adding security cameras to the office
- Purchased equipment and the annual monitoring service of our networks 24/7/365 by MI-ISAC (the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center)
- Upgraded security measures for voting equipment at polling places

During the 2018 Legislative Session, the Department of State received $1.9 million in funding to provide grants to Supervisors of Elections for the purchase of a Network Monitoring Security solution, called ALBERT, that is offered through MS-ISAC. MS-ISAC identifies and shares information about potential threats with states and assists with the 24-7 monitoring of state networks for suspicious activity. ALBERT will provide automated alerts about system threats that will allow counties to respond quickly when data may be at risk. St. Johns County was one of the first in Florida to bring ALBERT online, and many other counties have followed suit or initiated the process.

Supervisors of Elections in Florida are taking advantage of the cybersecurity resources being made available to us through our state, federal, and non-governmental partners. We continue to work closely with other Supervisors of Elections, Dept. of State, Dept. of Homeland Security, MS-ISAC, as well as the Agency for State Technology, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida National Guard and the Federal Bureau of Investigation on election security. We are not only focused on cybersecurity but also on the physical security of our equipment and facilities.

We are looking at elections security from every angle and are working diligently to be as prepared as possible for the 2018 elections and beyond!
Projections of St. Johns County Population 2019 and 2020

St. Johns County

Florida's 24th most populous county
with 1.1% of Florida's population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>St. Johns County</th>
<th>Florida</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Census Population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980 Census</td>
<td>51,303</td>
<td>9,746,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990 Census</td>
<td>83,829</td>
<td>12,938,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% change 1980-90</td>
<td>63.4%</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 Census</td>
<td>123,135</td>
<td>15,982,824</td>
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<tr>
<td>% change 1990-00</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 Census</td>
<td>190,039</td>
<td>18,801,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% change 2000-10</td>
<td>54.3%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Under 18 years of age</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 65 years of age and over</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race &amp; Ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% White alone</td>
<td>89.3%</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Black or African American alone</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimates and Projections</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Estimate</td>
<td>229,715</td>
<td>20,484,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% change 2010-17</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 Projection based on 2017 estimate</td>
<td>255,320</td>
<td>21,526,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% change 2017-20</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025 Projection based on 2017 estimate</td>
<td>295,768</td>
<td>23,061,892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% change 2020-25</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Median Age</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>41.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Projected Population and Voter Registration Figures

These growth projections were received from the Office of Economic and Demographic Research. Current growth in St. Johns County is trending at a high level based on building permit activities. Anticipated growth in the next two years looking ahead to 2020.... 212,000 registered voters may potentially participate in the 2020 November General Election.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>237,500</td>
<td>185,250</td>
<td>261,700</td>
<td>204,126</td>
<td>280,800</td>
<td>219,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>255,300</td>
<td>199,134</td>
<td>295,800</td>
<td>230,724</td>
<td>329,600</td>
<td>257,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>271,800</td>
<td>212,004</td>
<td>324,200</td>
<td>252,876</td>
<td>375,000</td>
<td>292,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is the responsibility of the Supervisor of Elections to plan for anticipated growth and projected number of voters that will be voting this year and during the 2020 elections. In order to accomplish this, we must take projected growth figures and translate the numbers into potential registered voters, and plan accordingly.

Our current inventory of voting equipment will handle up to 190,000 registered voters. Since growth projections well exceed 200,000, for the next election cycle we must purchase additional voting equipment for the efficient and smooth operation of our voting locations.

Additionally, for the November 6, 2018, General Election, we plan on adding an additional early voting location to help manage the growth and increase in the number of registered voters in the northeast part of the county. At this time, that is a better option rather than making changes to existing precinct lines and adding additional polling locations.
2020 & Beyond – What’s Ahead...

- **2020** – U.S. Census will occur providing accurate population figures

- **2021** – Federal Government will reapportion members of the U.S. Congress
  - New Congressional, Florida State House and Senate lines will be drawn based on new census figures
  - The Board of County Commissioners and School Board are required to redraw their district lines

- **2022** – The Supervisor of Elections must create new precincts based on the new districts
  - With projected growth, we are anticipating the addition of 10 new precincts which will be in place for the 2022 elections
  - Capital improvement funds will be requested to purchase the additional voting equipment for 10 additional precincts
  - The EVID electronic poll books purchased and in use since 2010 will be reaching their end of life in 2020, and will no longer be supported by the vendor. The request for capital improvement funds will include the replacement of the EVIDs.
  - Additional warehouse space will be needed to house the additional equipment
Duties of the Supervisor of Elections

The Supervisor of Elections is the official designated by Florida Law to administer voter registration and elections in St. Johns County. The primary duties of the Supervisor include:

**Voter Registration**
- Register eligible voters and issue voter information cards
- Maintain accurate voter registration rolls by conducting list maintenance
- Removing voters who have moved out of Florida, are deceased, or for any reason are no longer eligible to vote in Florida
- Update voter registration records when a request is received (name, address, party affiliation)
- Maintain and provide registration statistics and demographics

**Elections**
- Ensure the safety and security of our elections
- Conduct federal, state, county, municipal, special district and community development district elections in St. Johns County
- Maintain, program and test voting equipment for elections
- Acquire, equip and staff polling places
- Maintain precinct information, including an accurate street index
- Maintain and provide election results and voting history
- Hire and train poll workers
- Send notice of election to overseas and military voters prior to each election cycle
- Provide election dates and voting information according to Election Laws
- Accept vote-by-mail ballot requests. Send, receive and verify vote-by-mail ballots

**Candidates and Petitions**
- Qualify candidates for county, municipal and special district offices
- Receive candidate campaign finance reports for all candidates and make them available to the public
- Receive annual financial disclosure forms from certain elected/appointed county officials
- Verify petition signatures for initiative petitions and candidate qualifying petitions

**Voter Education**
- Provide voter outreach education and information
- Conduct annual voter education programs in all public/private county high schools and nursing/assisted living homes
- Conduct high school student council elections and Sunshine State Young Readers elections in elementary/middle schools
- Publish election and voter information in local media
The Florida Voter Registration System (FVRS)

The Department of State (DOS) is responsible for the security and integrity of the Florida Voter Registration System (FVRS).

Prior to the 2016 election, the DOS upgraded to state-of-the-art hardware, software and firewalls to safeguard voter information in the Florida Voter Registration System and prevent any possible hacking attempts from being successful. Its efforts are working as the FVRS remains secure.

The DOS is also enhancing the security of the Florida Election Watch website to ensure there is no disruption in election night reporting of results as well as strengthening protections of Florida’s online voter registration website.

FVRS serves as the “official” voter registration list for conducting all elections for federal, state and local offices in Florida. FVRS communicates and interacts with each county voter registration system as well as several state and federal agencies in order to maintain a single, uniform, official, centralized, interactive computerized voter registration system.

The Florida Voter Registration System:
- Is administered by the Department of State who delegates voter registration duties and records maintenance activities to the local Supervisor of Elections
- It is each county Supervisor’s responsibility to perform these duties in accordance with state and federal law
- Contains the name and registration information of every registered voter in the state
- Coordinates with other agency databases including: the Dept. of Health, the Clerk of the Circuit Courts, United States Attorney’s Office, Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement, Board of Executive Clemency, Dept. of Corrections, and the Dept. of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

The St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Office is an essential part of FVRS. As a local election official, we are responsible for:
- Acting as the official custodian of voter registration documents at the county level
- Accepting voter registration applications and updating voter information
- Entering new voter registrations
- Scanning documents into the system
- Ensuring that list maintenance duties are conducted in accordance with section 98.065 and 98.075, Florida Statutes
- Mailing voter information cards upon request, following an update of a voters’ information or any time changes are made to precincts or polling locations
- Entering and maintaining requests for vote-by-mail ballots
- Verifying candidate and constitutional amendment petitions
- Entering voter history following each election
Online Voter Registration

Did you know you can now register to vote or make changes to your voter information online? On October 1, 2017, Florida joined 35 other states and the District of Columbia which also offer online registration.

Register2voteFlorida.gov is mobile friendly and accessible through our website votesjc.com by selecting “Register to Vote.” This new service is convenient, simple and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To submit a registration online, applicants will need a Florida driver license or State identification (ID) card and the last four digits of their social security number. Once the individual’s identity is verified and the application deemed complete, a voter information card will be issued by the Elections Office.

Voter Registration Services

The Supervisor of Elections Office operates at one facility located at 4455 Avenue A, Suite 101 in St. Augustine. Under current law, voter registration services are also provided for in a number of locations throughout St. Johns County.

Section 97, Florida Statutes designates a number of locations as voter registration agencies where voters may register to vote or make changes to their voter record as needed in person.

These locations include:

- St. Johns County Tax Collector Offices, which issue drivers licenses at Ponte Vedra, Julington Creek, St. Augustine, and DuPont Center
- St. Johns County Public Libraries in St. Augustine, St. Augustine Beach, Bartram Trail, Ponte Vedra, Hastings, and the Southeast Branch Library as well as a bookmobile which travels around the county on a daily basis
- Offices that provide public assistance or serve persons with disabilities include the following:
  - Department of Health
  - Department of Social Services
  - WIC Programs
  - Medicaid
  - Department of Children and Family Services
- Armed forces recruiting offices consisting of four offices within St. Johns County
Voter Education

One of the keys to conducting a successful election is educating the voters of St. Johns County and having them prepared to vote. During the 2018 election cycle, our office will continue to participate in community events in an effort to increase voter participation.

By using voter education tools and outreach programs, our goals include:
- Ensuring all interested eligible residents have the opportunity to register to vote
- Inform voters of the three ways to vote: Vote-By-Mail, Early Voting, Election Day
- Educate voters on their correct polling place for Election Day
- Increase voter participation and interest in the election process
- Give voters a better understanding of what to expect when they vote, including providing photo and signature ID
- Educate voters on how to mark a ballot
- Demonstrate voting equipment

Sample Ballots
Sample ballots remain as one of the most effective tools for providing election specific information to the registered voters of the county. Registered voters are mailed, or e-mailed, a sample ballot prior to every election. Voters are encouraged to fill in their sample ballots and take them to the polls to use as they mark their official ballot. This will save time in the voting booth especially in the 2018 General Election with a two page ballot.

Community Events – Taking the Elections Office out into our Communities
Our office participates in numerous community events during election years. Conducting voter registration drives and distributing election materials provides a great opportunity to meet and talk with residents about our voting process. We will continue to seek and visit various venues in all areas of the county, naturalization ceremonies and other events for which we are invited to participate.

Supervisor of Elections Office Web Site – www.votesjc.com
To date, our best voter education tool continues to be our website by providing access to voter registration and election information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. With the creation of online voter registration, all of the services offered by our office are now available online. Our website continues to be heavily utilized by voters and is compatible for mobile devices.

Facebook and Twitter are also used to distribute information. It is important to be able to provide our resources using social media to follow the trends in technology. It is very cost effective and a good way to help distribute information.
Area High Schools
Annually, Elections Office staff conduct voter education programs at St. Johns County public and private high schools. Our programs are for the purpose of educating high school students about good government, discuss the importance of voting, and encourage their participation in the voting process when they become 18. This year we registered or updated the existing registration of 515 students.

School Student Council Elections
We continue to conduct school student council elections. Our office prints ballots based on the candidates running in the school election and programs our voting equipment for the election. Students then vote just as they would in a real election. The students who run for office also have the opportunity to campaign, print and distribute campaign literature and give speeches in order to persuade their fellow students to vote for them. This is a great opportunity to share the importance of voting to our younger generation and get them excited about the voting process.

Sunshine State Young Readers Program Elections
This was the 3rd year that we teamed up with Media Specialists in 19 St. Johns County Elementary Schools, Middle Schools and K-8 Academies and conducted the Sunshine State Young Reader Program Elections for 2018. This is a great program which encourages reading among students from K-8th grades. Students who read at least three of the 15 books selected for each grade level were eligible to cast their ballot for their favorite book. This year 3,006 students participated in the election and experienced voting first hand. We hope these students will continue to enjoy reading and will look forward to the time when they are old enough to vote.

Middle School Civics Programs
Our office also participated in civics programs at Switzerland Point Middle School Civic and Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. The students had great questions and really seemed to enjoy learning about elections!
General Election – November 6, 2018

General Election (F.S. 100.031)
A general election shall be held in each county on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even numbered year, to choose a successor to each elective federal, state, county, district and local officer whose term will expire before the next general election, and for voting on constitutional amendments.

Municipal Elections
Voters residing within a municipality in St. Johns County are entitled to vote on their City Commissioners. The applicable city races are nonpartisan and appear on all ballots. A separate voter registration is not required. All municipal elections are held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled general election. The municipalities included are the City of St. Augustine, the City of St. Augustine Beach.

Special District Elections
The Independent Special Districts located solely within St. Johns County have also adopted resolutions which provide for the Supervisor of Elections to conduct their elections. Those districts are St. Augustine/St. Johns County Airport Authority Board, St. Johns Soil & Water Conservation District, St. Augustine Port, Waterway and Beach Commission, Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County, and the Municipal Service District of Ponte Vedra Beach.

Community Development Districts
Community Development District elections are also conducted by the Elections Office in accordance with chapter 190, Florida Statutes. A total of sixteen (16) CDD elections are currently conducted by the Supervisor of Elections Office.

Each municipality, special district and community development district is billed for the proportionate share of the cost of their elections. The revenues are deposited into the county general fund.
2018 Offices Scheduled for Election

**Federal**
- United States Senator
- Representative in Congress, Districts 4 & 6

**State**
- Governor & Lt. Governor
- Attorney General
- Chief Financial Officer
- Commissioner of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- State Representative – House Districts 17 & 24
- Supreme Court Justices & 5th Dist. Court of Appeals Judges whose terms will be expiring
- Circuit Judges, 7th Judicial Circuit: Groups 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, 21 & 27

**County**
- County Judge – Group 1
- County Commissioners – Districts 2 & 4
- School Board Members – Districts 1, 3 & 4

**Special Districts**
- Anastasia Mosquito Control District – Seats 2 & 4
- St. Augustine – St. Johns County Airport Authority – Groups 1, 2 & 3
- St. Johns Soil & Water Conservation District – Groups 1, 2 & 5
- St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach Commission – Groups 1, 3 & 5
- Municipal Service District of Ponte Vedra Beach – Seats 1, 3, 5 & 7

**Municipalities**
- City of St. Augustine – Seats 3/Mayor, 4 & 5
- City of St. Augustine Beach – Seats 3, 4 & 5

**Community Development Districts**
- Aberdeen Community Development District – Seats 1, 3 & 5
- Brandy Creek Community Development District – Seats 1, 3 & 5
- Durbin Crossing Community Development District – Seats 1, 3 & 5
- Glen St. Johns Community Development District – Seats 1, 4 & 5
- Heritage Landing Community Development District – Seats 2, 3 & 4
- Heritage Park Community Development District – Seats 1, 3 & 5
- Julington Creek Plantation Community Development District – Seats 1, 3 & 4
- Marshall Creek Community Development District – Seats 1, 2 & 3
- Rivers Edge Community Development District – Seats 2 & 4
- Sampson Creek Community Development District – Seats 1, 3 & 5
- Sandy Creek Community Development District – Seats 1 & 3
- St. Johns Forest Community Development District – Seats 1, 2 & 3
- Sweetwater Creek Community Development District – Seats 1 & 2
- Tolomato Community Development District – Seats 2, 4 & 5
- Turnbull Creek Community Development District – Seats 1, 3 & 5
- World Commerce Community Development District – Seats 1, 2 & 3
General Election Constitutional Amendments

Constitutional amendments reach the ballot by different avenues. A total of thirteen state constitutional amendments are scheduled to appear on the November 6th General Election ballot.

- Three were placed on the ballot by the State Legislature
- Two by citizen petition initiative (includes Financial Impact Statement)
- Eight by the Constitutional Revision Commission (CRC)

The constitutional amendments will appear on the ballot as follows:

1. **INCREASED HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION** – Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the homestead exemption by exempting the assessed valuation of homestead property greater than $100,000 and up to $125,000 for all levies other than school district levies. The amendment shall take effect January 1, 2019.

2. **LIMITATIONS ON PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS** – Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to permanently retain provisions currently in effect, which limit property tax assessment increases on specified non-homestead real property, except for school district taxes, to 10 percent each year. If approved, the amendment removes the scheduled repeal of such provisions in 2019 and shall take effect January 1, 2019.

3. **VOTER CONTROL OF GAMBLING IN FLORIDA** – This amendment ensures that Florida voters shall have the exclusive right to decide whether to authorize casino gambling by requiring that in order for casino gambling to be authorized under Florida law, it must be approved by Florida voters pursuant to Article XI, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution. Affects articles X and XI. Defines casino gambling and clarifies that this amendment does not conflict with federal law regarding state/tribal compacts.

The amendment’s impact on state and local government revenues and costs, if any, cannot be determined at this time because of its unknown effect on gambling operations that have not been approved by voters through a constitutional amendment proposed by a citizens’ initiative petition process.

4. **VOTING RESTORATION AMENDMENT** – This amendment restores the voting rights of Floridians with felony convictions after they complete all terms of their sentence including parole or probation. The amendment would not apply to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses, who would continue to be permanently barred from voting unless the Governor and Cabinet vote to restore their voting rights on a case by case basis.

The precise effect of this amendment on state and local government costs cannot be determined, but the operation of current voter registration laws, combined with an increased number of felons registering to vote, will produce higher overall costs relative to the processes in place today. The impact, if any, on state and local government revenues cannot be determined. The fiscal impact of any future legislation that implements a different process cannot be reasonably determined.
5. **SUPERMAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED TO IMPOSE, AUTHORIZE, OR RAISE STATE TAXES OR FEES**—Prohibits the legislature from imposing, authorizing, or raising a state tax or fee except through legislation approved by a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature in a bill containing no other subject. This proposal does not authorize a state tax or fee otherwise prohibited by the Constitution and does not apply to fees or taxes imposed or authorized to be imposed by a county, municipality, school board, or special district.

6. **RIGHTS OF CRIME VICTIMS; JUDGES**—Creates constitutional rights for victims of crime; requires courts to facilitate victims’ rights; authorizes victims to enforce their rights throughout criminal and juvenile justice processes. Requires judges and hearing officers to independently interpret statutes and rules rather than deferring to government agency’s interpretation. Raises mandatory retirement age of state judges from seventy to seventy-five years; deletes authorization for judges to complete term if one-half of term has been served by retirement age.

7. **FIRST RESPONDER AND MILITARY MEMBER SURVIVOR BENEFITS; PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**—Creates mandatory payment of education and compensation benefits to qualifying survivors of certain first responders and military members who die performing official duties. Requires supermajority votes by university trustees and state university system board of governors to raise or impose all legislatively authorized fees if law requires approval by those bodies. Establishes existing state college system as constitutional entity; provides governance structure.

8. **SCHOOL BOARD TERM LIMITS AND DUTIES; PUBLIC SCHOOLS**—Creates a term limit of eight consecutive years for school board members and requires the legislature to provide for the promotion of civic literacy in public schools. Currently, district school boards have a constitutional duty to operate, control, and supervise all public schools. The amendment maintains a school board’s duties to public schools it establishes, but permits the state to operate, control, and supervise public schools not established by the school board.

9. **PROHIBITS OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING; PROHIBITS VAPING IN ENCLOSED INDOOR WORKPLACES**—Prohibits drilling for the exploration or extraction of oil and natural gas beneath all state-owned waters between the mean high water line and the state’s outermost territorial boundaries. Adds use of vapor-generating electronic devices to current prohibition of tobacco smoking in enclosed indoor workplaces with exceptions; permits more restrictive local ordinances.

10. **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND OPERATION**—Requires legislature to retain department of veterans’ affairs. Ensures election of sheriffs, property appraisers, supervisors of elections, tax collectors, and clerks of court in all counties; removes county charters’ ability to abolish, change term, transfer duties, or eliminate election of these offices. Changes annual legislative session commencement date in even-numbered years from March to January; removes legislature’s authorization to fix another date. Creates office of domestic security and counterterrorism within department of law enforcement.
11. **PROPERTY RIGHTS; REMOVAL OF OBSOLETE PROVISION; CRIMINAL STATUTES** – Removes discriminatory language related to real property rights. Removes obsolete language repealed by voters. Deletes provision that amendment of a criminal statute will not affect prosecution or penalties for a crime committed before the amendment; retains current provision allowing prosecution of a crime committed before the repeal of a criminal statute.

12. **LOBBYING AND ABUSE OF OFFICE BY PUBLIC OFFICERS** – Expands current restrictions on lobbying for compensation by former public officers; creates restrictions on lobbying for compensation by serving public officers; provides exceptions; prohibits certain abuses of public office for personal benefit.

13. **DOG RACING** – Prohibits gaming or pari-mutuel entities from racing dogs in connection with wagering; eligibility of such entities to conduct other authorized pari-mutuel and gaming activities is not affected; prohibits wagering on outcome of in-state live dog races.

Voters will have a choice to make for each of these amendments.
**Voting Trends**

Voting Trends during general elections vary greatly depending on whether or not it is a presidential election year. Naturally, statistics show that overall voter turnout is higher in presidential General Election years. In these years the majority of the ballots cast in the election are cast prior to Election Day.

During non-presidential general elections statistics show that most voters still prefer to vote at their polling place on Election Day. However, we expect that Early Voting and Vote-By-Mail Ballots will continue to be heavily utilized in the 2018 General Election.

The following charts show voting trends in St. Johns County during the last four general elections:

**Methods of Voting in General Elections**

- **Early Voting**
  - 2010: 32%
  - 2012: 16%
  - 2014: 20%
  - 2016: 28%

- **Vote-By-Mail**
  - 2010: 52%
  - 2012: 46%
  - 2014: 34%
  - 2016: 51%

- **Election Day**
  - 2010: 31%
  - 2012: 18%
  - 2014: 31%
  - 2016: 52%

**Voter Turnout**

- **Primary Election**
  - 2010: 24%
  - 2012: 20%
  - 2014: 16%
  - 2016: 24%

- **General Election**
  - 2010: 54%
  - 2012: 75%
  - 2014: 55%
  - 2016: 81%
**Voting has never been easier than it is today!**

Any voter can request a ballot and vote by mail
Early voting is conducted prior to each election
Vote at your precinct on election day 7 AM to 7 PM

**Vote-By-Mail**

Voting by mail is the most convenient way for voters to cast their ballot. Due to the convenience it affords voters, requests for vote-by-mail ballots continue to increase. A vote-by-mail request is sufficient for the next two regularly scheduled general elections. Any registered voter may request a ballot and vote-by-mail.

With the challenges of a lengthy 2 page ballot, a staff member developed a logo specifically for use to promote voting by mail for the general election. Our message is clear – Avoid lines at the polls. Vote your 2 page ballot by mail!

We have already began using the logo in advertising to promote voting by mail. It catches the voter’s attention. It works very well for voters to be able to take their time, do their research on the constitutional amendments and vote from the convenience of their home. It also helps reduce potential lines at the polls when more voters make the choice to vote by mail.

All mail ballots must be returned to the Elections Office by 7 PM on Election Day in order to be counted. Several convenient options are available for voters to return their ballots:

- Voted ballots may be turned in at early voting sites during regular voting hours.
- A secure drop box in the front of the office provides for a location where a voted ballot can dropped off 24/7.
- Red ballot drop boxes are located inside all public libraries, Tax Collectors Office in Ponte Vedra & Julington Creek, plus St. Augustine Beach City Hall. We encourage the use of the drop boxes for voters who do not wish to return their ballot by mail.
- Ballots may also be returned to the Elections Office by mail.
Early Voting

Early Voting dates and voting hours are set at the discretion of the Supervisor of Elections for each county. For the 2018 General Election, the following 8 locations are planned to be open for voting. Dates: October 24th – November 3rd. Open 8 AM – 6 PM daily at all locations.

Early Voting Sites for the General Election are as follows:
- Supervisor of Elections Main Office – 4455 Avenue A, Suite 101 – St. Augustine
- St. Johns County Service Center (Julington Creek Annex) – 725 Flora Branch Blvd. – St. Johns
- Ponte Vedra Library – 101 Library Blvd. – Ponte Vedra Beach
- Southeast Branch Library – 6670 US 1 South – St. Augustine
- St. Augustine Beach Town Hall – 2200 A1A South – St. Augustine
- W.E. Harris Community Center – 400 E. Harris St. – Hastings
  o (Sampson Creek CDD property)
- Location to be determined - Nocatee area

Early Voting continues to grow in popularity as many voters prefer to cast their ballots in person instead of voting by mail. Voters take advantage of the convenience it affords them, especially with voting available on Saturdays and Sunday. As our county continues to grow in population, and due to a two page ballot, we are planning to add two additional early voting sites to our regular 6 locations for the general election.

Voting at the Polls on Election Day

Some voters still prefer to vote in the traditional way and cast their ballot at their polling place on Election Day. Polls are open 7 AM – 7 PM.

Prior to voting, voters should:
- Verify their address is correct
- Know where their polling place is located
- Present current and valid photo and signature identification when voting
- Review their sample ballot and be ready to vote upon entering their polling place

Address changes may be made at the polls on Election Day by registered voters who have moved within St. Johns County, or from another Florida county, by completing a Florida Voter Registration Application. Once the application has been completed, the voter is permitted to vote a regular ballot.

There are 46 precincts in St. Johns County and 12 of those precincts share voting locations, therefore there are 38 polling places open for voting on Election Day. Voters must vote at their assigned polling location on Election Day, based on their residence address.
Elections Staffing

The day-to-day operations of the Supervisor of Elections Office differs from the work load brought on by an election. We transition from a staff of 11 full time employees to a staff of approximately 340 employees who are required to conduct a successful election.

To complete our work force, we also rely on:
- Part-time and temporary employees
- Poll workers
- Contractual workers
- Volunteers

Outsourcing a portion of the extra work that accompanies an election has greatly improved the efficiency of the Office and allows for the best use of our resources.

Poll Workers

We have great elections in St. Johns County because of dedicated individuals who serve their community proudly as poll workers. They are the Gatekeepers of Democracy. It takes many hands to see that each and every voter is afforded the opportunity to cast their ballot. For the upcoming General Election we will hire and train approximately 325 poll workers.

Poll workers are temporary employees of the Supervisor of Elections hired to work at voting locations during Early Voting and on Election Day. Based on skills and experience, poll workers are assigned to one of the following positions:
- Clerk
- Assistant Clerk
- Inspector
- Equipment Inspector
- Poll Deputy

Training Classes
Florida Statutes require all poll workers to attend mandatory training sessions for each election cycle. Poll worker salaries include compensation for their time spent in training. A one hour class on sensitivity and conflict resolution is mandatory and included during each election cycle.
**Voting Equipment**

Our Voting Equipment is federally and state certified. To be used in any election in Florida, the voting system must be approved by the State. The State is required to test and determine that the hardware and software meet the standards set out in law and rule.

**DS200**

The ES&S DS200 is a precinct-based, voter-activated paper ballot counter and vote tabulator that is used at all early voting sites and all polling locations on Election Day.

Voters mark their paper ballot by filling in the oval to the left of their choices and then insert their ballot into the DS200, where it is immediately tabulated. If a voter marks their ballot incorrectly, the DS200 will not tabulate the ballot, but will display the error on the screen, allowing the voter the option of casting their ballot with errors or returning it to the voter for review or correction. The voter can spoil their ballot by surrendering it to the poll worker. The poll worker will then issue a second ballot to the voter. After the new ballot is voted, it will then be reinserted into the DS200 by the voter for tabulation.

**ADA Voting Equipment**

Federal and state requirements that meet ADA guidelines for persons with disabilities require that voting systems allow the same opportunity for all voters at every voting location. The ExpressVote allows blind and visually impaired voters to vote privately. Persons who are visually impaired may instead access the system’s audio feature. Once a voter has selected their choices, the ExpressVote prints an abbreviated paper ballot that the voter will insert into a DS200 for tabulation.

**Ballot on Demand Printers**

The use of ballot on demand printers has proven to be cost effective, and allows the greatest flexibility for providing ballots to voters during early voting. The system’s ease of use, flexibility and durability make it an effective solution for printing test ballots, over the counter vote-by-mail ballots and early voting ballots. The system has proven to be an innovative solution that provides an efficient, accurate and transparent method for all of our ballot needs.
**Vote-By-Mail Ballot Tabulator**

The high speed vote-by-mail ballot reader completes the suite of tabulation equipment; the ES&S DS850 high-speed, digital scan ballot tabulator has a processing rate of up to 300 ballots per minute and uses cameras and imaging algorithms to image the front and back of a ballot in a single pass and then evaluate the results that allow for the near continuous scanning of ballots.

**Electronic Voter Identification System**

It is very important that voters have confidence in our processes. We must ensure that all elections are conducted transparently, efficiently and administered fairly.

EViDs (electronic poll books) allow us to manage and deliver successful elections by streamlining the voter check-in process at all voting locations. During early voting and election-day operations, each EVID station communicates securely with elections headquarters to maintain up-to-the minute accuracy on its voter file.

Features of the EVIDs include:

- Rapid voter check-in and processing
- Access to voter database assures that only valid registered voters are eligible to cast a ballot and have it counted
- Voters who move and have not updated their address can have their address updated quickly and vote a regular ballot
- The EViD provides the correct location, based on the voter’s address, and prints driving instructions for a voter who checks in at the wrong precinct on election day
- Check-in data collected is shared throughout the county system to prevent a voter from voting twice
- Voter’s whose registration is questionable must vote a provisional ballot
- Eliminates the need for paper registers at the polls on election day
- The number of voters checking in at each site is updated in almost real time allowing for information to be available via our website as to voter turnout by day and location
How Do We Know Our Voting System is Secure?

1. Our state certified voting equipment is tested before each election with a public logic and accuracy test to verify the tabulators are counting votes accurately.

2. The ballots and voting equipment are stored in a secure area in the Elections Office Warehouse with restricted key card access. Only authorized personnel are permitted to enter the area. During voting, our tabulators are kept in plain sight, secured with seals to prohibit tampering.

3. A stand-alone server, not connected to the internet, is used to program the election and tabulate the results.

4. A separate communication server on a private network, not connected to the internet, receives encrypted electronic election results from each precinct on election night when the polls close.

5. Electronic results from each tabulator are backed up by paper results tapes that are posted on the doors of each polling place election night and an additional tape is brought to the Elections Office.

6. An audit is performed on the paper results tape and electronic results received from each precinct to assure all voted ballots are accounted for and all results have been recorded correctly.

7. Election results are verified with a manual audit conducted after each election. A randomly selected race and precinct are hand-counted to verify the total matches the tabulated results.

8. Paper ballots are retained for 22 months and can be re-tabulated if there is ever a question about results.

Elections are conducted on a local level in all 67 counties in Florida. Safeguards are established in law. Elections office staff and poll workers belong to different political parties and have diverse backgrounds. It would be impossible to engineer this complex system to benefit a specific candidate or party.

Sadly, there is an unwarranted sense of fear among some of our citizens—that is as dangerous to our democracy as a compromised election. I have total confidence in our voting system and our processes, and you can too. Our elections are safe and secure!
GOD bless America, our HOME sweet HOME!