

# ELECTION NEWS

Osceola County Supervisor of Elections Newsletter

Summer 2023

## New Operations Center

If you've driven by the elections office lately, you may have noticed construction both in the front and the back of the building. The construction in the front is part of an expansion of the Tax Collector's Office. The construction behind us is our new operations center!

The second building will give us some much-needed space to continue to service our ever-growing county. The building will house a second training space, offices, and a warehouse. It may also be used as an Early Voting location in the future.

We look forward to holding an open house this Fall to welcome the public into the new space. Keep an eye on our social media for more information.

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"We are thrilled and excited to be opening our new training room. This facility is colorful, has modern amenities and has plenty of space for a more hands-on approach to training. I look forward to utilizing this new space."

- Heather  
Leeper, Election  
Worker  
Coordinator

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Operations Center

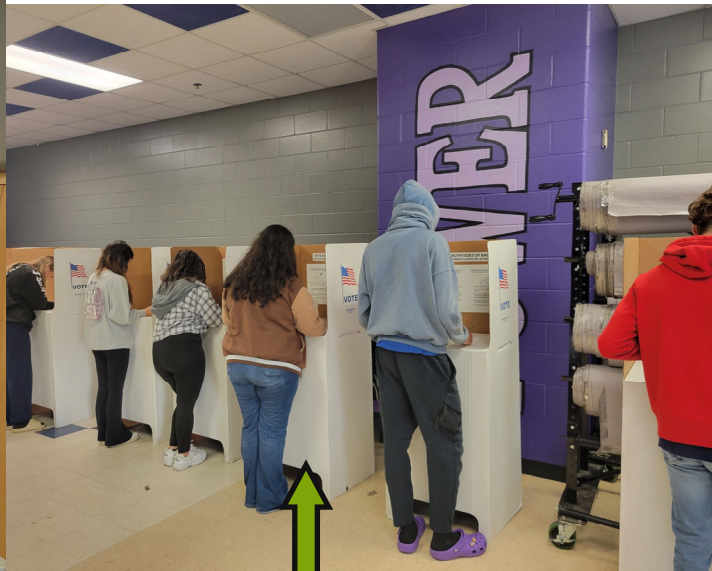
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# Celebration High School's Student Government Election

Outreach staff visited Celebration High School on Wednesday, April 26 to conduct their student government election. All freshmen, sophomores and juniors were eligible voters and had the chance to select their class officers. Our office created an official ballot and brought two tabulation machines so students could get a feel for how real elections look.

Students checked in, signed their names, and received a ballot. 



They stood at voting booths to mark their ballot and inserted their ballot into a machine before getting an "I Voted" sticker. Every class period was filled with voters who were excited to participate. By the end of the day, more than 1,400 ballots were cast.

# Become an Election Worker

Believe it or not, we are already preparing for the 2024 election cycle. Part of the preparation includes recruiting election workers. The majority of our election workers return year after year to help our community vote. However, we continue to grow at a rapid pace, which means we always need more workers!

Election workers play a vital role in our democracy. Most people think that election workers are volunteers. This is not actually true. Election workers are paid for their time.

If you are interested in making democracy happen, visit our website at [www.voteosceola.gov](http://www.voteosceola.gov) and click on "Election Workers" to learn more and apply.



*Supervisor of Elections*

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Visit our website to apply to be an election worker

## Special Election Coming This Year

In June, Florida House of Representatives Member Fred Hawkins, resigned from his seat. A special election will have to be held to fill this seat. Mr. Hawkins represented District 35. This district encompasses parts of both Osceola and Orange Counties. Osceola County voters who live in this district include voters in Narcoossee, Kenansville, Harmony and surrounding areas. Voters can determine which district they live in by checking their voter information card, checking their voter status online or by calling the elections office.

Dates for the special election have not been set at this time. There will be a primary and a general election. Both elections will have an Early Voting period prior to Election Day. Voters can also Vote by Mail. Any voter who has already requested their mail ballot for the 2024 cycle will automatically receive a mail ballot for the special election. Anyone who is unsure whether they've requested a Vote by Mail ballot, can check their Vote by Mail status online or call the office. Vote by Mail requests can be made online, in person and over the phone.

Follow us on social media, check our website and read any mail we send to you to stay up to date with information regarding this special election.

# Recent Events

## April

Outreach staff was very busy this month with high school voter registration and Sunshine State Young Reader elections at elementary and middle schools. You could've also spotted them at the Caribbean Fusion Festival on April 23 in Kissimmee.

Four staff members attended a national workshop with the Election Center. The Election Center is the National Association of Election Professionals. At this workshop, election professionals from across the country were discussing ways to better train and educate employees, election workers and, also, voters.

A new voter information video was dropped onto our youtube account. This video explains the logic and accuracy testing that happens prior to each election. You can check it out here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRkl-ujLQg&t=1s>.



## May

Three staff members and Supervisor Arrington attended the Florida Supervisors of Elections conference in Sanibel May 21-25. This is an annual meeting of all 67 counties to discuss changes in the law and learn best practices.

Secretary of State Cord Byrd was a speaker at this event.



Outreach staff was out and about in the community again this month with a visit to Hope CARES Day on May 15, the Osceola County Employee Health Fair on May 16, and Osceola County's Before the Storm Event in Kissimmee on May 20. Two Election Worker Mini Sessions were held in May.

We released a quick video to remind voters that they can check their voter status online 24/7. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMVBf\\_5PjI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMVBf_5PjI)

## June

Kissimmee held two big events in June- Pridefest on June 3 and the Juneteenth Festival on June 17. Staff was present at both events to assist with voter registration and education. Outreach staff also had a table set up at St. Cloud City Hall on June 5 and at Hope CARES Day on June 12 to connect with voters.



The third Election Worker Mini Session was held on June 22. Our last voter video for this quarter was uploaded on June 20. The video reminds voters that the law has changed regarding Vote by Mail requests. Remember- Vote by Mail requests only last for one election cycle. Want more information? Watch it now at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTWut\\_W0GNQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTWut_W0GNQ).

## Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at [www.votesceola.gov](http://www.votesceola.gov) or give us a call for more information at (407) 742-6000