



Poll Worker Pulse

The Newsletter for and about Miami-Dade Election Workers • Spring 2012

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Message from the Supervisor of Elections



On October 11, 2011, I was appointed to serve as Miami-Dade County's Supervisor of Elections. As a 30+ years County employee and career public servant, it is an honor to have the opportunity to serve our community in this capacity. As electors and poll workers, you may be assured that elections in this County will continue to be conducted with the same level of integrity and accuracy that you have been accustomed to.

Poll workers are our greatest resource in conducting elections. My philosophy is that poll workers are a critical part of the Elections Team. As poll workers, each of you represents me as Supervisor of Elections, my administration and Miami-Dade County government. You communicate, through your words and deeds, the professional values, mission and goals of the Elections Department. You create the image and perceptions of the way elections are conducted in Miami-Dade County in a way that no one else can. I depend on each of you.

For this reason, it is imperative that there be open and frequent communication between poll workers and my office. We have already begun this process and I am excited about the feedback we have gotten. Your experiences, suggestions and recommendations, are important and welcomed and it would be impossible to improve our service to the community without your invaluable support. As a matter of fact, the Florida Senate also recognizes the value and dedication of our poll workers and has recently passed a resolution that applauds all poll workers across the state for the high level of integrity they bring to the elections process.

As we work through this very exciting presidential election year, you will hear from me about what worked and what didn't work, and I want to hear from each of you. I also want to thank you for the time you take to be a part of this important process. With your help, we manage the largest election organization in the State of Florida and set the example for others. Your team efforts and the work you perform on Election Day shape the image that the state and the world have of Miami-Dade County.

I am proud to have you on my TEAM!

Sincerely,

Penelope Townsley
Supervisor of Elections



Delivering Excellence Every Day

What's New

Redistricting

Every ten years after the census, each state goes through reapportionment. Reapportionment happens when the 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives are redistributed among the 50 States. On December 21, 2010, the Director of Census announced that Florida is now allowed 2 additional representatives. Due to these changes, Florida must go through a process called redistricting. Districts establish which voters take part in which elections when choosing representatives at various levels of government. So, redistricting is simply the redrawing of the district boundaries.

In Miami-Dade County, these changes in district boundaries have created a number of precinct splits, requiring different voters in the same precinct to receive a different ballot.

You should already be familiar with the different types of precincts that exist normally:

- **Single Precinct** – a precinct managed by one board of poll workers.
- **Same Board** – two precincts located in the same room managed by the same board.
- **Double Precinct** – two precincts located in the same room managed by different boards. Sometimes you will find three or four precincts in the same room.

Now, a Split Precinct is one managed by the same board that is divided into separate sections, to reflect different federal, state or local districts.



Split Precincts

- When a precinct is split, each split within the precinct will have their own ballot, VAS and OSVE
- Split precincts will have the same number, but they will be identified by a decimal. For Example: 515.0, 515.1, 515.2, etc.
- Zero and Results Tapes must be printed for each split
- Affirmations and Provisional Ballots must reflect split number

Since the August 14th election is a Closed Primary Election with different ballots for Democrats and Republicans and Non-partisans, it is especially important that special care is taken to give voters the right ballot. You will see these changes in your upcoming training sessions, so be sure to ask as many questions as it takes to Get the Ballot Right!

Florida Senate Applauds the Work of Poll Workers

On February 27, 2012, the Florida Senate recognized the commitment of Poll Workers from across the state. Senate Resolution 1296 commends the thousands of individuals who work during early voting and on Election Day for their outstanding service and dedication to the democratic process in their communities.

Miami-Dade County is proud of our own outstanding poll workers !



Clerk's Corner



GET THE BALLOT RIGHT

THE CHECK-IN TABLE INSPECTOR:

- **MUST** verify the voter's identity, have the voter sign the precinct register and issue the Voter Authorization Slip (VAS) based on party affiliation. The VAS will be color coded to indicate the 3 different parties.

THE BALLOT TABLE INSPECTOR:

- **MUST** issue the ballot to the voter based on the VAS.
- Now the inspector **MUST** verify with the voter which ballot they received and the number of pages. This will help to make certain the ballot and VAS are correct.
- **NEVER PRE-STUFF** ballots into the Secrecy Envelopes.

August 14, 2012 is a Closed Primary Election

1. A voter can only vote for the federal or state offices that belong to their party,
••• And •••
2. All voters can vote on questions connected to their county or municipality.

POLL WATCHERS

Each political party and each candidate may have **one watcher in each polling room or early voting area at any one time during the election.**

The supervisor of elections shall provide to each designated poll watcher a poll watcher identification badge that identifies the poll watcher by name. Each poll watcher must wear his or her identification badge while in the polling room or early voting area.

- **At the time of check-in by the Poll Watcher, the Clerk must verify that no other Poll Watcher for the same candidate or political committee is in the room and make certain only one Poll Watcher is present to observe the conduct of electors and officials.**
- No watcher shall be permitted to come closer to the officials' table or the voting booths than is reasonably necessary to properly perform his or her functions.
- The poll watchers shall furnish their own materials and necessities and shall not obstruct the orderly conduct of any election.
- The poll watchers shall pose any questions regarding polling place procedures directly to the clerk for resolution.
- The poll watcher may not interact with voters.
- Each poll watcher shall be a qualified and registered elector of the county in which he or she serves.

Miami-Dade Elections

Registration Statistics as of 6/05/12

Republican	368,455	30%
Democrat	529,720	43%
Other	326,449	27%
TOTAL	1,224,624	100%

Absentee Voter Outreach & Training Program

Stop Voter Fraud

One of the Elections Department's (Department) core objectives is to ensure that all eligible voters in Miami-Dade County are "Election Ready." To accomplish this mission, the Department will launch a comprehensive education and outreach campaign to increase voter awareness throughout the 2012 election cycle and beyond.

Activities will include voter registration, voting equipment demonstrations, voter rights and responsibilities, education on the three ways to vote and ever-evolving election law changes.

A newly developed component of the Elections Department's 2012 Education and Outreach Plan are activities designed to reduce the potential of mishandling absentee ballots. The

overarching message to voters is that absentee ballots should be personally mailed or delivered to the Elections Department to ensure they are delivered as intended, as well as instructions to assist in protecting their right to privacy.

Here is just one of the initiatives that will be implemented:

- **Outreach at Assisted Living Facilities (ALF)** - There are currently more than 1,000 registered Assisted Living Facilities and 126 nursing homes in Miami-Dade County. The Department plans to proactively target these facilities in an effort to educate their personnel on the absentee ballot process, their rights, and the availability of our assistance. The Department has already visited

23 of the largest facilities; and we are currently in the process of analyzing the number of absentee ballot requests on file for the remaining ALF's in order to prioritize outreach with those facilities with the largest number of requests.

This is a very exciting initiative which will ensure the integrity of absentee voting within Miami-Dade County. We will keep you informed on the progress of this effort in future editions. If you would like to participate in this important effort, please contact the Outreach Division and speak with Kaye Johnson, Outreach Coordinator.

Please feel free to contact Kaye at (305) 499-8380 or via email KAYEJ@miamidade.gov.



2012 Training Sites At-A-Glance

Grace Church of Kendall

8100 SW 104th St, Miami 33156

Hialeah Parks & Recreation Dept

5601 E 8th Ave, Hialeah 33013

Martin Luther King Building

2525 NW 62nd St, Miami 3314

Memorial Highway Baptist Church

14455 Memorial Highway, North Miami 33161

Miami Beach Convention Center

1901 Convention Center Dr, Miami Beach 33139

Miami-Dade Elections Dept

2700 NW 87th Avenue, Miami 33172

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

9300 NW 41st St, Miami 33178

South Dade Government Center

10710 SW 211th Street, Miami 33189

Frankie Shannon Rolle

3750 South Dixie Highway, Miami 33133

Harvest Fire Worship Center

18291 NW 23rd Ave, Miami Gardens 33056