

## Message from the Supervisor of Elections

Greetings! I want to say a special thank you to all of you who have taken time out of your busy schedule to attend the many training sessions we held in preparation for the August 26, 2008 Primary Election.

As many of you know, the upcoming August 26th Primary Election will be the first time we will be using the DS 200 Optical Scan Voting System. New technology always brings new opportunities for us to show the world that Miami-Dade County is "Election Ready."

The Elections Department launched an "Election Ready" Campaign on May 23rd. Being "Election Ready" means voters know when to vote, where to vote, and how to vote. Elections staff has canvassed each corner of Miami-Dade County to train poll workers, and our Outreach team has attended meetings countywide demonstrating the new voting system so voters will be comfortable voting. Trilingual commercials have been aired on the radio, television, Internet and even on the silver screen in high definition with only one focus – increasing public awareness of the new voting system.

One of the most important pieces of being "Election Ready" is our poll workers. This engine would not work if it wasn't for the hard work and dedication of more than 12,000 civic-minded individuals who serve as poll workers. For many of you, this will be the third type of voting equipment you have used since 2000. For that reason, we started training earlier than usual. We introduced the new Optical Scan Voting System in March. According to the feedback we have received, many of you have found it to be easy to operate.

I encourage all of you to read your manuals again before Election Day. If you have any questions, please call our Training Department and take a refresher course to ensure you are comfortable.

Thanks again for being on the front lines of this exciting Election Year. Your training and patience will be indispensable as we transition to this new voting process. Your commitment to delivering excellence is a vital component of ensuring a rewarding voting experience for our voters, with preparation and continued training as the key. Together we can show the world that Miami-Dade County is "Election Ready!"

Lester Sola  
Supervisor of Elections  
Miami-Dade Elections Department



Lester Sola

## Voters Make An Impact By Heading to the Polls

**W**hat can you do in 2008 to have an effect on local, state and federal issues for years to come? **Vote!**

2008 has been an exciting year for individuals to flex their voting muscle because it is a Presidential Election Year. While this race always attracts additional interest, Miami-Dade voters still have the ability to influence which local or state politician represents them, as well as how their government is run right in their own backyard.

The **Miami-Dade County Primary Election** is scheduled on **August 26, 2008**. This election ballot contains the Miami-Dade County Mayor race and County Commission races. There are also numerous other races and questions for civic-minded voters to educate themselves about prior to heading to vote. Go to [www.miamidade.gov/elections](http://www.miamidade.gov/elections) to view the Sample Ballot that began arriving at voters' homes on August 8th.

Please refer to your Voter's Information Card in order to determine which races you are eligible to participate in. This is a Primary Election, so be sure to check your party affiliation before voting.

On **January 29th**, voters headed to the polls to cast their ballot for the Presidential Preference Primary. This election allowed both Democrats and Republicans to narrow the field of candidates for their party. Ultimately, each political party will nominate a presidential candidate to square off in the **General Election** on **November 4th**.

As 2008 winds down on the calendar, the Elections cycle remains red hot. The **General Election** is scheduled for **November 4, 2008**. This is when voters will decide who will sit in the Oval Office for the following four years. There will also be nine questions to amend the state constitution on the November 4th ballot. A complete list of races scheduled for November 4th's ballot will also be found on the department's website.

The Presidential Election on November 4th is shaping up to be an historic event. Miami-Dade County has already set a new record for Presidential Preference Primary which saw 36 percent voter turnout. With the upcoming August 26th and November 4th elections quickly approaching, voters should strive to improve upon January's turnout which can only improve the democratic process at each level of government.

# Elections Training Section Prepares Thousands For New Optical Scanning Voting System Debut

Miami-Dade County Elections' Training Section has been tasked with the mission critical duty of training nearly 12,000 poll workers, including a new position (Quality Assurance Specialist) that did not exist during the last countywide election held in January.

With the introduction of the new Optical Scan Voting System, this 10-week feat was not simply a review, but a virtual revamping of the training curriculum.

"Seventy percent of what poll workers will be exposed to at these trainings that began on June 2nd and run through Aug. 15th will be new to everyone," said Elections Training Supervisor Rodney Moore. "We're asking for all of our poll workers, both new and veteran, to come to these trainings prepared, patient and open-minded as we disseminate this information."

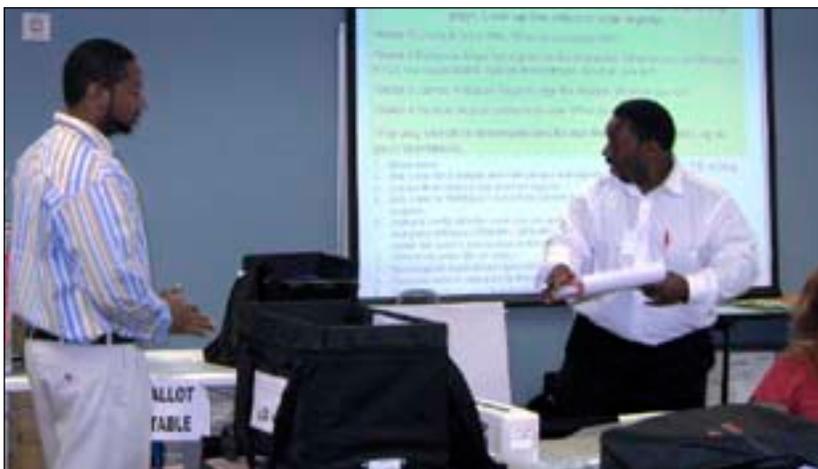
Poll workers are not the only ones who had to grasp this new knowledge quickly, the training staff had many challenges of their own.

"Training has become more position specific," said Moore. "We have had to make the classes more detailed because many individuals play a more intricate role than in previous elections."

As a result, training programs have increased from three to five. Training personnel had to also evaluate the new voting system and anticipate new materials and procedures.

"We've had to create completely brand new forms and logs in order to accommodate the new voting system," said Moore. "We've also thought out different scenarios that could play out at the polling places on Election Day and reviewed how they can be handled and by whom so as not to affect the voters."

Poll workers can access online training at any time by going to the Elections website at [www.miamidade.gov/elections](http://www.miamidade.gov/elections). For available trainings, please call Poll Worker Schedulers at 305.499.8448.



*Before a single voter casts a ballot, thousands of poll workers must participate in training courses conducted by the Elections Department. At top, Sean McClain speaks to future polling clerks during a certification class. Above, Jerone Josef assists McClain with training.*

## Congratulations!

Clerks and Assistant Clerks who received a perfect score in the Clerk Certification Training Program from April 15th through July 14th:

NAME	PCT.
Joy Marie Clahar.....	119
Jeffrey Wayne Larson .....	516
Melissa Hernandez .....	702
Balkis Sierra .....	206
Lilian Medina.....	701

**DO mark your ballot this way:**

CORRECT!

George Washington

**DO NOT mark your ballot in the following ways:**

INCORRECT!

George Washington

INCORRECT!

George Washington

INCORRECT!

George Washington

## Community Outreach— Making Connections

From Countyline Road to the southern-most corners of Miami-Dade County, the Miami-Dade Elections Community Outreach Section is available for demonstrations of the new Optical Scan Voting System, distribution of voter registration forms and more.

With a monthly goal of attending 120 events a month, the Outreach team has exceeded that mark every month in the last quarter. The goal is to have as many voters as possible use the voting equipment before Election Day arrives. During these events, staff also recruits new poll workers to participate in upcoming elections.

“We have the staff and the equipment to be at your event, so call us,” said Outreach Supervisor Kaye Johnson. “We provide staff to assist in mock elections, as well as non-governmental elections for organizations such as unions and schools. Groups also come to the Elections Department and we give them a tour of the facility.”

As a result of the public’s introduction to the new Optical Scan Voting System, voters are looking forward to using the new equipment during the August 26th Primary Election.

“Many voters feel that this system is very easy now,” said Johnson.

Outreach staff schedules their appearances at County and civic organization events. Groups can also call the Elections Department and request Outreach staff to attend their programs and fairs, as well.



*Elections Community Outreach Supervisor Kaye Johnson shows University of Miami Journalism Professor Yves Colon how to use the new Optical Scan Voting machine during a tour of the Elections Department.*



*Members of the UM summer journalism workshop who toured the Elections Department, standing from left are Danielle Cioffi, Professor Yves Colon, Stephen Sheehan, Sam Angarita and Kelsey Pinault. Kneeling are Jason Soriano, Steve Pierre and Omar Vega, UM photo mentor.*

Month	Events Attended	Poll Workers Recruited
March	175	741
April	156	894
May	142	601
June	174	1,147

While the Outreach team attends all scheduled events, not all voters will be reached in this method – that’s why Walgreen’s, Navarro’s Pharmacy, Wachovia and other community-minded organizations will have voter registration forms in stores for customers to fill out and send in. You

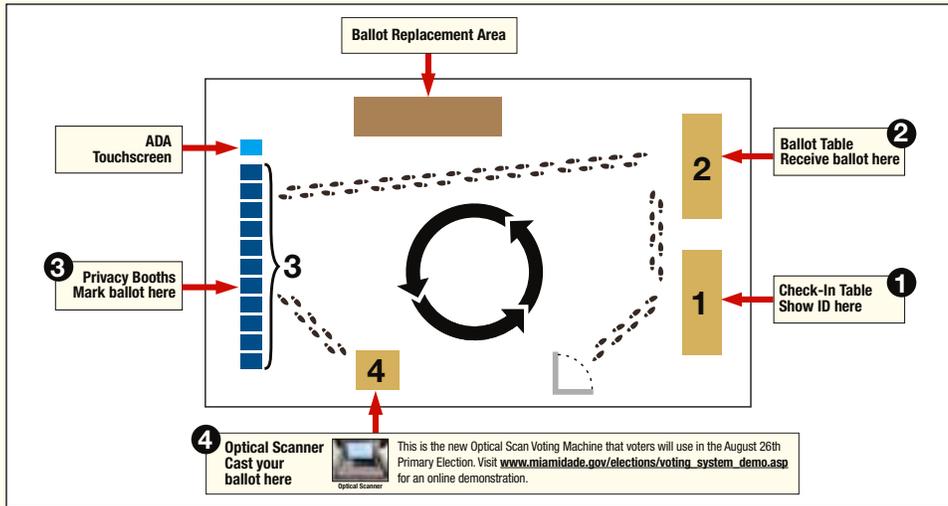
will also notice “Election Ready” ads running prior to movies beginning at AMC and Regal Theaters.



*Jason Soriano fills out a voter registration form. He is a 16-year-old Senior at Country Day High who participated in UM’s Journalism and new media workshop during the summer. “I am very excited to apply for my voter’s registration card,” said Soriano, who will have to wait until he is 18 to cast his first ballot. “It’s never bad to get prepared in advance.”*

Miami-Dade Elections Registration Statistics as of 7/31/08		
Republican	368,804	32%
Democrat	513,762	44%
Other	285,520	24%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,168,086</b>	

# FOUR SIMPLE STEPS TO VOTE



*Not only will voters be using a new Optical Scan Voting System for the first time, but each precinct will have an interior design makeover to accommodate the new supplies associated with the new system. Each precinct had a layout designed to accommodate its individual location. Above is an illustration displaying a generic layout that many polling places will have. Below is the list of procedures that voters will follow when entering the polling place.*

**Station 1: Check-In** – Voters will be asked to present a photo and signature ID. After verification, voters will receive a Voter Authorization Slip and will be directed to Station 2.

**Station 2: Ballot Table** – Voters will be provided a paper ballot. Voters must sign the Voter Authorization Slip to acknowledge receipt of the ballot, then will receive a privacy folder, along with a pen for marking the ballot.

**Station 3: Privacy Booths** – With the pen provided, voters will make their selections on both sides of the ballot page(s) in a booth that provides privacy for the voter.

**Station 4: Optical Scan Voting Equipment** – Voters will hand the Voter Authorization Slip to the poll worker and insert all of the ballot page(s), one page at a time into the optical scanner in order to cast their ballot.

Carlos Alvarez  
Mayor



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Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate on the basis of disability.

"It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act."

**Miami-Dade County Elections**  
**Department • 305-499-VOTE**  
**[miamidade.gov/elections](http://miamidade.gov/elections)**

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