

School Programs Conducted by Florida Supervisor of Elections

- **Elementary Schools**

Sunshine State Young Readers Award Book Election: Students are shown how to properly fill in the oval shaped bubble on the ballot for their selection and proceed to vote for their favorite book on the voting equipment.

Career Days: Students have the opportunity to interact with Elections Department staff and are introduced to the daily workload associated with conducting elections. Additionally, they are shown how to vote on the election equipment and told to encourage their parents to get out and vote.

Mock Elections: Mock Elections are held at the request of the schools. The teachers provide the language for the ballots. SOE responsible for coding and printing the ballots. The students experiences the entire electoral process of voting. Precinct registers are created as well as the room is set up as a polling room. Students are given "I Voted" stickers along with goodie bags with applications and information to take home to their parents.

Local Libraries/Summer Camps: K-5th grade students. The Elections office staff with library staff reads a story or performs a skits about the elections process. Followed by a question and answer session about voting. Then we announce that we going to hold our own election with then that day. Informing the students they will vote the same type of ballot and the same type of equipment voting equipment their parents vote on. Telling them they can go with their parents to vote and encourage then to ask their parents to go vote.

Great American Teach-In classroom presentations: "The Importance of Voting"
Classroom education programs available upon request.

Student Government Elections using DoubleClick Democracy: (online voting portal)

Conducted Student Advisory Enhancement Council elections using voting equipment.

Vote in Honor of a Vet Program : in conjunction with Veteran's Day Celebration presented in schools.

Presentations with Mock Elections to Class Field Trips to Government Center.

Essay Contest for 4th graders with the theme: What does “Freedom Requires Responsibility” mean to me?

Before/after school enrichment program titled Pasco Learning & Activity Centers of Enrichment (PLACE) to do “The Importance of Voting” presentations in all 36 sites throughout the district in 2013.

KidsBlast: A one day community event where the Elections Office created an interactive display for kids to learn about elections and American History. The office made take home coloring books, crafts, and a photo backdrop of Abraham Lincoln, Uncle Sam, Betsy Ross and the Statue of Liberty, complete with matching props. After kids pose for a picture they get to cast a ballot for their favorite “American Idol”.

4-H Program: The SOE Office participates annually with the local 4-H Program in conducting the Student Government Election for an elementary school. The election is conducted by using a paper ballot and tabulated manually. The students take a field trip to the County Commission Chambers where the winners are announced by the SOE.

Kids Voting USA: Students are issued a voter identification number providing them access to the voting program to cast their ballot. Results are available at the close of Election Day. The program is offered to all students and give them experience with making important decisions and casting votes.

Election Vocabulary Lesson: Presentation emphasizing election/voting vocabulary and how to properly mark a ballot. Students also participate in a mock election.

Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts: Educated Scouts about the election process, conduct mock elections and provide registration/pre-registration opportunities if age appropriate.

Community Fairs: Partnering with local groups to attend community Back to School Fairs and Family Health Fairs. Allows us to have a presence with a registration table for our younger future voters and their families in a setting outside of the classroom.

Bring Your Child to Work: 20 students ranging in age from 4-17 visited the Supervisor of Elections in 2015 to learn all about the elections process, getting hands-on experience with mail ballot procedures, how to properly vote and cast a ballot and creating an election notebook.

Presidential Election Year: Grades 4 and 5 vote for the President on the TSX Touchscreen machine. The SOE and/or Outreach staff educate students on the Presidential election, including candidates and the voting process.

Student Forum: The SOE sponsors a political forum for students only. All county public high schools, Christian Schools, technical college, the College of Central Florida and home school students are able to ask questions and discuss their concerns with the candidate directly. Everyone is invited to the forum but only the students get to question the candidates.

- **Middle Schools**

Student Civics Elections: Grades 6-9 students vote in mock election including Civics questions.

Student Government Elections: Grade 6-8th vote for Student Government President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer utilizing DoubleClick Democracy on online voting portal or using the actual voting equipment, marking a ballot with student candidate's names and pictures.

Student Career Fairs: Students are provided an opportunity to ask questions about the voting process and learn more about the elections office. Students are encouraged to stay in school. Students are presented with brochures and handouts to take home to parents. The election equipment is available to show students how to vote. The electoral process is discussed and they encouraged to talk to their parent's on how important it is to vote.

Middle School Poster Contest: A middle school poster contest has been in place for two election cycles through a partnership with Chick-fil-A. The contest was created in an effort to involve local middle school students in the elections process. All middle school students are given the opportunity to submit a non-partisan, patriotic drawing. Entries are submitted to the Elections Center from all five middle schools in Martin County and judged by Canvassing Board members and a local artist. Winning posters are displayed at the local Chick-fil-A restaurant, incorporating upcoming election dates, the elections office's phone number and a QR code to quickly access the Election Center's website.

Middle School Constitution Day Message: The Elections Office partnered with the School District and air a Constitution Day message for middle school students during Constitution Week.

Future Business leaders of America FBLA: Attended their district competition to speak about voting and voting equipment. The office attends Middle School FBLA fair to talk to the students about pre-registering to vote. Students are exposed to topics such as pre-registering, discussing options available to voters if you can't go to the polls.

7th Grade Curriculum - FSASE Partnership with The Florida Joint Center for Citizenship (FJCC) SOE works with 7th grade teachers to see where the SOE can help fulfill the curriculum requirements of the Sandra Day O'Connor Civic Education Act (2010). SOE plans include conducting a mock election with a ballot designed by the teachers. Discussion of the election process, election equipment and the Presidential Primary and caucus system.

- **Senior High School**

Student Voter Education and Registration Program: The SOE Office presents students with an outline of the electoral process, offices up for election, methods of voting, and the responsibilities of the Supervisor of Elections Office. A mock election using the actual voting equipment is conducted. Twice a year, the SOE conducts registration drives where the voter registration application is explained and made available to the students. Students who are 18 year olds are offered the opportunity to register. Students who are 16 and 17 years old are allowed to pre-register and informed that their voter registration becomes active once they turn 18 years of age and that a voter information card will be mailed to them. Students receive a "Future Voter" sticker.

Vote in Honor of a Vet Program: The Vote in Honor of a Vet Program is the cornerstone of many county's SOE high school program. The intent of this program is to encourage voter participation among our senior high school voting-age population, as well as teach them about the sacrifices our veterans have made so that we may live in a democratic society. Veteran's biographies are given out to the students and also Vote in Honor of a Vet dog tags and pins. A video presentation is part of the Voter Registration Drive. The hope is to personalize the voting experience for high school students to understand the relationship between the sacrifices of our veterans and their right to vote.

Rock the Vote at High Schools: Partnering with the "Rock the Vote" campaign and incorporate their logos, videos, etc into the SOE programs. Classes are offered an interactive presentation detailing why voting is important, an explanation of races, terms, districts, etc., an exercise demonstrating the impact of "campaigning", followed by a mock election and a demonstration of tabulation and results reporting. Schools and registration teams compete for "bragging rights" for highest number of registrations and highest percentage of eligible students registered; schools receive plaques, and recognition via press release and social media.

Student Government Voter Registration Drives: These drives are organized annually with Student Governments at each high school usually setting up voter registration tables during lunch periods. This program helps students develop leadership skills and promotes civic engagement by encouraging classmate participation.

Lunchroom Voter Registration Rally: During busy election times when we do not have the time to conduct the usual senior high voter registration drive, we contract with the local radio station to conduct a live remote during the lunch period. This gives students the opportunity to register to vote at lunch. The local radio station gives t-shirts away. The students enjoy this event.

Student Voter Education and Registration Program: Grades 9-12 - Students vote for Student Government President, Vice President and Treasurer utilizing DoubleClick Democracy, an online voting portal or using the actual voting equipment, marking a ballot with student candidate names and pictures. Students receive an "I Voted" sticker.

Voter Registration Information Card and Birthday Card: When students pre-register, they receive their voter information card in the month of their 18th birthday along with a birthday wishes card from the Supervisor.

Homecoming and Prom Election: Grades 9-12 - Students vote for Prom or Homecoming Queen and King on voting equipment

Make Your Voice Count in Government: (Seniors) This is a collaborative effort between Indian River State College, Indian River County, the Sheriff's Office and the Supervisor of Elections Office. It is a one day event hosted at the local college where high school seniors have the opportunity to meet elected officials, participate in round-table discussions and ask questions. Elected officials from local municipalities to the federal level are invited to attend. Students were bused in and provided complimentary breakfast prepared by the students enrolled in the culinary arts program.

Recognizing Graduates: High School and Technical Institute-The day before graduation when students are required to attend graduation practice, the school allows the SOE to come in and speak to the students about registering to vote. We prepare a little goody bag (candy, voter guide, voter registration application) as well as some special treat to catch their attention - sometimes I use funky sunglasses and some years gave out catchy t-shirts with a voting logo on it.

Graduate Voter Guide: A voter guide is made for specifically for graduates and includes important information that a high school graduate needs to know. For example, information about registering to vote and also keeping their voter registration current as they move from their parents' home, head off to college and the military. The voter guides are mailed along with a letter from the Supervisor, a Florida Voter Registration Form, Vote by Mail Request and a postage paid return envelope.

High School Students "Pledge to Vote" Competition: Pledge to Vote is an annual voter registration drive and competition to not only register students but to also teach them about the elections process. In addition to reaching out to the county's traditional high schools, Election Office staff also pre-registers 16 & 17 year old students and registers eligible students to vote who attend alternative high schools and the community college.

Student Poll Workers: through a partnership with the YMCA's "Youth in Government" program, students complete the required poll worker training and served as voting equipment technicians and inspectors on Election Day for the 2014 General Election.

Community Service Opportunities: Students often earn community service by working in various department in the office assisting with election preparation tasks, and the issuing and returning of election supplies as well as voter outreach projects.

Miscellaneous:

Okaloosa County - Roots of Democracy and Voting Presentations. Two versions: Middle School which includes slides about caucuses and primaries as well as Electoral College and the college version which contains more information about actual voting.

Various Art Contests at all levels.

All voter education initiatives are also promoted through social media (Facebook and SOE website, press releases, flyers, Twitter)

Home Schooled Students - All ages are provided handouts and tours of the election office as well as programs in the SOE office.

Participated as a guest speaker at the conference educating middle and high school teachers as to what our office can offer throughout the school year in election education and in-school voting.

Pencils, "Future Voter" stickers, and activity books with crayons given at outreach events to encourage involvement at an early age.

Students with Disabilities: In 2015 the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Office attended the 2015 Heart & Hope Family Conference to provide a demonstration of the AutoMark and options for voters of all ages with disabilities. This included offering registration, instructions for updating voter information and voting by mail. We are hoping to continue this event annually.

Gave a presentation at the Safety Harbor Library for the Deaf Literacy Association, which we offered voter registration.

Scheduled an upcoming voter registration event at Center for Developmentally Disabled for all ages.

