

from the desk of...



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Supervisor of Elections



VoteHillsborough.org

November/December 2016

Election Recap

wrapping up 2016

We have now officially concluded the 2016 election cycle and it's time to express my gratitude to everyone who helped make Hillsborough County the best place in America to vote!

Thank you to:



Our staff, bolstered by hundreds of temporary employees. They organized, packed, moved, tested, maintained and operated equipment and supplies, trained poll workers, and helped voters in person, on the phone and online.

Our thousands of poll workers who turned the wheels of democracy during Early Voting and on Election Day so that more than 608,000 Hillsborough County voters could vote in the 2016 General Election.

Our hundreds of thousands of voters. Thirty-one percent of our voters voted by mail, which meant no lines or waiting for them, and shorter lines for our in-person voters. During Early Voting and on Election Day, it was great to see voters walk in with photo ID and sample ballots in hand, ready to fill in their ballots.

Our recount teams. Once the results were in, less than a half-percent of votes separated the candidates in the School Board District 7 race, triggering an automatic recount. With 1.2 million ballot pages to go through, the recount was a monumental task that involved dozens of people working day and night, weekdays and weekends. This was the largest recount conducted by any county in the state of Florida, ever.

Our City of Tampa District 7 candidates and voters. Six candidates ran in the city's special election and appeared on the November 8 General Election ballot. Since no candidate received a majority of votes, the top two candidates went on to a December 6 runoff election. While many were turning their focus from elections to holidays, thousands of Tampa residents were still participating in our democracy by campaigning and voting for local representation.





THE DAYS AFTER

Election Day is a long day that begins before sunrise as we get polling places ready so that voting can start at 7 a.m. Then it goes well past sunset as the polling places close and results come in. This election, we had reported all of our precinct results by 9:30 p.m., but there was still much to be done. Here are some of the highlights of what happened AFTER the initial results had been reported.

November 8, 8 p.m.: Voting equipment and supplies began arriving back at our Elections Service Center.

November 8, almost midnight: After the precinct results came in, we scanned and reported results from more than 9,000 Vote By Mail ballots that were received on Election Day.

November 10: Everything that went out must come back in. We deployed more than 340 scanner/tabulators, 3,699 privacy booths, 1,514 electronic poll books, not to mention signs, chairs, tables, pens and much more. In two days, we had everything back in place in our warehouse.

November 11: Provisional ballots reviewed and election results updated

November 16: Vote By Mail ballots out for City of Tampa District 7 Runoff

November 18: Overseas ballots postmarked by Election Day have up to 10 days after Election Day to arrive and be counted. Official results certified!

November 30: New voter registration data available showing whether registered voters voted and which of the three methods they used to vote

November 11 - 17: With more than 608,000 voters and a 2-page ballot, we had to organize 1.2 million pages of ballots to be stored for 22 months. But first, we had to recount them, due to the close margin in a School Board race.

November 22: Manual audit—where we hand-counted 2,849 ballots in a randomly selected race and precinct

December 1 - 4: Early Voting, City of Tampa District 7 Runoff

December 6: Election Day, City of Tampa District 7 Runoff

COMPARING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS



2016 General Election
Registered: 849,843
Voted: 608,263 (72% turnout)
40% Voted Early
31% Voted By Mail
29% Voted on Election Day

2012 General Election
Registered: 747,605
Voted: 545,134 (73% turnout)
31% Voted Early
31% Voted By Mail
38% Voted on Election Day

the last word

Thank you for reading this newsletter and staying engaged in our community and our democracy. I want to wish everyone a very happy holiday!

