

The Patriot

Poll Workers of Okaloosa County

Winter 2016



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PATRIOT SUPPORT TEAM:

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Poll Worker Coordinator

Jane Linihan

Election Services Manager

Karen Nennig

Voter Education & PR Coordinator

Katie Wainwright

Elections Warehouse Foreman

Dustin Ball

Voting Machine Technician

Matt Cunningham

Patriot Poll Workers,

I cannot even begin to express to all of you just how impressed everyone was with how well everything went this entire election year. We conducted three (virtually) error-free elections using completely new voting equipment and new voter check-in equipment, a new poll worker manual with all new procedures, and did it ALL with the enthusiasm and dedication to serving the voters that you have always shown.

Every group (Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, political clubs, etc.) I have visited since Early Voting began back in October has had nothing but high praise for how well organized things were. On Election Day, the complaints were few and far between; I didn't get a single call from even one lawyer all day! Although it was a late night for us here in the office, everything couldn't have gone smoother! All precincts had reported in by 7:45, and we had all but the last few hundred vote-by-mail ballots reported to the State by 8:15!

Following Election Day, the praise continued. Both political parties were extremely pleased with our conduct of the election. I didn't hear any negative reports from any of the many poll watchers that you had.

I want to thank all of you who responded to our call to help pre-sort early and mail ballots in preparation for the audit. For some of you it was the third, fourth, or even sixth time handling those ballots! All of our post-election activities (we had to work Veteran's Day and finished up the Monday before Thanksgiving) went without a hitch as well.

We broke almost every record there was to break:

Voter Registration: 135,640	(old record: 129,373)
Overall Turnout: 75.7%	(old record: 74.2%)
Vote-by-Mail Ballots: 23,136	(old record: 21,805)
Early Voting: 45,188	(old record: 33,456)

Congratulations to all of you on a job well done! You represented me and my office very well, and the voters not only noticed, but were also appreciative! I am so proud of each and every one of you!



Have a safe and festive holiday season and come back to us in the New Year ready to work!



Precinct 19 decorated and ready to welcome voters on Election Day

Jane's Corner

After two great elections, I am still convinced that Okaloosa County has not only the best poll workers in the state, but also the best voters. It was heartwarming to witness the enthusiasm and positive attitudes of the poll workers and also those who waited in line to vote.

I know we set the bar high, but I'm happy to say we reach that bar in every election. This last one was the very best in my opinion. I know you made our boss proud as he only received only three complaints all day. All the rest of the calls from voters were about how voting had been such a very good experience for them at the polls.



The **legal** way to take a picture of a first-time voter outside the polling room (Nicole Doody, proud first-time voter!)

You know that law about no photography in the polling room? Well, Karen and I are more frustrated than ever before about that law, and here's why. I wish you could have seen a Greeter offering his arm to escort ladies to the EVIDs! I wish you could have seen Bailiffs warmly greeting each voter and then thanking them for voting. I wish you could have seen gracious and smiling Inspectors giving the voters the very best service possible. I wish you could have seen the delighted smiles of proud first-time voters. I wish you could have seen all the well run precincts by dedicated Clerks. I wish you could have seen all the patriotic decorations which provided a warm welcome for our voters. And if we could take pictures or videos, you could see what Karen and I saw on election day. Maybe next time!



Greeter Gary Effatt waiting to greet voters at Precinct 17, Wright Baptist Church

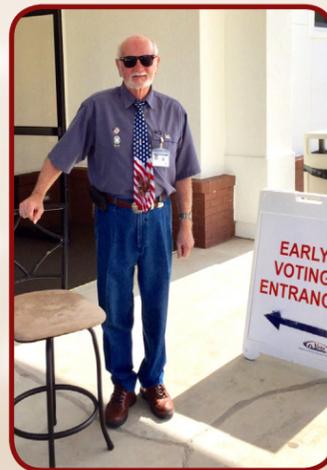
I want to thank the poll workers in Precinct 17 for keeping their polling room intact after they had transmitted so that we could stage some training videos for the future. I know they were tired, so they deserve thanks for going the extra mile.

It is such a pleasure to be a part of this election team. You are GREAT! Pat yourselves on the back once again for a job better than well done.

We have municipal elections coming up in March and will be working with a minimal number of poll workers. If we need you to work the election, your Clerk will call you. So enjoy the holidays before we get back to work again.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jane



Bailiff Steve Yozviak ready to welcome voters at Early Voting in Crestview



Sheriff Ashley swearing in South County Bailiffs



Trainer Susan Matuska demonstrating how to pack and repack the EVID



Poll Worker fuel!



Trainers Margaret Blakley and Kerrie Serpa teaching the AutoMARK



Trainer Pinky Ward teaching EVID procedures



Trainer Sam Perman teaching about the Blue Card contents



A few volunteer poll workers helping to sort ballots for post-election audit

2017 Training Schedule			
Day	Date	Time	Location
Wed.	Feb. 22	9:00 a.m.	Woodlawn Baptist Church 824 Ferdon Blvd N, Crestview
Thurs.	Feb. 23	9:00 a.m.	Trinity United Methodist Church 403 Racetrack Rd NW, FWB
Fri.	Feb. 24	9:00 a.m.	Location TBA if needed for county-wide election



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Merry Christmas!



Recipe for: Pumpkin Dump Cake

From the Kitchen Of: Gloria Cline, Pct 25/36/43

Ingredients:

- 1 small can pumpkin (13-14 oz)
- 1 can evaporated milk (12 oz)
- 4 eggs
- 1 c. sugar (OR 1/2 c. sugar and 1/2 c. packed brown sugar)
- 1/4 - 1/2 t. salt
- 2 t. pumpkin pie spice
(OR 1/2 t. nutmeg, 1/2 t. ginger, and 1 t. cinnamon)
- 1 pkg yellow cake mix (w/out pudding mix)-15.25 oz size
- 1 c. chopped pecans
- 3/4 c. butter, melted

Directions:

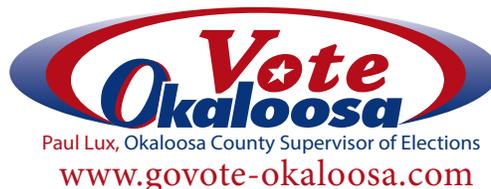
Pre-heat oven to 350°. Mix first 6 ingredients until well combined. Pour into 9 x 13 oiled (I use coconut oil) pan. Sprinkle dry cake mix over pumpkin mixture. Sprinkle chopped pecans over cake mix. Pour melted butter evenly over pecans and cake mix. Bake for 40-55 minutes until set. Be careful not to get the top too brown. Enjoy!

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