

# The Patriot

Poll Workers of Okaloosa County

Winter 2021



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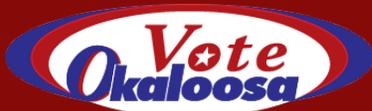
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For more news and information:  
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[VoteOkaloosa.gov](http://VoteOkaloosa.gov)



Paul Lux, CERA  
Okaloosa County  
Supervisor of Elections

## Supervisor's Message

I know I have said it before, and I will continue to say it: We have the best Poll Workers in the country! Each and every one of you did an exceptional job delivering an election that, once and for all, put the ghost of the 2000 election to rest! Thank you!

Ordinarily my message for the holiday newsletter is cheerful and full of praise and well wishes. Unfortunately, this year I have to be a little more serious.

Despite conducting what our Governor said was, "the best-run election" Florida had ever seen; we still find ourselves besieged by a segment of the population that continues to call for a "full forensic audit" and point to statistical data projections that declare our results "fraudulent." Their evidence? There isn't any. Without a single shred of actual proof they claim 1.2 million votes were "flipped" in Florida (some 8,000+ in Okaloosa).

I watched hours and hours of the My Pillow guy's "Cyber Symposium." I listened to every "expert" (not one of whom had any actual elections experience!) and paid close attention, watching for the "smoking gun" they continually professed was going to be revealed. Again, I never saw a shred of actual evidence to support their claims.

Whichever side you find yourself on politically, know that there is nothing wrong with the election in Florida and certainly not in Okaloosa County! Whether a county chooses to use Dominion or ES&S voting equipment Florida has one of the toughest certification programs and the most-stringent software control measures. We pre-test all of the voting equipment, and then we publicly test it once more before preparing it for the early voting sites and polling places. Once the election is over we randomly select one race and perform the public post-certification audit required by law on 2% of the precincts involved in that race – that's a hand-count of every ballot (whether cast early, at the polls, or mailed-in) in the selected precinct(s). We do this for every single election, no matter how big or how small.

I want any of my Patriot Poll Workers who have questions about our voting systems or the 2020 election to contact me! Give me an opportunity to acquaint you with the facts, rather than befuddle you with mathematical projections, statistical analyses, and reports of how the voting "should have come out."

I will close with my heartfelt wishes for you to have a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Leave the worrying about the elections, the lawsuits, and the pending legislative session to me and my crack staff here at the office. We got your six!

Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

# ELECTION OFFICE UPDATE

## New People!

2021 brought a few personnel changes to our office. We are thrilled to welcome Diana Mitchell as the new Poll Worker Manager, Tim LeSuer as the new Systems & Applications Specialist (computer guy), and Shiana Youngblood as the new Communications Manager.

Diana brings years of poll worker management experience from Leon County. She used to work with us many years ago and we are thrilled to have her back! She is already bringing her experience and new ideas to our poll worker program, and I am sure you will enjoy the updates as they roll out.

You may recognize Tim as he has been working with us through several elections. He is in charge of the ballot on demand printers among a host of other computer-related things. We are so happy he is now a permanent part of our election family.

As our newest addition, Shiana brings a youthful breath of fresh air to our office. Her experience with new social media formats and emerging technology will help us get our message out to our voters and potential voters in the platforms they use every day.

We are excited to see what great things will come from all of our new election family members.

## New Equipment!

We replaced the Automarks! We received shiny new ExpressVotes in early September. They weigh less, do more, and are easier to use for everyone. You will see them and learn all about them the next time you train.

## Big Thank You!

Thank you for a great 2020 election year. You were all so flexible and helpful during the challenges we faced. I want to extend a special thanks to all the early voting workers who made 2020 early voting a success. I can't imagine working with a better group of people.

Get ready for more early voting excitement when you return in 2022!

*Shirley*



Shirley Young, CERA  
Director of  
Operations/Administration

## Serving with Sensitivity: Your New ExpressVote!



The ExpressVote is a device designed to allow a person with a disability the opportunity to vote independently.

It will mark a voter's choices on a ballot card in a readable format, provides an audio-tactile keypad with braille legends and a black-out screen for voter privacy, and can provide a voting experience to voters with a wide variety of abilities.

It is designed to work with several types of assistive technology devices (sip-puff, rocker/paddle and the audio-tactile keypad). Once a voter is satisfied with their ballot, it can be inserted into your DS200 and tabulated.

This device is lighter than the Automarks, and has a simple startup and poll-closing process.

It is also very secure since, as a ballot marking device, no vote data is stored in the device. We will be using the ExpressVote during early voting and in precincts on Election Day in 2022.

We are very excited about this new technology and cannot wait to introduce the ExpressVote to you and provide you hands-on opportunities to learn this great, new device.



## PATRIOT POLL WORKERS

*As 2021 draws to a close, I look forward to a fresh new year and meeting all the amazing Patriot Poll Workers of Okaloosa County.*

*I firmly believe that you deserve a professional training and support program that provides you the opportunity to walk into your polling room with confidence.*

*Okaloosa has remarkable poll workers and I will continue the legacy of excellence to best serve you.*

*Enjoy your holidays! See you in 2022!*

*Diana*

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Out with the old and in with the new! I'm sure everyone knows by now that we've recently gone from the Automark machines to the ExpressVotes. To say I'm excited would be an understatement. So far we are loving them. We expect everyone else will too this coming year.



As far as the warehouse is concerned, we have added roughly 1,700 sq. ft. to our building allowing more room for all the printers that were purchased last year. Along with that, Matt and I have repainted the floors and given the walls a much needed paint job. We've added new shelves and work stations. These improvements will help us tremendously during peak election times. If anyone wants to tour the warehouse to see how all of this works, please reach out to us. Matt and I would be happy to show you around. We look forward to working with some old friends and meeting new ones this coming year.



Dustin Ball  
Election Warehouse Foreman

Until then, Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!

*Dustin & Matt*

## ELECTION SERVICES INFORMATION



*Hello Patriot Poll Workers! For those of you who do not know me, I am Ray Bolden the Election Services Manager. My former title was Candidate and Vote-By-Mail Coordinator and, although my title has changed, my job has remained the same. My primary responsibilities are for all things pertaining to candidates including pre-filing and qualifying them to run for office. In addition I am responsible for the process of mailing and receiving vote-by-mail ballots to and from voters who have requested them.*

*2021 has been a busier year than usual in that we had two unplanned elections in addition to the regular March municipal election. We had a special election for the city of Destin in July and the Tourist Development District (TDD) Expansion Referendum election in October. The TDD election was a mail ballot election meaning every eligible voter received a ballot by mail. Since we process our mail ballots in house it was a huge undertaking for us. We sent 111,077 ballots to our eligible voters, more than we have ever mailed for an election! I had to include a picture of just a few of the ballots ready for a trip to the post office.*



*With the 2022 Municipal, and Gubernatorial elections quickly approaching, we are already busy preparing for them. The gubernatorial election year includes Board of County Commissioner, School Board, and Special District races. We already have five candidates pre-filed for county offices and two candidates pre-filed for municipal offices so the cycle has begun anew.*

*Thank you all for the work you do as poll workers! Elections could not be done without you.*

*Happy Holidays!*

*Ray*



## Our website has changed!

Find us at [www.voteokaloosa.gov](http://www.voteokaloosa.gov)

Visit! Bookmark it! Share it!

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## 2022 Election Dates to Remember!

- Municipal Election  
March 08, 2022
- Primary Election  
August 23, 2022
- General Election  
November 8, 2022

