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# THE ELECTION CONNECTION

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2

Poll Worker Newsletter

Pinellas County, Florida

SUMMER 1999

## 1999-2000 ELECTIONS

**SPECIAL ELECTION** .....Nov. 2

**Dunedin**.....Feb. 8

**Belleair Shore**..... Mar. 7

**Gulfport**..... "

**No.Redington Beach**..... "

**Pinellas Park** ..... "

**Seminole**..... "

**South Pasadena**..... "

**Treasure Island**..... "

**PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE**

**PRIMARY**.....Mar. 14

**Belleair** ..... "

**Belleair Beach** ..... "

**Belleair Bluffs**..... "

**Indian Rocks Beach**..... "

**Indian Shores**..... "

**Kenneth City**..... "

**Largo**..... "

**Madeira Beach**..... "

**Oldsmar**..... "

**Redington Beach**..... "

**Redington Shores**..... "

**Safety Harbor**..... "

**St. Pete Beach**..... "

**FIRST PRIMARY** ..... Sept. 5

**SECOND PRIMARY** ..... Oct. 3

**GENERAL ELECTION**...Nov. 7

**East Lake Tarpon Fire District**

**Indian Rocks Fire District**

**Lealman Fire District**

**Palm Harbor Fire District**



## ELECTION CORRECTION

We said we would see you next February, but a countywide special election is now scheduled for November 2, 1999. The purpose is to submit to a vote of the electorate two amendments to the Pinellas County Charter that have been approved by the Florida Legislature. That means poll worker classes in October. We'll see you soon!

Also, photo identification will be required, in addition to the usual signature identification. Yes, it is definite. Pass the word.



## PRIDE OF PINELLAS

We are so proud. Our own **Dorothy Ruggles** was installed as president of the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections on June 9, during the association's summer conference in Sarasota. Dottie worked hard for several years to attain this honor. Also, at the League of Women Voter's biennial convention in May, Dottie received their 1999 "Making Democracy Work" award in recognition of her work in the "furtherance of democratic principles." Again, we are all very proud of our supervisor of elections.



## PATRIOTIC PICKUP

Pick up a 1999-2000 Pinellas County Citizen's Guide brochure (hot off the presses) at your library, bank, city hall, etc. However, if you need a large supply for a condo building or trailer park, call Ginny Stewart (464-6110) and arrange to obtain them at the ESC building.



## THE TERRORS OF ERRORS

**ASK YOURSELF: IS ALMOST PERFECT GOOD ENOUGH?**

If you think 99.9% is good enough, look at what 99.9% really means:

- ★ 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents **daily**.
- ★ 114,500 mismatched pairs of shoes will be shipped each year.
- ★ 2,000,000 documents will be lost by the IRS this year.
- ★ 2.5 million books will be shipped with the wrong covers.
- ★ 5.5 million cases of soft drinks will be produced flat.

Obviously, mistakes matter! Now consider this: A recent study of our certification envelopes from last November revealed a startling number of errors and omissions. We can do better! Errors do count.

## A SALLIE SAMPLER

### COUNTY COMMISSIONER SALLIE PARKS



We thought that you would like know more about the personal side of some of our elected officials. We begin with a Q and A featuring **Sallie Parks**, and here is what we learned:

- My time in public office is...6 1/2 yrs
- My educational background is ... B.S. degree from Central Michigan University.
- The hardest thing I have ever done is ... It hasn't happened yet!
- Three people (living or dead) I would invite to dinner are... Margaret Thatcher, Jesus, Leonardo da Vinci.
- A dream I have is to... pilot a hot air balloon.



- The most adventurous thing I have ever done was to... sell my house and car, quit my job, and go to live in Japan.
- My favorite sport is... golf.
- I'm most proud of ... my family.
- Every morning I read... *The St. Petersburg Times*.
- My favorite meal is ... sushi.
- My pet peeve is... people who don't do what they say they will do.
- The last book I read was... *The Secret Lives of Citizens* by Thomas Geoghegan.
- My favorite movie is... *Singin' in the Rain*.
- My favorite music is... classical, jazz, new age.
- My favorite president is... Lincoln.
- My motto is... Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

## THE KING AND WE

**THE KING** (alias Leroy Norman) is the king in more ways than one. Not only does his name mean "the king" in French (*le roi*), but he has reigned as the king in many areas of our election process.



Leroy's interest in elections began near Milwaukee at the Allen Bradley Co., where he was employed in various supervisory / management positions. The company encouraged participation in the election process, and he became a precinct captain in his own precinct and helped other precincts as requested. When Leroy and his wife moved to Florida in 1977, he remembers registering to vote at a Publix store in Largo and telling the registrar there about his interest in elections.



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He was soon deputized to register voters and was involved in setting up voter registration in Kash n' Karry, Kmart, and Publix stores; at county fairs; in malls, mobile home parks, and high schools.

For many years Leroy also registered voters during "homestead exemption time" at the Property Appraisers Office on 66th Street. He probably registered more voters than anyone in our offices! When the federal government passed the National Voter Registration Act, effective January 1995, voters could obtain applications at any of a variety of locations, complete and mail them themselves. Registrars were out of business...but not Leroy! He delivers the forms, brochures, and other materials to banks, city halls, libraries, retirement homes, trailer parks, etc.

When **votomatics** were first used by Pinellas County in 1978, Leroy demonstrated during poll worker

classes how to assemble them and how to teach voters to use them. At the Election Service Center, he has worked with the votomatics and other supplies and equipment for as long as we can remember.

At the polls, Leroy's first job was as a clerk for nine precincts in a city election-- a 1979 Largo tax referendum. He remembers having to evacuate the building, with outside temperatures in the 90s, to allow police to search for a bomb!! In the very next city election, incredibly, they had another bomb threat. What a way to begin!

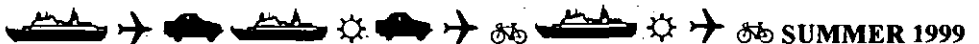
Leroy is still a clerk twenty years later, and **THE KING** reigns supreme. He "runs a tight ship," as all who work with him know.

Leroy is also **THE KING** to two children and four grandchildren and to many community organizations.

*Vive le roi!!* Long live our king, Leroy!

## NOTE: ONE VOTE

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1645 One vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.                                     | 1867 The Alaska Purchase was ratified by one vote.  |
| 1649 One vote literally cost King Charles I (Eng.) his head.                               | 1868 One vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.  |
| 1714 One vote placed King George I on the throne of England and restored the monarchy.     | 1875 One vote changed France to a republic.   |
| 1776 One vote gave America the English language instead of German (according to folklore). | 1876 One vote in the electoral college gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency.                               |
| 1845 One vote admitted Texas to the Union as a state.                                      | 1920 One vote gave women the right to vote.   |
| 1850 One vote admitted California to the Union.  | 1923 One vote gave Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.   |
| 1859 One vote admitted Oregon to the Union.  | 1960 John F. Kennedy won the presidential election by a margin of less than one vote per precinct nationwide. |



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## CARE AND SHARE

Care enough to really know your co-workers; then share both your own and their awards, achievements, and poll worker histories with all of us. Remember to tell us the human interest stories and the amusing incidents. We count on you to be *The Election Connection* reporters.

**HOPE YOU ARE HAVING A GREAT SUMMER! SEE YOU IN THE FALL.**

Dorothy Walker Ruggles  
Supervisor of Elections  
315 Court Street  
Clearwater, Florida 33756

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