

**LELY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
NAPLES, FLORIDA
Board of Supervisors Workshop
July 18, 2018**

A workshop of the Supervisors of Lely Community Development District was held on Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at the LCDD Maintenance Building.

SUPERVISORS PRESENT: William Lee, Chairman
Gerry Campkin, Vice Chairman
Kenneth Drum, Secretary
Harold Ousley, Treasurer

ALSO PRESENT: Ken Hess, Dorrill Management Group
Kevin Carter, Dorrill Management
Tony Pires, District Counsel
Jennifer Edwards, Supervisor of Elections
David Carpenter, Elections Officer

WORKSHOP: Supervisor of Elections

Mr. Lee called the workshop to order at 1:02 p.m., and welcomed Mrs. Edwards and Mr. Carpenter from the Supervisor of Elections office.

Mrs. Edwards handed out booklets to those present, noting that she came into office in 2000. The booklets showed the boundaries of the five Districts in the County. At the redistricting in 2002, the School Board and the Board of County Commissioners began to share the same boundaries. Lely is part of District 1, and they enjoy their own Commissioner and their own School Board members.

There was another redistricting in 2012, and there will be another in 2022. Districting is based on population, and the numbers in the booklet show the registered voters in a particular district. There are 207,252 registered voters in the County at this time, broken down into Republicans, Democrats, non-affiliated, and minor parties.

Lely was also broken down, and included Republicans, Democrats, non-affiliated, and five in minor parties. The system is geographical, which makes it easy for the breakdown of party affiliation in the different areas to take place.

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Lely's precinct is 155, and Verona Walk is also in Precinct 155. There are 59 precincts presently in Collier County. After the 2000 Election, the Legislature instituted No Excuse Voting, which made it easier for people to vote by mail in. Shortly after that, early voting was offered. Occasionally voting locations are changed, and this happened in Collier County in three locations within the last several months. Once new locations are established, letters must be sent to every voter in those precincts advising them of the change.

There are more female registered voters than there are male, in both the County and the Lely Precinct. Race is also included in the breakdown, and in both the County and the Lely Precinct the largest percentage is white, followed by Hispanic voters in the County and "Other" at Lely. Black voters are the smallest in the County, and Hispanic voters are the smallest in the Lely Precinct. Age wise, the majority of the voters are 66 and older in both the County and the Lely CDD.

A profile of the average voter in Collier County is a white woman, age 66 or older, and a registered Republican. The same holds true for the Lely CDD.

Turnouts were also shown, and in 2016, 32 percent voted in the primaries, and in the general election Collier County led the state with 87 percent turnout. The Lely CDD had a 91 percent turnout in the general election. In Florida you cannot vote in the primaries unless you are registered in a primary party. The books are closed on July 30th for the upcoming election, and if someone would like to vote in the primary, they can register as a Republican or a Democrat in order to vote, and then change back to their non-affiliated status after they vote.

A universal primary is when all the candidates are in the same party, and would have no opposition in the general election. This opens the voting to everyone who is registered to vote, regardless of party.

The ballot mailing has begun, and will continue until August 22, by law. Ballots will be mailed anywhere in the County, but they are not forwardable.

The times that the polling stations are open was included for both the primary and general elections, as well as the three ways to vote, which are in person on election day, by early voting, or by a mail in ballot.

Mr. Carpenter then reviewed what will be on this year's ballot, including the U.S. Senate, which will be on both the primary and general election ballots. Both congressional seats will also be

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on the ballot this year. At the state level, Senator Passidomo is up for re-election this year, and her name will appear on the general election ballot as she has a Democratic challenger.

Judicial races in Florida start at the primary and if no one gets 50 percent of the votes, the top two move on to the primary election. This year there are two attorneys running for a Circuit Court position. Whoever wins in August will become the new Circuit Court Judge.

There is also a County Judge race this year, and there are five attorneys running for this seat, which will probably result in a runoff in November.

There are two Commissioners chairs up for election this year, and the incumbents are both facing opposition. As a result of Dwight Brock's death the County Clerk position is open, and there are two candidates running for that. Both are Republicans, but this race will appear on everyone's primary ballot. Two School Board races will appear on everyone's ballot in August, and could go to a runoff if no one gets 50 percent of the vote.

Every 20 years in the State of Florida, a Constitutional Revision Commission is created, and this Commission can put amendments to the Florida Constitution directly on the ballot. No Legislative approval is required for these changes. This year the Commission has come up with eight amendments.

The one that is controversial states that the Constitutional Revision Commission can group several issues onto a ballot in one amendment. What may occur is that you may want to vote for one of the issues, but against another, and you cannot separate them.

There are also two amendments put on by the Legislature, two by the petitioning groups, and in addition there will be a County 1 percent sales tax on the ballot. This brings the total to about 14 referendums on the November ballot, and Mr. Carpenter noted that their office suggests that you may want to vote by mail this year as the lines will be longer as people read the amendments for the first time when they go to vote.

Mrs. Edwards provided copies of the ballot to those present, and Mr. Carpenter added at this point that the Lely CDD will be on the ballot this November, with three candidates running, and any voter who is a registered voter in the Lely CDD will be given the ballot with that race on it at the November election.

Mrs. Edwards then addressed the question of security in the elections, and advised that the software that creates the election, all the ballots and geographical information, also tabulates

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the results. That software is not connected to the internet. It is located in a room on the second floor of the Supervisor of Election's building, which is constructed of concrete and steel. The room where the software is located can be accessed by only six people, and is very secure. Mrs. Edwards learned at one of the national conferences she attended since 2016 that the voter registration system in Illinois was hacked by Russians, but this did not affect the result of the elections.

Mr. Drum asked what the cost of a special election was, and then he also asked that since Mr. Brock died after the qualifying period for petitions, that prevented anyone from filing by petition, and the only way you could be a candidate was if you paid \$9,000. It could be argued, he noted, that this disenfranchised some people who did not have the means to get on the ballot. He asked if Mrs. Edwards had any thoughts on that, as a special election is the only way to allow people to file by petition.

Mrs. Edwards advised that the cost of an election Countywide is about \$700,000. The decision about qualifying periods for the Clerk of Court was made by the Governor and the Secretary of State by Executive Order.

Mr. Pires added that it was his recollection that the Secretary of State has the ultimate say on the election laws in the State of Florida, and Mrs. Edwards agreed. She noted that when someone dies in office, the Governor issues an Executive Order. In the case of the Clerk of Courts, the chief judge of the circuit is required to appoint someone immediately to fill the void until the next election as per the statute. If there are 28 months or more remaining in the term, the Governor must fill the vacancy,

Mr. Carpenter added that this is normal in the State of Florida for filling vacancies.

Mr. Campkin asked a security related question regarding when the election results are posted on the website, and Mrs. Edwards indicated that before they do post then, they are required to send the results to the Florida Division of Election in Tallahassee electronically through a special portal that requires a special ID. Once the State receives the results, they call and validate them with Mrs. Edwards' office.

Election night results are unofficial as they have not yet been certified, but everything is checked back to the original paper tape that is run the minute the polls close, and the numbers are checked back and forth several times with the State.

Mr. Campkin asked about the Russians hacking into the election results, and Mr. Carpenter indicated that they talked about meddling, and maybe hacking into the Democratic National

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Committee's email database, but there has been no instance in the United States where election results have been hacked.

What can be done by hackers is to get local reporters and the population in general to lose confidence in the election system. He asked that if Mr. Campkin has found an instance where results were hacked, to please show them to their office.

Mr. Lee felt that if voter registration were hacked into, it could affect the results. Mr. Carpenter indicated that it may make it more difficult for someone to vote, (overtalk), but they are able to vote and can do so by paper vote if needed.

Mrs. Edwards indicated that if someone does not have confidence in what the Supervisor of Elections' office is doing, she would invite them to come to one of their advertized, scheduled public meetings. The first meeting will be the public testing of the tabulation equipment, and anyone can come and ask questions. They are very transparent, and everything they do is open to the public.

A request was made this day by Collier County for \$261,000 from the Federal Government that was allocated by them a few months ago in the amount of \$19,000,000. This opportunity that went out to all the counties in the country enables them to make specific requests for items to help the voting process become even more secure. New equipment to make the process as secure as possible has been ordered for this County,

After 2016 the election infrastructure was deemed to be a critical structure under the umbrella of Homeland Security, and that entity, along with law enforcement, has had a panel present at every workshop or conference the Supervisor and her office have attended for the election process.

Mrs. Edwards and Mr. Carpenter were thanked for their appearance, and a brief recess was then taken.