

VOICE OF THE EAGLE



CHRIS H. CHAMBLESS

CLAY COUNTY

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

WINTER 2019



**"We do not have a government by the majority.
We have a government by the majority that participate."**

-Thomas Jefferson

2019 brings with it both a fresh start and the chance to reflect on the past year. The 2018 Election season was one for the books. Filled with excitement and challenges alike- historically high voter turnout, hurricanes, ballot changes, security questions, and recounts, just to name a few. While the election process is always watched closely, 2018 seemed to fall under particular scrutiny from all sides.

We strive to conduct our elections in a professional, secure, and transparent manner. Clay County voters should know we take every measure to ensure their votes are counted and that every eligible voter's voice is heard. For 2018 this meant creating bilingual sample ballots and voter guides, taking part in speaking engagements to educate voters, ongoing training, and being available to answer questions about how your information is secured. If we stay focused on what's important, the rest will fall into place.

To prepare for an election season takes months, sometimes years. Election workers must be trained, equipment must be updated, ballots must be designed, and countless

other tasks need to be completed in order to hold a successful election. It's hardly a one day affair- and it doesn't come cheap. It costs around \$250,000 to run an election- whether voters show up or not. The 2018 General voter turnout was over 61%, the highest midterm since 1994. While I'm glad to see the number climb, it's the 39% who didn't show up that captured my attention. In any other business, a 39% loss would be cause for worry, not celebration. It's a question we continue to ask: Why don't registered voters vote?

In this day and age, there are multiple options to cast your ballot. You can choose to Vote by Mail, Early Vote, or vote on Election Day. Information on the amendments and seats you're voting on can be found in print or online. With smartphones, you have answers to your questions at the tip of your fingers. The accessibility and ease of voting has removed many barriers and still, we struggle with voter participation.

Voting isn't just a right or responsibility. It's an investment- in your family, your property, your county, and your future. Those are worth a few minutes of time to research and vote. If voters understood how much training, planning, and care go into holding each and every election, maybe they would see the effort is worth it.

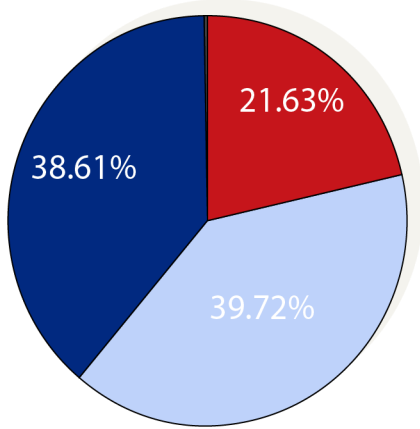
The 2018 Election season showed us citizens are realizing the influence of their voice. I hope the enthusiasm that began in November will carry on, not only through 2019 and 2020, but indefinitely. Please join me in spreading the word about the power of voting and the importance of investing, both in ourselves and in the future.

2018 General Election Summary

61.43%

The Voter turnout percentage for the 2018 General Election, making this the highest midterm General in Clay County since 1994.

What's Popular?



Surprisingly, Election Day turnout was almost equal to Early Vote with 38.61%. While Vote by Mail ballots are growing in popularity, it seems that Clay County voters enjoy voting in person.

However you choose to cast your ballot, we thank you for taking the time to invest yourself in the election process.

Interested in more statistics? You can find past election results and voter turnout reports on our website. Visit www.ClayElections.com and look under Election Info.

Not only was the General Election memorable because of voter turnout, but because of unprecedented statewide recounts ordered in three races. When a race is separated by a margin of less than .50%, the law requires a machine recount. The Senate seat, the Governor, and the Commissioner of Agriculture were all close and fell under this margin.

Clay County began its recount of more than 94,000 ballots. It required a dedicated effort by staff, volunteers, election workers and our county partners. We were able to wrap up our recount process in a record time of 9.5 hours!

99.99788%

The reported accuracy rate of our machine recount on November 14, 2018.

FSASE Conference Wrap Up

The Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections held its Mid-Winter Conference in early December. Supervisor Chambless addressed his fellow supervisors on the success of cybersecurity preparations in Florida during the 2018 election season.

Clay County takes every measure
to **#SecureYourVote**.



It's a date...for MUNICIPALS!!

04/09/19

Green Cove Springs, Keystone Heights, and Orange Park will all hold municipal elections on April 9, 2019 from 7 AM until 7 PM.

Candidate Qualifying will take place from noon on January 28th through noon on February 1st.

For more information, please visit us at **www.ClayElections.com**



WE NEED YOU!

Do you like helping people? Are you interested in being part of the elections process?

We're always looking for Election Workers- especially those of you who are bilingual. For more information, please visit us online at **www.ClayElections.com**.

THE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS LIES IN OUR *community.*

TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR ALL OUR *Election Workers,*
volunteers FROM OUR CLAY COUNTY PARTNERS
AND LAW ENFORCEMENT *volunteers,*
WE ARE HOSTING A *Fish Fry* ON FEBRUARY 13TH.



WE'LL PROVIDE THE FISH, HUSHPUPPIES, AND GRITS- BUT WE ASK YOU
TO BRING YOUR FAVORITE *side or dessert* TO SHARE!

Invitations WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY, WITH MORE DETAILS.
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR *yours!*



Holding an election takes a team effort. They wouldn't be possible without the help from volunteers, election workers, and our Clay County partners. From the Sheriff's Department directing traffic and swearing in deputies to GCPD keeping everyone safe and orderly to those who help count or duplicate ballots- every single person makes a difference and plays an important role.

#ClayStrong

AROUND THE OFFICE

Read on to meet our new members of the office and also find out who's celebrating anniversaries and birthdays this quarter.



I grew up in Miami and lived there until I moved to N. Florida in 2006. I have a degree in Electronics that led me into I.T. work, software development, training and technical support.

My wife's name is Betty and we have been married for 24 years. We have one child, Jake, who's going to be 20-years-old and attends college at UCF in Orlando.

My hobbies are working out 3-4 days a week. I also play tennis, ride bikes, and scuba dive whenever I can. I love spending time with my family, going out to dinner, watching movies and traveling.

The 2018 election season was impressive. Most people don't realize how much goes into putting it all together and making it work. Being here just a few months before the election meant learning a lot in a short amount of time. For the General Election we had both a machine recount and manual one. I was able to get good exposure on my first election season.

The staff here is amazing and has been very welcoming to me. I'm very happy to be here and am proud to be part of something as important as the elections.

-Anthony Manzano



I was born in Southern California, raised in Colorado, and I've called Jacksonville home since 2001. I graduated from FSCJ with a degree in Converged Communications. I bartended my way through school and held internships with the Cummer Museum, Jacksonville Symphony, and DAGMAR Marketing.

I have a 10-year-old son, Izaac, and a 6-year-old daughter, Halia. I enjoy reading, writing, traveling, and going to the beach as often as possible. I'm also a huge sports fan- my favorite time of the year is football season!

I joined the office as the Community Services Coordinator. I started in late June- just in time for election season to begin. It's been an eye-opening experience, to say the least. I never realized the incredible amount of planning, organizing, and training it takes to hold an election. But it's incredible to be part of a team that takes such pride in everything they do.

Everyone in the office has been incredibly welcoming, patient, and kind. I'm excited to learn more about the elections process and to connect with the Clay County community.

-Heather Stewart

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to our Winter Babies!

Kemie.....12/14

Heather....1/14

Jasa.....1/25

Phyllis.....2/28

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Several members of our team celebrate anniversaries this quarter!

Holly.....1/1/07*

Robin.....1/1/09*

Thunder....1/12/15*

Marti.....2/1/14*

Jasa.....2/24/14

***Denotes full time employment anniversary**

Clay County SOE Announces Scholarship Opportunity for College Students

Are you currently a junior or senior at a Florida college or university who's pursuing a degree in Political Science, Public or Business Administration, or Journalism/Mass Communications? Are you a registered voter of Clay County? If you answered "yes" to these questions, Clay County Supervisor of Elections Chris H. Chambless invites you to apply for one of three \$1,200 scholarships, available from the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE).

The FSASE scholarship is open to local college or university students who have finished two years of junior college or undergraduate work and are enrolled, or have been accepted into, the above listed programs. Supervisor Chambless encourages all interested students to review the full eligibility requirements and fill out an application either online at www.ClayElections.com or at the SOE office located at 500 N. Orange Ave., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.

The completed FSASE scholarship application, a resume, a statement of financial need, and two letters of recommendation must be submitted by March 29, 2019 to the Clay County Supervisor of Elections.

For more information, visit our website **www.ClayElections.com** or call (904)269-6350 if we can assist you.

Our office will be closed on the following days:

Monday, January 21, 2019– Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, February 18, 2019– President's Day

We're always available online at www.ClayElections.com



From speaking engagements to festivals and fairs to National Voter Registration Day- we are always looking to connect with our Clay County community.

Keep up with all our events by liking us on **Facebook** or visiting us on **www.ClayElections.com**.

Our address is:

500 N. Orange Ave.

Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

Hours:

M-F, 8:30am - 4:30pm

Phone:

(904) 269-6350

Email:

mail@ClayElections.com