

from the desk of...



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Supervisor of Elections



VoteHillsborough.org

November/December 2019

Giving Thanks

November is a time of giving thanks, so here are just a few of the many things I'm thankful for.



1 *I'm thankful to live in a community that cares about elections.*

We regularly hold open houses at our office, to take some of the mystery out of elections, and to share information about improvements we make each election cycle. And we always get a great response. We're hoping this year will be the same.

For those who are already thinking about the 2020 elections (*and of course you are, that's why you read this newsletter!*), **we invite you to stop in at our Elections Service Center on Wednesday, November 20th.** If you've been a poll worker or are thinking about becoming one, we especially encourage you to join us!



HIGHLIGHTS:

- See online training for poll workers
- Try out election equipment, including our new accessible ballot marking devices, the ExpressVote, which replace the AutoMARKs we've used in previous elections
- Learn more about how we keep things running at 270 different polling places on Election Day

I hope to see you on **November 20th** - come see what makes Hillsborough County, the 4th largest county in the state of Florida, **the best place in America to vote!**

YOU ARE INVITED!

WHAT:

Robert L. Gilder Elections Service Center Open House — taking you behind the scenes to learn what it takes to run an election

WHEN:

Drop in anytime between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

WHERE:

2514 N. Falkenburg Rd, Tampa





2 I'm thankful for calendars.



How else would we keep track of all the many things in our lives? And speaking of calendars, I hope our 2020 election dates are on yours. The first election - the **Presidential Preference Primary** - will be here in less than 125 days.

Don't forget that Florida is a closed primary state. You must be registered with a political party to vote in that party's primary races.

Presidential Preference Primary Dates

Deadline to register/change party

February 18

Early Voting: March 2 - 15

Vote By Mail: Due by March 17

Election Day: March 17

3 I'm thankful to those who give.

In October, Hillsborough County hosted a toiletry drive to help the homeless and those in need. My office participated, and I am thankful to work with such caring and compassionate colleagues.



4 I'm thankful for youthful creativity.



If you're a high school student with artistic talent, we're looking to you to help inspire our community to vote. Take advantage of your holiday downtime to come up with a submission to our VoteHillsborough Art Contest.

The contest deadline is January 10! That will be here before you know it. Three art submissions will be printed and distributed on hundreds of thousands of bag stuffers at Caspers Company McDonald's restaurants, and on posters displayed at libraries and schools. And yes, the first place winner also gets a cash prize.

Details are on our website at VoteHillsborough.org.



the last word

For 35 years I enforced the law, retiring as a Major for the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. So when you ask me, as your Supervisor of Elections, about election security, I have a unique perspective. [Visit the Election Security page on our website to find out more.](#)

