

Florida Supervisor of Elections Survey Form – 3/23/22

ES&S

County/City Alendry Observers Cristian Goodman, Michael Thompson.

Date of interview 4/4/22 Supervisor of Elections Brenda Hoots Sherry Taylor

Before the Interview - Record the time and date of your call and email, and if the meeting is not set immediately, the time and date of their response

a) Time and date of initial call and email: 3/14/22

b) Time and date of response: same

c) Did the Supervisor of Elections refuse to meet you: Yes ☐ No ☒

d) If yes, please provide the reason given for not meeting: _____

The Interview - Thank the Supervisor for agreeing to see you. State that the purpose of the observation program is to provide voters with accurate information about the election process. Emphasize how important you think his/her role is in ensuring that everyone in the county sees the elections here are free, fair and legitimate.

First, we have a few general questions.

1. What is your biggest concern about the upcoming election? (open ended. Record verbatim.)
Making sure they are prepared w/ pending Legislation. (2021 FL election law)

2. Any other major concerns? (open ended. Record verbatim.)
NO

3. a. Do you feel like you have the resources, equipment, personnel, and training needed to run an effective election in November?
Yes ☒
No ☐
Don't know ☐
No answer/refused ☐

b. If no, what is missing?

Thank you. Now a few questions on the voter roll and voter registration.

4. When was the last time the voter file in your county was scrubbed or cleaned?
(Enter date, and the number of days since last audit) Date: 2021

5. When was the last time you had access to the National Change of Address List or any other change of address list? (record date and other list(s), if relevant) Do not use NCA only thru vendors

6. a. Are you confident that the voter file is accurate and up to date?
Yes ☒
No ☐

Don't know _____
No answer/refused _____

b. If no, what is/are your main concern(s) about the list?

7.

a. Have you had private third-party individuals or groups conducting voter registration activities in this county?

Yes ☒
No _____
Don't know _____
No answer/refused _____

b. If yes, can you tell me which groups conducted these activities?

c. If yes, are you confident these registration activities take place without bribery, intimidation or coercion, and that only qualified voters are registered through these third-parties?

Yes, I'm confident ☒ - NO complaints.
No, not sure _____
Don't know _____
No answer/refused. _____

Moving on, we have some questions on voting processes and technology.

8.

Can you explain how your office manages voting in nursing homes?

work w/ nursing home staff & provide a staff member to visit the nursing home or mail to the voter. Also provide VR applications.

9.

a. How is the voting system used in your county certified? By FL.

b. Who certified it last and when?

1 Who updates and calibrates the voting machines?

0. ES+S Rep

1 Can you please explain how they update and calibrate the machines?

1. Asked to skip. stated Did not understand question.

1 Are you present when the machines are updated and calibrated, or is that process supervised by someone else? If someone else, what is their position?

I am present ☒ or →

Another person supervises this process (insert title and position) Sherry or SoE

1 Do you invite party representatives to witness the update and calibration?

3. Yes ☒ via Certified mail for Public Testing
No _____

Don't know _____
No answer/refused _____

1 a. Are voting machines ever connected to the internet?

4. Yes _____

No ☒

Don't know _____

No answer/refused _____

b. If yes, when and why are they connected?

c. If they are not connected to the internet, how, when and by whom are they updated?

1 Concerns were raised across the country about the accuracy and integrity of voting machines in the 2020 elections, and there are now calls to get rid of the machines, and use a manual process like that used in France.

a. Do you think it a good idea to go back to a manual voting process?

Yes _____

No ☒

Don't know _____

No answer/refused _____

b. If no, why?

stated they did not have man power to do.

1 Can you tell us what it costs per voter to implement an election in this county?

6. IDK off top of her head

Now we have a few questions about the counting process.

1 a. How many (%) extra ballots are available in each precinct? ^{order} they ~~provide~~ Precincts w/ 90%
7. of total voters @ precincts -> Mail in ballots + early voting.

b. Can you describe the process used to track and account for these excess ballots?

Ballot accountability is tracked to make sure each ballot is accounted for.

1 We know that in some areas machines had difficulty reading many mail-in ballots, and those had to be sent for manual adjudication.

a. Can you describe briefly how ballots are adjudicated here?

If machine can't read it, Canvassing Board gets involved to review

b. About what percentage of absentee ballots required adjudication in this county/city during the 2020 election? 15 Ballpark

1 Have the machines you use for counting ever reported fractional results?

9. Yes

No

Don't know

No answer/refused

☐
☒
☐
☐

Many changes in election procedures were introduced in response to the COVID pandemic, and some people have argued that these changes weakened the integrity of the election process.

2 As an election professional, do you think the changes made in the election process in Florida in response to COVID have weakened election integrity, strengthened election integrity, or made no change in election integrity?

weakened integrity.

strengthened integrity

made no change

Don't know

No answer/refused

☐
☐
☒
☐
☐

2 a. Did you receive any funding or in-kind contributions for training, staff, voter education or equipment, or any other purpose from outside the state of Florida?

Yes

No

Don't know

No answer/refused

☐
☒
☐
☐

b. If yes, what was the funding or contribution used for?

c. Will not receiving such funding in future affect your ability to implement a fully free and fair election?

Yes

No

Don't know

No answer/refused

☐
☐
☐
☐

d. If yes, in what way?

Observation of election processes enhances transparency and strengthens public confidence in the integrity of elections, and have a few questions about pollwatchers and non-partisan observers.

2 Have your local party chairs been notified that they are entitled to send observers to your office each day it is open and receiving in-person absentee ballots? No. Not required.

Yes

☐

	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don't know _____ No answer/refused _____
2	a. Did you have both Republican and Democrat pollwatchers at every polling location in 2020? 3. Yes _____ ✓ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (go to b.) Don't know _____ No answer/refused _____ b. If no, please estimate the percentage of polling locations covered by each party: Democrats _____ Republicans _____
2	a. Do you have a publication that you provide to your election officials regarding rights and responsibilities of pollwatchers? 4. Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____ (go to b.) Don't know _____ No answer/refused _____ b. If no, would you be willing to distribute such a publication that we would prepare based on Florida law? Yes _____ No _____ Don't know _____ No answer/refused _____
2	If the Legislature through the Department of State allowed independent non-partisan observers, (recent) 5. would you welcome that? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____ Don't know _____ No answer/refused _____
Thank you. The survey is complete now. We deeply appreciate your time today, and look forward to keeping in touch as we go through the 2022 elections. (if you have additional questions) If you don't mind, we have a few additional questions related specifically to (county or city).	
2	Post survey question – Please characterize your interaction with the Supervisor of Elections as (circle all that apply) 6. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Helpful</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Polite</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Defensive</div> <div>Unhelpful</div> <div>Antagonistic</div> </div>

To the survey team: Thank you for all you have done and will do to ensure a free and fair election in Florida! Please submit your completed survey form as soon as possible.

Very Defensive. One of the most defensive interviews to date. I felt disrespected, disappointed in the fact the SoE so defensive when I never once accused her or anyone in her office of any wrongdoing. Why is she so defensive, she also declined to have the interview audio recorded, but in the same breathe states she hopes she is not misquoted, but declined audio for me to refer to later to confirm her answers. MT