

**Florida Supervisor of Elections Survey**  
**Floridians for Election Transparency**

County/City Manatee Observers Michael Thompson  
 Date of interview 6/30/22 Supervisor of Elections Mike Bennett

*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: 6/14/22
- b) Time and date of response: 6/15/22
- 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.) --  
 One of them is going to win -  
 - We are going to be lacking truly qualified candidates -  
 Biden is in a p + trump is an ass - too many people are  
 trying to hold their job + not what's best for country - <sup>Desantis</sup>
2. Any other major concerns? (open ended. Record verbatim.)  
 Control all 3 houses - politics people are following instead of  
 leading - not thinking on their own - Politics is like religion - truth  
 is true to you + not to some one else - you don't have to agree but <sup>Respect</sup>  
 each other
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?

4. 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. 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.  *NO real increase in UBM - note possible Early voting.*  
 strengthened integrity   
 made no change   
 Don't know   
 No answer/refused

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

5. When was the last time the voter file in your county was scrubbed or cleaned? *early 6 months*  
 (Enter date, and the number of days since last audit) Date: \_\_\_\_\_ *log every yr.*  
*appx 27,000 people made changes*

6. 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) *ERIC - believe there should be a national security log.*

7. a. Are you confident that the voter file is accurate and up to date?  
 Yes  *as accurate as it can be. it will never*  
 No   
 Don't know   
 No answer/refused

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

8. a. Have you had private third-party individuals or groups conducting voter registration activities in this county?  
 Yes  *1/2 a doz over time doing this*  
 No   
 Don't know   
 No answer/refused

b. If yes, can you tell me which groups conducted these activities? *League of Women Voter, dem + rep Party.*

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, not sure   
 Don't know   
 No answer/refused.

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

9. Can you explain how your office manages voting in nursing homes?  
*assisted voting 2 diff political party go to the facility to help them fill out Ballots. They watch + Return Ballot same day.*

10.	<p>There are two types of voting machines used in Florida: Dominion and ES&amp;S. Can you tell me which machines you use?</p> <p>Dominion _____  ES&amp;S. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
11.	<p>We understand the State of Florida is responsible for updating the voting machines before an election. Is that done by a state employee, or by a contractor or consultant from a private company?</p> <p>State employee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Bring ES-S to tune thru ID County tests &amp; do 100% accuracy test</i>  Private _____ If private, which company: _____</p>
12.	<p>Are you present when the machines are updated, or is that process supervised by someone else? If someone else, what is their position?</p> <p>I am present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Another person supervises this process (insert title and position) _____</p>
13.	<p>Do you invite party representatives to witness the update?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  No _____  Don't know _____  No answer/refused _____</p>
14.	<p>a. Are voting machines ever connected to the internet?</p> <p>Yes _____  No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>it comes in by cell phone - it's the interpretation more instant</i>  Don't know _____  No answer/refused _____</p> <p>b. If yes, when and why are they connected?</p>
15.	<p>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.</p> <p>a. Do you think it a good idea to go back to a manual voting process?</p> <p>Yes _____  No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>it would be horrible &amp; take forever to get results.</i>  Don't know _____  No answer/refused _____</p> <p>b. If no, why? <i>Not as accurate &amp; easier to cook the books</i></p> <p><i>Machine can be created if someone wanted to even a 10<sup>th</sup> grade</i></p>
16.	<p>Can you tell us what it costs per voter to implement an election in this county?</p> <p><i>Budget \$ 2021 - 275K Register 350K to run race - \$1/per voter</i></p>

Now we have a few questions about the counting process.

17. a. How many (%) extra ballots are available in each precinct?  
 50% of reg precinct extra 2000 voters ~ 3,000 Ballots.  
 b. Can you describe the process used to track and account for these excess ballots?  
 do one demand ballots. would make more sense / Barcodes

- We know that in some areas machines had difficulty reading many mail-in ballots, and the votes on these had to be copied on to clean ballots and rescanned. PIA sign not updated. go to canvassy board reviews questionable ballots. 2/3 canvassers.  
 a. Can you describe briefly how this process is done?  
 letter mailed goes out to voter & ask voter to come into verify sign - proof of residency - then they go to canvu. Board & Review.  
 b. About what percentage of absentee ballots required copying in this county/city during the 2020 election? \_\_\_\_\_ duplicating 125% of 10% Maybe a couple hundred  
 c. Were pollwatchers from each party present during the copying process?  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_ he always asks poll watcher  
 No  not really. who doesn't know.  
 Don't know \_\_\_\_\_  
 No answer/refused \_\_\_\_\_

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.

19. 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?  
 Yes   
 No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Don't know \_\_\_\_\_  
 No answer/refused \_\_\_\_\_

20. a. Did you have both Republican and Democrat pollwatchers at every polling location in 2020?  
 Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
 No  (go to b.) it depends. need come out 1st day  
 Don't know \_\_\_\_\_ But end up heavy  
 No answer/refused \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. If no, please estimate the percentage of polling locations covered by each party:  
 Democrats \_\_\_\_\_ Republicans \_\_\_\_\_

21.	<p>a. Do you have a publication that you provide to your election officials regarding rights and responsibilities of pollwatchers?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Stago knows</i></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/> (go to b.)</p> <p>Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No answer/refused <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>b. If no, would you be willing to distribute such a publication that we would prepare based on Florida law?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No answer/refused <input type="checkbox"/></p>
22.	<p>If the Legislature through the Department of State allowed independent non-partisan observers, would you welcome that?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>has no problem w anyone to come observe</i></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No answer/refused <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><i>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).</i></p>	
23.	<p>Post survey question – Please characterize your interaction with the Supervisor of Elections as (circle all that apply)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Helpful</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Polite</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Defensive</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Unhelpful</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Antagonistic</b></p>
<p><i>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.</i></p>	

*Good Meeting, Knowledgeable, funny, Engaging.*

*MT*