The Broward County Supervisor of Elections & Broward County Public Schools
A Partnership

Broward County, FL

Submitted by:

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Introduction to Broward County

There are over 1.7 million residents in Broward County, Florida. However, many of those residents only call it “home” part of the year. As well as being one of Florida’s most transient counties, Broward is also one of the most diverse. There has been a significant increase in multicultural residents in Broward over the last several years. There is also an increase in temporary and permanent foreign-born residents. Significant growth has occurred in Spanish, Portuguese and Creole speaking populations. This new population has had a significant impact on the elections process and how we educate voters.

Broward County Public Schools is one of South Florida’s largest employers. It also serves more than two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) students in public and charter schools. Specifically, Cypress Bay High School currently has over five thousand, five hundred (5,500) students, and is currently the largest high school in the nation. While the numbers in our schools are said to continue increasing, so are the voter registration totals for our county. Currently, there are nine hundred twenty-seven thousand registered voters in Broward. And with our attractive climate, sandy beaches and beautiful landscapes, that number is sure to rise as well.

Our partnership with Broward County Public Schools contains several facets: the high school voter registration program, recruitment of staff and students; utilization of facilities, and other resources; election day support and voter education related programs. Below is a brief description of each facet. Also included in this report are samples of our PowerPoint Presentations, a Copy of the School Board Resolution, which certifies our efforts in the high schools, and other supporting documentation that contribute to the process.

Annual High School Voter Registration drive (H.S.V.R.) - The drive is scheduled for a one week period during April. The kick off of the drive is marked by the annual adoption of a supportive resolution by the School Board. In preparation for the drive, the SOE Staff conducts a three-hour training session for interested representatives from every public, private and charter high school in the District. The students are accompanied by a staff member from their school who will assist them in organizing and conducting the drive. This orientation session is usually attended by more than 200 students. Over the past four years, more than 25,000 young people have registered as a result of the intense voter registration event.

During the 2004 Presidential Election, the election staff worked with community groups to organize “field trips” from schools to the early voting sites. This effort was put into place to encourage the newly registered voters to become active participants in the Presidential Election.

Election Worker Recruitment - Efforts to recruit high school students as election workers began with McFatter Technical School. Students were recruited primarily to
serve as Voting System Technicians (VSTs). Their primary function is to ensure that machines function properly through the election day. The number of participating schools continues to increase. Teachers and other staff are also recruited to work. Some teachers serve as trainers for election workers during the evening, week-ends and summers.

Utilization of Facilities and other Resources - Many counties in Florida have “permanent”, or county owned facilities that are polling places. These facilities are free standing and for the most part do not change. This is not so in Broward. There are currently seven hundred ninety-five (795) precincts, housed in over five hundred (500) facilities. These facilities are privately and publicly owned, and are leased as poling precincts on election day.

There are more than 130 schools and centers used as polling sites. These sites usually house one or more precincts located in classrooms or gymnasiums. We have also utilized school facilities on a limited basis to conduct training for the election workers. Schools are often centrally located and easier for election day workers to commute to for training.

Several support staff from the District administration are on-site at the election command center on election day. These staff members assist in the coordination of the opening and closing procedures for precincts in schools. They also monitor schools throughout the day to mitigate any problems that may arise. School Board officials and support staff also work with our office throughout the year to make certain that all particulars are taken care of well in advance. Things like facility access, school staff support, parking and security are all issues that are handled by the school board liaisons.

Voter Education Related Programs - Voter education is present in the classrooms at three different levels: through our annual high school voter registration drive, through career days and guest appearances at middle and elementary schools, and finally at adult education centers and programs for community involvement.

These three programs have proven to be extremely successful in many ways. Our high school voter registration drive (H.S.V.R.) has registered close to forty thousand (40,000) new voters in the last four years. Our Student PollWorker program has raised over $35,000 for school programs and educationally sponsored trips. Our adult education centers have also hosted many informational programs and forums to adults that are new to the country and have recently become citizens. Add to that an intensive training and workshop for teachers to learn the elections process first hand from local elections officials. Teachers taking part in this earn in-service credits towards recertification. Lastly, every single student (over 250,000) is given a reminder sticker to wear home the day before each election which reads, “Please Remember to VOTE tomorrow!”

In conclusion, we are extremely fortunate to have professional relationships that our entire community can benefit from. The partnership between The Broward County Supervisor of Elections office, and Broward County Schools truly is a model of professional standards and best practices. It is proof positive that education is the foundation and the key to success.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Attend Principals Meeting</td>
<td>2. Voter Education Director</td>
<td>2. November</td>
<td>2. Confirmation from School Board and Principals to Proceed</td>
<td>2. Compare and Contrast District Schedule with Elections Schedule, taking into account all test dates and holidays</td>
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<td>4. Hold County-Wide Training Workshop</td>
<td>4. Voter Education Director, Coordinator</td>
<td>4. January – February</td>
<td>4. All Schools Send One Staff Person and Two Student Coordinators to Workshop</td>
<td>4. Purpose is to train schools how to complete the registration forms. Schools are also given contest guidelines and specifications on submitting registration forms.</td>
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<td>5. H.S.V.R. Week April 19-23</td>
<td>5. Voter Education Director, Coordinator, Designated SOE Staff</td>
<td>5. April</td>
<td>5. All Schools Visited by SOE Staff and Community Volunteers.</td>
<td>5. Purpose of visit is to provide assistance and establish support for schools.</td>
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Douglas High School
728 Registered Students!

Nova High School
561 Registered Students!

students and teachers together

a local radio station gets involved
RESOLUTION

No. 08-73

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HIGH SCHOOL VOTER REGISTRATION WEEK

April 14-18, 2008

WHEREAS, the state government of Florida has created Florida Statute 98.255 requiring Supervisor of Elections offices to hold voter registration drives to increase voter participation; and

WHEREAS, the state government of Florida has created Florida Administrative Code Rule 15-2.033 requiring Supervisor of Elections offices to appear in each public high school in the county at least once per year; and

WHEREAS, high school seniors locally and across the country have shown great initiative and promise for America’s future; and

WHEREAS, preserving America’s democratic foundation has always been demonstrated on election days through our voting rights and responsibilities as citizens; and

WHEREAS, establishing relationships with organizations such as Kids Voting Broward and BSASC (Broward Schools Academic Student Council) will increase awareness and participation; and

WHEREAS, youth participation in the voting process is necessary for a stronger voice on issues pertaining to that specific age group; and

WHEREAS, voter registration and education as a proactive approach may strengthen chances for success on election days;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The School Board of Broward County, Florida, in support of the state of Florida Statutes Section 98.255 and Florida Administrative Code Rule 15-2.033 hereby declares

April 14-18, 2008 as

High School Voter Registration Drive Week

and calls for all high schools within its jurisdiction to observe this week with appropriate programs and activities.

Given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 18th day of March, 2008.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: ____________________________
   Robin Bartleman, Chair

ATTEST: _________________________
         James F. Notter, Superintendent of Schools
Front

VOTE
With Confidence