

Pulaski County, Arkansas

Newsletter for Election Officials

All New Voting Equipment

Goodbye Eagle optical scan voting device and hello M100 optical scan tabulator! The familiar Eagle voting devices that have been used in Pulaski County polling locations since 1994 are gone to voting equipment heaven. They have been replaced by a younger, more sophisticated model. No more connecting the arrows either, now voters will fill-in a bubble on the paper ballot.

Goodbye Eagle



Hello M100



Each election day polling location will continue to have one iVotronic touch screen machine. These machines were introduced to all polling locations last year to comply with federal law.

iVotronic



The iVotronic is in each polling location to comply with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 by providing a voting device with an audio ballot so that voters with visual disabilities are able vote unassisted. Though any voter may use the iVotronic at an election day poll, these machines are specifically there for voters with special needs. And since there is only one per election day polling site, it is not feasible to use this device as the main voting method on election day in our county.

However, if you vote early at one of the nine convenient locations throughout the county, the iVotronic is the only voting device available.

The iVotronic has what is called a "Real Time Audit Log" that records the votes on paper and allows the voter to verify those choices before finalizing the vote on this device.

There will be training on the

operation of these new machines before the next election.

In fact, the election commission hopes to designate one of the election officials assigned to each poll as an "equipment clerk" that will get "specialized" equipment training. This will relieve the chief judge to concentrate on the paperwork (more about that later).

The county received the re-

**"Goodbye Eagle,
Hello M100"**

placement voting equipment from funds provided by the state and the federal government. Pulaski County is fortunate to have this new equipment at no charge to the county. There will be, however, maintenance fees that the county will be required to pay.

Although we'll miss our old Eagles, we're excited about using the new M100's and hope the transition is a smooth one for voters and election workers. Training will be a key part of the change over.

February 2007

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Special points of interest:

?? New Voting Equipment
?? Poll Worker Recruitment

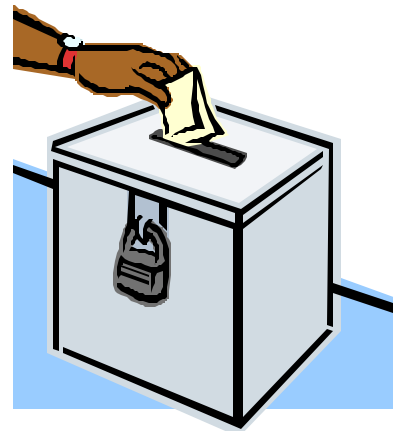
2006 Primary and General Elections Voter Turnout

The May 23rd, 2006 Primary Election saw a very minor decrease in voters from 2004. In the '04 Primary, 38,584 voters went to the polls to cast their ballot. There were 38,140 voters in the 2006 Primary.

There was a substantial decrease in the turnout for the November 7th, 2006 General Election from 2004. 110,642 voters went to the polls on November 7th. This is

down from 154,691 in 2004, a decline of just over 28%. However, it is important to remember that 2004 was a Presidential election year which tends to bring more voters to the polls. Therefore we anticipate an increase in voter turnout in the 2008 Primary and General elections.

Be sure to let your voice be heard and get out to vote!



More Election Officials Needed—Poll Worker Recruitment

HELP WANTED: Must work 14+ hours in one day, interact with 400 to 800 people, follow 500 pages of rules, open/operate/shut down \$9,000 computerized voting machines, and keep a cheery, smiling attitude the whole day. Pay is about minimum wage (or less). Work is not regular, but you will be notified to work if needed. Oh, and you must attend training sessions before each election.

Interested? Apply today!

But Seriously...

Many of you have served as election officials for years. You are true servants of democracy! Now we need to motivate others to step up and fulfill this civic responsibility and join you or follow in your footsteps.

Help us keep a full roster of

election workers ready and willing to serve. Encourage your friends, neighbors and colleagues to join you as election officials. Tell them to call the election commission at 340-8383 and sign-up.

As noted in the story about the new voting equipment on the first page, we plan to offer specialized training on the voting equipment. This will relieve the Chief Judge of some of the stress and allow for more focus on managing the polling location. The "equipment clerk" will be responsible for opening and closing the devices, as well as troubleshooting problems.

The General Assembly may see legislation to increase poll worker pay, too. Call your representatives and tell them how important it would be to get a pay raise.

The next big election cycle will be in 2008. We need to be prepared!

2007 Election Schedule

September 18, 2007—School Election (*Deadline to apply to register to vote—August 20, 2007*)

Special Elections can be called at any time, so watch for news updates.

2008 Election Schedule

?? **Feb. 5, 2008—Arkansas Presidential Primary**

?? May 20, 2008—Preferential Primary

?? June 10, 2008—Primary Runoff

?? Sept. 16, 2008—School Election

?? Oct. 7, 2008—School Runoff

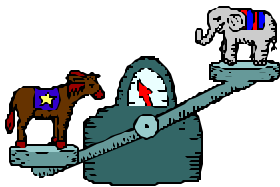
?? **Nov. 4, 2008—General Election**

?? Nov. 25, 2008—General Election Runoff

Elections Commissioners—FYI

Under state law every county in Arkansas has a County Board of Election Commissioners made up of three members. The three-member board is composed by the following: 1) the county committee chair of the majority political party (currently Democrat), or designee, 2) the county chair of the minority political party (Republican), or designee, and a third member appointed by the State Board of Election Commissioners from a list of five nominees from the county committee of the majority party. So all county boards of election commissioners in the state of Arkansas have two democrat appoint-

ees and one republican appointee.



You may ask what decides the “majority” party in the state. Well

it is from the majority party representation of our elected constitutional officers (governor, Lt. governor, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, attorney general, etc.).

CHANGES IN PULASKI COUNTY

The membership of the county board of election commissioners changes

from time to time. The year of 2007 starts with the introduction of one new member. The Republican member, Bill Rush left the board in February and was replaced by Martha McCaskill. Other board members are Kent Walker, the chairman, and Ozell Snider, the third member who both came on the commission in 2006.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Rush for his outstanding contributions as a Pulaski County Election Commissioner. We are happy to have had the privilege of working with him.

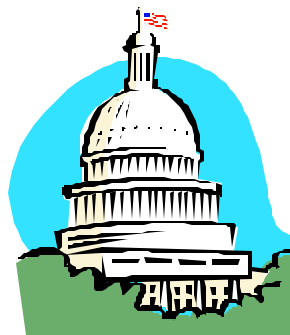
The Arkansas 86th General Assembly

The 86th General Assembly convened on January 8, 2007 to start the process of passing new laws and changing old ones. We can expect to see some changes with election laws, too.

You can keep up with what’s going on at the State Capitol by logging on to www.arkleg.state.ar.us and checking on bill status and lots of other interesting information about

what’s going on at the capitol.

If you don’t know who your state



representatives are, take a look at your voter registration card. It has your state representative and senate district numbers and from there you can find out who represents you by the district numbers.

It is up to each of us to express our support or concerns for pending legislation. Call or write your representatives and tell them what you think.

Who Do I Call For Election Related Information?

Questions about voting, call:

Election Commission at 340-8383

Questions about voter registration, where to vote, or who your representatives are, call: County Clerk at 340-8683

or visit www.pulaskiclerk.com

Questions about running for public office, call:

Secretary of State at 682-5070 or State Board of Election Comm. at 682-1834

Questions about how to become a poll worker, call:

Election Commission at 340-8383

Questions about Party Candidates, call: Democrat Party at 374-2361

Republican Party at 372-7301

Other questions? Call the election commission at 340-8383



I wonder how to find out about.....



Am I at the correct voting location?

Pulaski County Election Commission

201 S. Broadway, Ste 330
Little Rock, AR 72201

Phone: 501-340-8383

Fax: 501-340-6024

www.votepulaski.net

E-mail us at:

PC Election@votepulaski.net

Thank You Election Officials!

Those of you who worked the May 2006 Primary Election most likely remember a long day filled with many challenges, especially with the use of the iVotronic touch screen voting devices. Each of you faced those challenges and persevered.

In contrast, the November General Election went very smoothly and this simply would not have happened without your hard work and dedication.

Commissioners and Staff

ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

Kent Walker, Commission Chair

Martha McCaskill, Commissioner

Ozell Snider, Commissioner

STAFF

Susan Inman, Director

Tim Joiner, Assistant Director

Tonya Washington, Administrative Assistant

Pam Walker, Voting Equipment Specialist.

Herbert Harris, Election System Application Analyst

Nolen Buffalo, System Administrator



From the desk of Commission Chair Kent Walker...

Greetings Everyone-

I hope the end of the election and holiday season finds you in good spirits. I want to first and foremost thank you for your efforts this past election cycle.

Your work as an election official is what contributes to Pulaski County running successful elections. We could not do it without your efforts. You may not hear this enough so that's why I want to personally emphasize this again: thank you!

I know this past year was not without difficulty. There were software problems, new machine issues, people being stubborn at the polls, and other concerns that always come with anything new.

I feel, however, that most of our difficulties are behind us. We all experienced these growing pains together believe me. We are moving forward while taking some lessons with us. We cannot dwell on the past and talk about how badly things went without some reflection. It is time to move forward. I believe the November election shows us how far and how quickly we have come in Pulaski County and the state. I believe this progression will continue.

Next, I want to let you all know that efforts are being made to get more meaningful pay to everyone. A group of statewide Election Commissioners is working to develop a better pay structure for everyone. Your long days, sometimes 14 hours, should not be bor-

derline volunteer effort. You should be making more money for the meaningful work you do conducting elections.

Lastly, although elections are not easy, my dad always told me, "if it was easy, everyone would do it." In the same vein, you as a dedicated public servant know this to be true. Although it may not be easy at times, it is very important. Your job to this county and this state are vital. Please keep up the good work and I hope to see you soon.

Kent Walker