

Walton County Supervisor of Elections

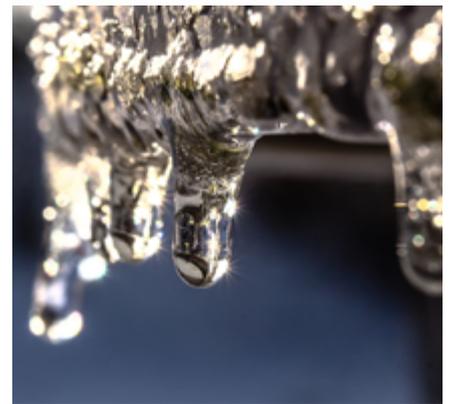
Volume 2, Issue 1 January 2017

Newsletter



Voter Stats:

Active Registered Voters as of
January 25, 2017 are:
Democrats: 9,820
Republicans: 27,695
Others: 9,525
Total: 47,040



FSASE College Scholarships available



Attention Walton County College students: Are you majoring in Political Science, Public/Business Administration, or Journalism/Mass Communications? Then we have a scholarship for you! The Florida State Association of Supervisor of Elections has once again chosen to give three \$1,200.00 scholarships to three deserving college students in the state of Florida. If you or someone you know might be interested in receiving more details please have them contact the Supervisor of Elections office at 850-892-8112. To apply, please complete the [Application](#) and return it to our office. Deadline to submit applications: **March 29, 2017.**

In this issue:

Voter Stats.....1
Scholarships available.....1
DeFuniak Springs City Election.....2
Freeport City Election.....2
Did you know?.....2
Contact Us.....2

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votewalton.com

We're on Facebook



DeFuniak Springs City Election



The City of DeFuniak Springs is scheduled to have an election on Tuesday, April 11th from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the [DeFuniak Springs Community Center, 361 North 10th Street](#). Eligible voters are voters who reside in the city limits of DeFuniak Springs and are registered before the deadline of March 13, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. [Check your status or eligibility](#) via our website.

Candidate Qualifying: March 14-16 (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) and March 17th (8:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.). [Contact us](#) for candidate qualifying details. A sample ballot will be available after candidate qualifying.



Freeport City Election

The City of Freeport is scheduled to have an election on Tuesday, July 11th from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the [Freeport City Hall, 112 State Highway 20 West](#). Eligible voters are voters who reside in the city limits of Freeport and are registered before the deadline of June 12, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. [Check your status or eligibility](#) via our website.

Candidate Qualifying: June 13-15 (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and June 16th (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). [Contact Rebecca Podraza](#), Freeport City Clerk for candidate qualifying details. A sample ballot will be available after candidate qualifying.

Did you know?

We're Working to Protect Voter Privacy: In a December meeting of the Senate Ethics and Elections committee, Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections discussed its top objectives for the upcoming legislative session which begins in March. The association's top priorities are to seek a legislative mandate requiring the state of Florida to join ERIC, the Electronic Registration Information Center, and to take steps to protect voters' personal information from being disclosed under the public record laws.

ERIC, a non-profit, information-sharing organization uses efficient and effective data matching between states to help improve the accuracy of America's voter rolls. By using resources such as the Social Security death index and data from the US Post Office, ERIC has been instrumental in identifying more than a million voters who are registered in more than one state. ERIC began in 2012, and is currently employed by 20 states and the District of Columbia. Cleaner voter rolls equate to more efficient elections with shorter lines at the polls, and ultimately cost savings with less returned mail and fewer provisional ballots.

The concept of joining ERIC has been rejected by legislation in the past, but the association sees ERIC as the right course of action for improving the overall efficiency of elections nationwide through states' cooperative action.

Protecting voters' personal information, e.g. home addresses and birthdates, has also been overlooked by legislation in the past. A bill introduced in 2016 to change the law gained little traction in the legislative session, and will likely meet again with strong opposition particularly from the First Amendment Foundation, a group that tracks proposed changes to public record laws. However, with the increased concern about the amount of private information that is available to anyone through the internet, it is an issue that will not likely go away. Prior to the election and even into the new year, not a day goes by that we don't receive a concerned phone call from a voter who is appalled by the amount of personal data that is available through the voter registration system.

The association plans to actively work this legislative session toward a solution that will protect voters by exempting their personal information from disclosure to the general public.



**Check out our
informative website
at votewalton.com**

Contact us:

We welcome you to stop by the
Walton County Supervisor of Elections
offices weekdays from
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Main Office:
Walton County Courthouse
571 US Hwy 90 East, Suite 102
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433
(850) 892-8112

Branch Office:
Walton County Courthouse Annex
31 Coastal Centre Blvd., Suite 300
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459
(850) 622-0744