Dear Friends,

The State of Florida is the nation’s largest battleground state in terms of elections. My team and I are fully aware of our voters’ concerns about Election fraud. We want you to know we have committed the resources to be prepared for any cyber security attack. Because we know these attacks will continue to be an ongoing and evolving threat to election security we must always be standing guard.

For the last three (3) years we have improved our cybersecurity defenses. We have partnered with state and federal agencies including the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Our collective focus has been and will continue to be on prevention, mitigation, and rapid response to both physical and cyber threats.

It is undeniable there was interference and meddling during the 2016 election cycle by various groups. These “bad guys” had three goals. First, they sought to erode voter confidence. Second, they attempted to delegitimize the winner of the election. Third, they tried to polarize the American electorate.

Many of their goals were accomplished through fake Twitter and Facebook accounts and by spending millions of dollars in advertising meant to influence social media users. For example, over 72,000 Americans RSVP’d to a fake political rally, which was created through a bogus Facebook account originating in another country. In creating and using fake Facebook and Twitter accounts, these perpetrators planted seeds of propaganda, untruth, and rhetoric that millions of American voters watered and fertilized through “re-tweets,” “shares,” or “likes.”

Last year, in the 2018 General Election cycle, my staff received reports from voters who had been contacted via text message. The text messages informed them they had not returned their Vote-by-Mail ballots or their ballots were faulty. In investigating these cases, we found many of these voters had not even requested a Vote-by-Mail ballot, but were solicited to return it.

The continued misuse and manipulation of social media is a significant concern as we move into the upcoming 2020 election cycle. I implore you to make it a matter of concern to you and your loved ones as well. Please think before you “like,” “share,” or “retweet” election-related content on social media. Do your research and verify whether the information is accurate and reliable information.

If you are in doubt as to the truth of election-related information in Duval County, Florida, please contact my office. We will research and confirm the accuracy or inaccuracy of the information. Additionally, if you receive an unsolicited text message regarding your voter status or your Vote-by-Mail ballot, please verify your information with us at www.duvalelections.com or call us at 904-630-1414.

While the Founding Fathers of the United States welcomed debate and public discourse, let us be united in the core belief that election meddling and interference are not acceptable. Please join me in being mindful of what we read, post, or share on social media.

My staff and I are only a click or phone call away, and we stand ready to assist you, the voters of Duval County.

Sincerely,

Mike Hogan
Duval County Supervisor of Elections

New legislation brings changes to elections

Following the extraordinary 2018 General Election, Florida lawmakers created a wide-ranging reform package that will change a number of statewide election processes and procedures.

The bill, Senate Bill 7066, which was crafted during the recent legislative session and signed into law by Governor DeSantis on June 28, addresses ballot custody and transport, deadlines for requesting and mailing Vote-by-Mail ballots, and solicitation areas at Early Voting sites and polling places on Election Day. It also amends the Florida Voter Registration Application.

Here are some highlights:

**Primary Election** – This update moves the Primary Election date from 10 weeks before the General Election to 11 weeks before it to allow additional time to send and receive Vote-by-Mail ballots from overseas voters. The 2020 Primary Election date is now August 18.

**Secure Drop Boxes** – This update requires county election supervisors to provide secure drop boxes at the main election office and branch offices and at each Early Voting site for voters to return Vote-by-Mail ballots.

**Solicitation Zone** – This update expands the no-solicitation zone from 100 feet to 150 feet from the entrance of a polling place or Early Voting site, and it prohibits polling place owners or operators from restricting solicitation outside of the no-solicitation zone during polling hours.

**Photographing Ballot** – This update allows a voter to photograph his or her ballot in a polling room or Early Voting site. However, the prohibition on photography still applies to any other type of photography inside the polling room or Early Voting site. In other words, a voter can photograph their ballot, but may not photograph anything or anyone else.

**Vote-by-Mail Ballots** – This update states that Vote-by-Mail ballot request must be received by the Supervisor of Elections office by 5:00 p.m. on the tenth day before the election. Additionally, the update changes the deadline for elections officials to send out Vote-by-Mail ballots from four to eight days before an election. This gives the United States Post Office (USPS) more time to deliver ballots, and provides more time for electors to vote and return them.

**Signature Verification Training** – This update mandates signature verification training for Supervisors of Elections and members of County Canvassing Boards.

These changes took effect on July 1, 2019, and will require that poll worker training materials are updated to ensure poll workers are equipped and fully prepared for the 2020 election cycle.

Stay tuned!
We need a few good Poll Workers.

They must be Duval County registered voters.

Students 16 years old can pre-register to vote and become a Poll Worker.

Email John Libby or Greg Clark with full name and date of birth so we can activate them.

“IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES TO REMEMBER”

ELECTION DATES:

- Presidential Preference Primary Election (PPP): March 17th, 2020
- Primary Election: August 18th, 2020
- General Election: November 3rd, 2020

Be on the lookout for the next ballot box to be mailed in November. The November ballot box will contain a training insert complete with class registration information for the March 17th Presidential Preference Primary.

A staff email contact card is included on this ballot box, at the top of this page, with a dotted line to be cut off and retained. We need help recruiting new poll workers for 2020. Please keep this card with you to refer potential new poll workers our way...Thanks in advance for your help.

Please join us in in congratulating The Honorable Mike Hogan, our Duval County Supervisor of Elections. He was sworn in for his second term on July 3rd, 2019 at our downtown office. Pictured with Mr. Hogan (right) are Voter Services Director, Arzada Haynes (center), and Chief Judge Mark Mahon of the Fourth Judicial Circuit (left).