

**BOBBY BEASLEY**



**WALTON COUNTY  
SUPERVISOR OF  
ELECTIONS**

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For Immediate Release

**ELECTIONS OFFICE CONDUCTS ELECTIONS  
AND REGISTRATION DRIVES AT LOCAL SCHOOLS**

**DeFuniak Springs, FL** (October 16, 2009) – Every school year, the Elections Office visits almost every school in the county for some reason, from voting for favorite books to registering high school students to vote. During the months of September and October, the Walton County Supervisor of Elections Office visited three schools, Freeport Elementary School, Freeport High School, and Walton High School to bring a taste of the voting experience to the future voters of America.

Approximately 180 fourth and fifth grade students at Freeport Elementary School voted on student council officers on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The touch screen voting machines were used, and the students were familiar with the machines from years past. “The response and excitement from the students when they get to use this technology is always amazing,” said Beasley. “Today’s youth is very tech-savvy, even at the elementary ages.” Winners of the election were announced at school and published in the October 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the DeFuniak Herald. The Elections Office will be returning to FES in the spring so the entire school can vote on the Sunshine State Young Reader and Florida Reading Association Book Awards.

On September 23, all students at Freeport High School voted using the touch screens as well. These students voted on student council and class officers. Teachers and students also assisted Mr. Beasley with registering any eligible students to vote. The entire process for grades 9-12 lasted about 3 hours. The winners were announced after voting ended.

The last school was visited on October 15. Walton High School Seniors voted during their American Government or English classes on class invitations, class flower, class motto, homecoming king, and homecoming queen. For many of these 12<sup>th</sup> graders, voting on the touch screen voting machines was a first; however, they adjusted easily to the technology. Touch screens have become much more common and popular in the last few years with the release of new cell phones and mp3 players. The results from the election were not released immediately so that absent students and other grade levels could vote. Many of the seniors had the opportunity to register to vote and look forward to voting in the Primary Election next year.

Mr. Beasley makes the effort every year to visit each qualifying school to discuss the right to vote, the voting process, and steps to become and stay a registered voter in Florida. “Registering or pre-registering to vote is always an exciting experience, especially for a young adult registering for the first time. I am proud to see so many taking this opportunity to get involved in the democratic process,” said Beasley.

**Main Office**

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**Florida Residents**

Call toll-free  
1.800.342.0141

**Visit Our Website**

[www.VoteWaltonCounty.com](http://www.VoteWaltonCounty.com)

**South Walton Branch Office**

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To register to vote in Florida, one must be at least 18 years old, a citizen of the U.S., and resident of the state of Florida. To pre-register, one must be at least 16 years old. On their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, the voter is mailed a voter information card and becomes a registered voter. Registration applications of students living in other counties in Florida are recorded and forwarded to those counties.

Mr. Beasley would like to remind everyone who is registered to vote to stay in contact with his office, and to check their registration at least 29 days in advance of elections. If you have any questions, please contact the Walton County Supervisor of Elections office.



The picture above was published in the DeFuniak Herald on Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and on the Walton County School District website. The picture shows Freeport Elementary School students from Mrs. Skelly's class voting.

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