

**Commissioner Sue Gunzburger**  
*Broward County Commission, District 6*

Despite the fact that Democratic candidates for president agreed not to campaign in Florida because the national party did not endorse moving the primary to January, a large number voters did cast ballots in the January 29 election, a turn-out of 38.19 percent.

Amendment 1, a property tax reform proposal, brought out many voters, as did the municipal elections. In Broward County, 340,298 voters cast ballots. Of that number, 55,312 cast their votes at 16 early voting locations around the county.

Many residents complained that lines were long at the regular voting locations on Election Day. This could have been alleviated if more residents had cast their ballots at the early voting locations.

The presidential primary election was the last countywide election utilizing the touch-screen voting system. For the August 26 primary election and the November 4 general election, the new optical scan voting system will be used.

With the new system of voting, voters will be given a card and asked to fill in ovals for the candidates of their choice. The voter-marked paper ballots ensure that election totals can be verified on paper, which is particularly important in a close election. While the new system seems very simple, experience has taught us that some residents will not follow instructions fully, which can result in delays at polling places.

Presidential elections always bring a record number of voters to the polls. To avoid delays on November 4, I recommend that you cast your ballot at one of the early voting locations or cast an absentee ballot.

For the August 26 primary election, early voting locations will open on August 11 and close on August 24. In the general election, the early voting locations will open on October 20 and close on November 2.

The early voting locations in our area will include:

Hallandale Beach City Hall, 400 South Federal Hwy., Hallandale Beach (1,430 early votes cast Jan.08)  
Hollywood Branch Library, 2600 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood (4,941 early votes cast Jan.08)  
Southwest Regional Library, 16835 Sheridan St., Pembroke Pines (4,932 early votes cast Jan.08)

For additional information, including a request for an absentee ballot, residents should contact the Supervisor of Elections office at 954-357-7050 or email [Elections@browardsoe.org](mailto:Elections@browardsoe.org). Additional information on voting is available online at [www.browardsoe.org](http://www.browardsoe.org).

If you are not registered to vote, remember that you can register at any branch of the Broward County Library. You must be registered 29 days before an election.

As always, please feel free to contact me to share your concerns and priorities—954-357-7006—or email [sgunzburger@broward.org](mailto:sgunzburger@broward.org).