THE VILLAGES

Sumter County Tops State In Turnout

Sumter County had a voter turnout rate of about 76% for the Nov. 8 election, giving it the highest rate in Florida. Most of those votes were cast during the county's early-voting period, during which 35,235 people voted at early-voting sites. About 34,934 voters chose to use vote by mail ballots instead, and 19,470 voters came out for Election Day. This November marks the second general election since 2018 in which Sumter took the state's No. 1 turnout spot. Sumter County was also No. 1 in the 2018 midterm, when almost 78% of voters turned out, and came in second in 2020. (Leah Schwarting, Daily Sun)

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SUMTER COUNTY

Adopt-A-Precinct — During the election, many Sumter County voters were assisted by groups fundraising for charity through Adopt-A-Precinct. The Sumter program is part of a statewide initiative that allows organizations to staff voting sites. After the election, members donate their wages to charities. Thirteen organizations participated locally, including Hometown Civitan. The group was the only one involved in early voting. Members worked long hours at The Villages Sumter County Service Center to keep everything moving smoothly. "It's more than your average commitment, let me put it that way," said Laura McLaughlin, Hometown Civitan 2022 Adopt-A-Precinct team leader. (Leah Schwarting, Daily Sun)