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News Release

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New State Law Will Require Voters Provide Proof of Citizenship to Vote

Indian River County, FL - The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office is encouraging voters to review and update their registration records following the passage of new state legislation requiring proof of U.S. citizenship to vote.

On April 1, 2026, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed into law House Bill 991, which mandates that voters provide proof of citizenship prior to casting a ballot. The law is scheduled to take effect in **January 2027**.

In preparation, the Elections Office has conducted a comprehensive review of local voter registration records and identified approximately 1,600 voters whose records are missing both a Florida driver license or ID card number and the last four digits of a Social Security number, which are key identifiers used to verify citizenship status. Florida began requiring voter registration applicants to provide either a Florida driver's license number or the last four digits of their Social Security number in 2002.

Voters who registered to vote prior to 2002 may not have this information available on their voter record. The Elections Office can verify a voter's citizenship through the Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles database; however, this process cannot be completed without the required identifying information.

To address the issue, the Elections Office has begun mailing letters to affected voters. Each mailing includes an application for voters to provide the missing information, which must be returned to the Supervisor of Elections Office for processing.

Voters whose citizenship cannot be verified will still be permitted to vote, but only by provisional ballot. For that ballot to be counted, voters must submit written proof of U.S. citizenship to the Supervisor of Elections Office no later than 5 p.m. on the second day following the election.

Voters who receive a letter are strongly encouraged to complete and return the enclosed application as soon as possible. The Supervisor of Elections Office is committed to maintaining accurate and up-to-date voter registration records in Indian River County.

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