



SUMMER '25 NEWSLETTER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Resolution

Taxpayers' Association of Indian River County honors SOE staff on Constitution Day.



Taxpayers' Association of Indian River County

Story on Page 3



Message from Your Supervisor of Elections

The Supervisor of Elections outreach team is stepping up voter education ahead of the Nov. 4 Municipal Elections.

Read More ... Page 2



Nat'l Voter Registration Day

National Voter Registration Day was conducted in September at Indian River State College's Mueller Campus in Vero Beach.

Read More ... Page 7

◆ Driver's license

Any voter who has renewed or replaced their driver's license in the past year should contact the Elections Office.

Page 6

◆ Petition signatures

Beginning Oct. 1, Elections Offices will be required to notify voters when their signature on an initiative petition has been verified.

Page 4

◆ Democracy Days

SOE staff members visited Sebastian River High School in September for Democracy Days.

Page 7



 **Message From Your Supervisor**



2025 Municipal Vote-By-Mail ballots were mailed to Vero Beach and Fellsmere voters on Sept. 25, with an initial mailout of 1,684 ballots.

Do you need to request your Vote-By-Mail ballot? It's not too late! Options to request your Vote-By-Mail ballot:

- Online:** VoteIndianRiver.gov
- In Person:** 4375 43rd Ave., Vero Beach
- Over the Phone:** 772-226-4700
- Deadline:** The last day to request a ballot for the 2025 Municipal Elections is 5 p.m. Oct. 23.

Municipal elections under way

Nov. 4 Sebastian City Council election cancelled

Leslie R. Swan

The Supervisor of Elections outreach team is stepping up voter education ahead of the Nov. 4 Municipal Elections.

Typically, in odd number years, the cities of Fellsmere, Sebastian, and Vero Beach have city council seats up for election. The qualifying deadline for candidates to be placed on the ballot was Aug. 15.

Following the candidate qualifying deadline, elections staff were busy preparing ballots for voters residing within the city limits of Fellsmere, Sebastian, and Vero beach.

On Sept. 4, our office received notification that Sebastian City Council candidate Terry McGinn had withdrawn from the Nov. 4 municipal election, leaving Sherrie Matthews unopposed for the vacant council seat. Unopposed candidates' names do not appear on the ballot, resulting in no election for the City of Sebastian.

Press releases and social media posts have been issued to inform City of Sebastian voters that the election has been cancelled due to a candidate's withdrawal.



Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan spoke during a Sebastian City Council meeting in July reminding voters to renew their Vote-By-Mail Ballot requests for the 2025-2026 election cycle. This is the first time since 1986 that the City of Sebastian has not had a race on the Municipal Election ballot to elect City Council members

A notice to voters has been posted on the Supervisor of Elections' and the City of Sebastian's websites, as well as signs at each Election Day polling location notifying voters that the election has been cancelled.

This is the first time since 1986 that the City of Sebastian has not had a race on the ballot to elect city council members.



Constitution Day

Taxpayers' Association honors Supervisor of Elections Office

In honor of Constitution Day on Sept. 17, the Taxpayers' Association of Indian River County presented a resolution to the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office, commending staff for receiving three national awards of distinction and thereby bringing incredible honor back to the community.

Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan welcomed the resolution, signed by Lance Lunceford, president, and Carolyn MacEvoy, first vice president, of the Taxpayers' Association.

The text of the resolution is as follows:



Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, center, with Lance Lunceford, president, and Carolyn MacEvoy, first vice president, of the Taxpayers' Association of Indian River County.

Whereas, the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office received the Election Center's 2024 Stars and Stripes Award in recognition of outstanding community partnerships throughout the 2024 Elections, awarded for the Mobile Voter Program established in partnership with the Senior Resource Association.

Whereas, the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office received one of the 2025 People's Choice Awards from the Election Center, awarded by a committee of peer election officials from across the nation in honor of the Mobile Voter Program established in partnership with the Senior Resource Association.

Whereas, the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office received the 2024 Clearing House Award for Distinguished Voter Education and Communications Initiatives from the United States Federal Government's Election Assistance Commission in recognition of their efforts throughout the 2024 Elections to assemble 1,800 Mobile Voter Packets for individuals with limited mobility, each containing a voter registration application, a mail ballot request form, and election information materials.

Whereas, Indian River County achieved a historic 82.85% voter turnout in the 2024 General Election, with 100,155 ballots cast out of 120,880 registered voters, facilitated by the Supervisor of Elections Office.

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REGISTERED VOTERS IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

(As of Oct. 7, 2025)

DEMOCRAT - 25,768
 REPUBLICAN - 61,045
 NPA - 24,450
 OTHER - 4,520
 TOTAL - 115,783

LET'S GET SOCIAL

Be sure to like and follow us on social media to receive frequent updates and accurate information from your trusted source of voting and election information in Indian River County.



#VOTEINDIANRIVER



COVER PHOTOGRAPH

In honor of Constitution Day on Sept. 17, the Taxpayers' Association of Indian River County presented a resolution to the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office, commending staff for receiving three national awards of distinction and thereby bringing incredible honor back to the community.



Blue notification form will contain petition title, number

Continued from previous page

“This new notification form ensures voters are fully informed about the use of their signature,” said Leslie Rossway Swan, Indian River County Supervisor of Elections.

Each blue notification form will indicate the petition title and serial number. The voter will receive a notification for each proposed constitutional amendment petition form that has been deemed valid by the Elections Office.

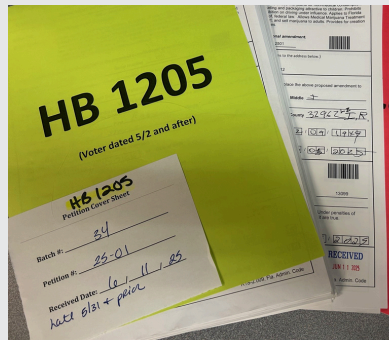


During the 2025 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature passed and Gov. Ron DeSantis signed into law House Bill 1205, which strengthens the rules surrounding the citizen initiative petition process. Indian River County Elections Office staff held an internal training focusing on verifying initiative petitions. Due to HB 1205, there have been changes to the verifying procedure. Elections Administration Coordinator Katie Otto reviewed the changes with staff to better serve voters.

By the numbers

The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections office is staying busy verifying initiative petitions this summer and fall. All petitions are checked and signatures verified by our elections staff.

After many hours of petition verification, the elections staff processed 8,310 initiative petitions by July 1 for the 2026 Election Cycle.



An additional 1,745 petitions were received between July 1 and Sept. 30.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Oct. 10: Logic & Accuracy Test, 8 a.m.; Vote-By-Mail Opening, 9 a.m.
- Oct. 13: Columbus Day, office open, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Oct. 14: EViD Training Class, 8:30 a.m. to noon
- Oct. 15: EViD Training Class, 12:30 to 4 p.m.
- Oct. 16: EViD Training Class, 12:30 to 4 p.m.
- Oct. 21: EViD Leader Training Class, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Oct. 21: Democracy Days at Indian River Charter High School, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Oct. 22: Clerk / Assistant Clerk Training Class, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Oct. 22: Deputy Training Class, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- Oct. 23: Deadline to request Vote-By-Mail Ballot for 2025 Municipal Elections, 5 p.m.
- Oct. 23: Clerk / Assistant Clerk Training Class, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Oct. 24: Opening Vote-By-Mail Ballots, 9 a.m.
- Oct. 30: Opening Vote-By-Mail Ballots, 9 a.m.
- Nov. 4: Election Day: 2025 Municipal Elections for cities of Fellsmere and Vero Beach, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Nov. 6: Canvass Provisional Ballots, Cure Affidavits and first Unofficial Results or Official Results and Audit Precinct Selection, 5 p.m.
- Nov. 11: Office closed in observance of Veterans Day
- Nov. 13: Post Election Audit, Noon
- Nov. 13: Constitutional Officers Meeting, 2 p.m.
- Nov. 18-19: Democracy Days at Vero Beach High School, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Voters who renew, replace driver licenses need to notify SOE office

By Elections Staff

On July 31, 2024, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) began implementing a new law requiring driver license and state ID card numbers to include 4 randomly generated numbers, so as people replace their driver licenses, everyone will get a new number.

The agency says the change was done “to improve security and safeguard individuals’ identities.”

Florida driver license changes could affect your ability to vote by mail or have your signature on an initiative petition form be counted.

Unfortunately, when a voter’s license number changes, the DHSMV database does not automatically notify the Elections Office of the new license number.

When people renew their licenses in person, they are asked if they would like to update their voter registration record. Most people say “no” if they have not moved or do not want to change their political party affiliation. It never occurs to them that they will receive a new driver license number and that new number is important to the Elections Office.

If you have renewed your driver license within the past year, your driver license number can be updated with the Elections Office over the telephone. A voter may also update their voter record by completing a new voter registration application online thru the Elections Office website or the state online registration system (www.registertovoteflorida.gov). The voter will check the “update” box at the top of the form and then indicate their new driver license number.

The voter will be instructed to print out their completed application to deliver to the Elections Office. Applications are also available at the Elections Office or can be mailed to the voter.

RENEWED YOUR DRIVERS LICENSE / ID CARD?

Update Your Voter Record Today!

Call: 772-226-4700!

Online: VoteIndianRiver.gov

DRIVER LICENSE

ID: 123-456-789-10
 DOB: DDMM/YYYY ISS: DDMM/YYYY
 NAME SURNAME
 CLASS: SEX: WGT: HGT: EYES:

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SUPERVISOR of ELECTIONS
 LESLIE ROSSWAY SWAN

“Any registered voters who have renewed or replaced their driver license in the last year should contact the Elections Office.”

– Leslie Swan, Supervisor of Elections

When requesting a vote-by-mail ballot, voters are required to supply the identification number that the Elections Office has on the voter’s record. For most people, the identification number is their Florida driver license or Florida ID card number. A voter also can provide the last four digits of their Social Security number.

If the voter provides their new license number when requesting their mail ballots online and it does not match the number on file with the Elections Office, the voter will encounter an error message when requesting the mail ballot.

The same identifying information is now required when a voter signs an initiative petition form. If the petition signer indicates their new driver license number and has not updated their old number in their voter record, their petition form may be rejected.

“Any registered voters who have renewed or replaced their driver license in the last year should contact the Elections Office to update their registration record or make the update on the Supervisor of Elections website,” said Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Leslie Rossway Swan.



Democracy Days at SRHS

By Elections Staff

Democracy Days is an innovative program aimed at actively engaging children, students and adults in the elections process.

Democracy Days is a 45-minute program, which includes a mock election and voter registration opportunities. A video about the history of voting in America also is available.

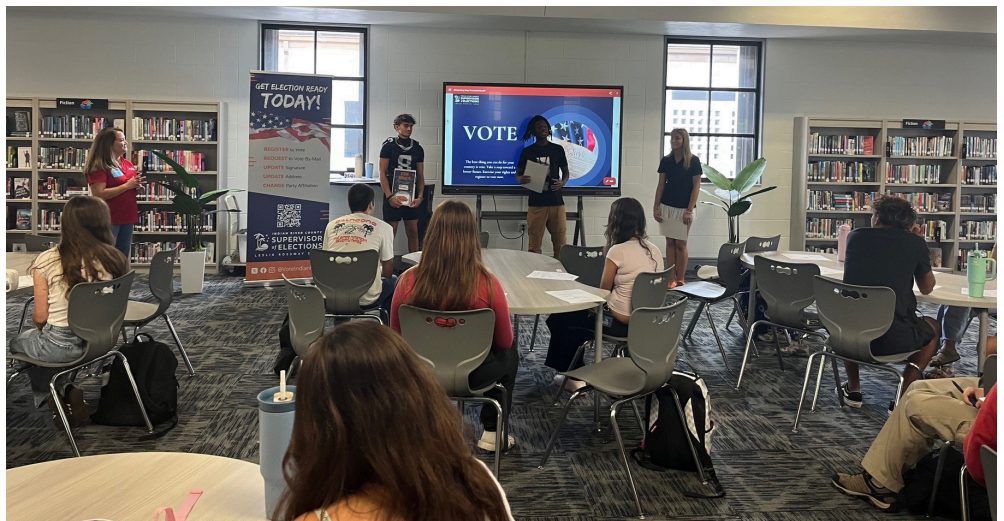
Indian River County Supervisor of Elections staff in September visited Sebastian River High School to conduct a Democracy Days program for students there.

The Elections Office strives to ensure all residents are informed about the voting process and office operations through a diverse collection of voter outreach initiatives.

For more information or to schedule a Democracy Days presentation, contact the Elections Office at 772-226-4700.



Supervisor of Elections staff members Anita Wheeler and Lori Lansing visited Sebastian River High School in September to conduct Democracy Days, a 45-minute program that includes a mock election and voter registration opportunities. A video about the history of voting in America also was shown to the students.



National Voter Registration Day at Indian River State College



Bessie Weaver, pictured left, center, a member of the Lambda Beta Zeta chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, helped Supervisor of Elections staff members register students to vote at Indian River State College's Mueller Campus. Indian River SOE staff Anita Wheeler and Daisy Zamora were at the college for National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 16.





Clip and Save

**Your Vote-By-Mail ballot request expired in 2024. You can renew it now!
 Email this completed form to votebymail@voteindianriver.gov;
 or mail it to 4375 43rd Ave., Vero Beach, Fla. 32967.**

Statewide Vote-By-Mail Ballot Request Form

(s. 101.62, F.S.)

To request a vote-by-mail ballot for yourself, complete only the top section.
 To request a vote-by-mail ballot for someone who directly instructed you to do so, complete both sections.

Voter's Name: _____ **Voter's Date of Birth:** ____ / ____ / ____

Voter's Florida driver license (FL DL) or Florida identification (FL ID) card number: _____

If no FL DL or FL ID, then provide _____ last 4 digits of Social Security Number: _____

Voter's Home Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip code:** _____

Voter's mailing address for ballot: _____ **City:** _____

(only if different than home address) **State:** _____ **Zip code:** _____ **Country, if outside US:** _____

Please update my **residential address** and/or my **mailing address** in my voter record with the information listed above.

Phone number (optional): _____ Email address (optional): _____

This request is good for all elections through the end of the calendar year of the next general election. If you only want a ballot for specific elections, list them here: _____

Voter's Signature: _____ **Date:** ____ / ____ / ____

(not required if voter is an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter, or if request is made by a designee)

You must also complete the section below if you are requesting a Vote-by-Mail Ballot for someone else.

Designee's Name: _____

Designee's Home Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip code:** _____

Designee's driver license or identification card number: _____

If no DL or ID, then provide _____ last 4 digits of Social Security Number: _____

Phone number (optional): _____ Email address (optional): _____

Designee's relationship to the voter:

<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent of voter's spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Sibling of voter's spouse
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandchild	<input type="checkbox"/> Child of voter's spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Voter's legal guardian
<input type="checkbox"/> Child	<input type="checkbox"/> Sibling	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent of voter's spouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Designee for a voter with a disability
		<input type="checkbox"/> Grandchild of voter's spouse	

Designee's Signature: _____ **Date:** ____ / ____ / ____

The voter directly instructed me to make this request for them.

DS-DE 160 (eff. 04/17/2024)

Rule 1S-2.055, F.A.C.