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SOE volunteers and staff support Indian River County's Wreaths Across America Day.

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# Message From Your Supervisor



Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, center, helps deliver Vote By Mail ballots for the Nov. 5, 2024 General Election to the Main Post Office in Vero Beach. Also pictured, from left, Joe and Sue Crowley, Maria Hendry, Alexia Magana, Maureen Houssell and Vote By Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora.

## Focus shifts to voter list maintenance

### Leslie R. Swan

As the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office has wrapped up the 2024 presidential election cycle, the team has shifted its focus to the statutorily mandated voter registration list maintenance activities.

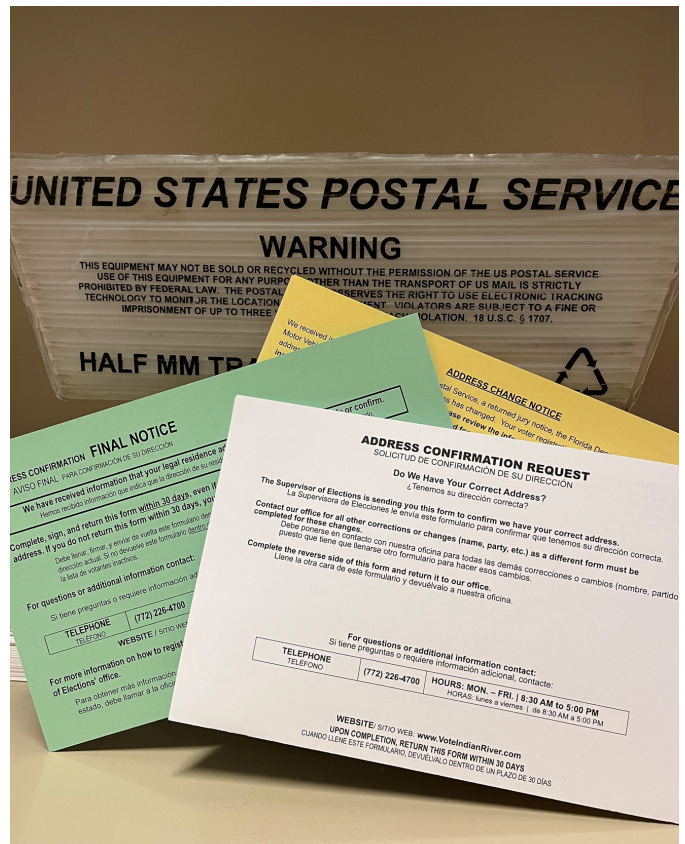
During the month of January, our office sent notices to 9,254 voters who have not voted in the last two general election cycles. These individuals were sent an Address Confirmation Final Notice.

Individuals who did not respond to the Address Confirmation Final Notice within 30 days, were moved to the inactive list. A total of 7,557 voters were designated as inactive.

Another round of list maintenance activities was completed in March. The Elections Office ran the U.S. Postal Service's National Change of Address list, also known as NCOA, against the county's voter rolls.

Over 1,900 voters were identified as having submitted a change-of-address form to the post office. These voters were mailed a notice to confirm or deny that they have moved out of our county.

Maintaining accurate voter rolls is a crucial aspect of election integrity. By regularly updating the rolls, election officials can remove ineligible voters and reduce the risk of fraudulent activities.



As 2025 unfolds, the Supervisor of Elections staff has shifted its focus to the statutorily mandated voter registration list maintenance activities. Voters who have not voted in the last two general election cycles or have updated their mailing address with the U.S. Postal Service are being mailed one of the following: an Address Confirmation Final Notice, Address Confirmation Request or Address Change Notice.



## Swan, Houssell attend conference



Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan and Chief Deputy Maureen Houssell attended the Florida Supervisors of Elections' Mid-Winter Conference in January 2025. During the Voter Outreach segment of the conference, Swan and Houssell shared details about the county's award-winning Motor Voter Program conducted in January 2024 in conjunction with the Indian River County Senior Resource Association. Complete story on the program appears on pages 4-5.



### March For Meals

Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan participated March 10 in the 21st annual March for Meals Celebration to raise awareness of the growing number of seniors who need daily nutritious meals and wellness checks in Indian River County. Swan assisted Senior Resource Association Meals on Wheels volunteers John and Karen Pierce, pictured right.



### REGISTERED VOTERS IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

(As of March 31, 2025)

DEMOCRAT - 25,518  
 REPUBLICAN - 59,977  
 NPA - 23,926  
 OTHER - 4,135  
 TOTAL - 113,556

### 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

Vero Beach Academy students, teachers and parents toured the Supervisor of Elections office on Dec. 6, 2024. More photos on Page 14. The public is welcome to arrange a group tour by calling the Elections Office at 772-226-4700.



# SOE program earns national awards

Mobile Voter Program delivered election information to county's homebound or limited mobility residents

The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections team has been recognized nationally for excellence in election administration, receiving both the Stars & Stripes Award and the People's Choice Award from the Election Center, the National Association for Election Officials.

These prestigious awards celebrate the team's outstanding commitment to election integrity, voter engagement, and innovative election processes. The Election Center, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to promoting excellence in elections administration, presents these awards annually to recognize outstanding achievements in election operations across the country.

The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections staff rolled out a unique program in 2024 in response to changes made by the Florida Legislature affecting vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot requests. The new legislation requires voters to re-apply for VBM ballots after each general election cycle. Requests for VBM ballots have historically been valid through two general elections cycles, up to four years.

This change in law, combined with the Supervisor of Elections ongoing quest for inclusive democracy, challenged the staff to develop a program that would help inspire voters to engage in the election process. A big push was necessary to reach voters who depend on ballots delivered by mail. The Supervisor of Elections formulated a month-long program to collaborate with the Senior Resource Association.

The Mobile Voter Program (MVP) was implemented as a means to deliver election information and increase civic engagement to those who may be homebound or have limited mobility.



Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, right, and Chief Deputy Maureen Houssell attended the Election Center's Special Workshop in February 2025, where they were given the People's Choice Award.

The Senior Resource Association is recognized as the lead agency in Indian River County for promoting home and community-based services to older adults and transportation for all. By partnering with the Senior Resource Association, the Supervisor of Elections team could personally engage those served by the Senior Resource Association.

The Elections Office staff created Mobile Voter Packets containing a voter registration application, a vote-by-mail request form, a voter guide, a government officials guide, a frequently asked questions brochure, a bottle of water, pen, American flag, and a sweet treat. A total of 1,800 Mobile Voter Packets were assembled for distribution.

Beginning the first week in January 2024, Election Office staff were on site for the Senior Resource Association's Congregate Meal Program, which provides meals five days per week for some 300 people. Meals are provided at five separate locations throughout the county. All in attendance at the meal sites were provided a Mobile Voter Packet and the opportunity to have their voting questions answered.

During the second week in January 2024, the Elections Office took part in the Meals on Wheels program. This program provides meals to individuals who may not have the resources to access or prepare food due to lack of transportation, functional limitations or health problems.

Elections staff rode along with Meals on Wheels volunteers delivering hot lunches to seniors at their home and provided them with election information contained in the Mobile Voter Packet. Over 500 informational packets were distributed throughout the week.

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 **SOE Election News**



Supervisor Leslie Swan and Elections Office staff gave an overview of the award-winning Mobile Voter Program to the County Commission during a meeting on Jan. 28 in county chambers. The MVP Program, done in collaboration with the Senior Resource Association in January 2024, delivered election information and increased civic engagement to more than 1,800 county residents who were homebound or had limited mobility.

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As part of the ongoing mobile program, during the third week of January 2024, Supervisor of Elections staff traveled on the Senior Resource Association’s GoLine, which is Indian River County’s no cost public transit system. Buses provide service along 15 fixed routes throughout the county.

The team at the Elections Office rode on several bus routes throughout the week providing riders with Supervisor of Elections contact cards and offering riders the opportunity to register to vote.

Throughout the election cycle, high traffic bus routes displayed advertising, containing a QR code directing bus riders to register to vote, update their voter record, or request a vote-by-mail ballot.

The Senior Resource Association also operates the Community Coach, a door-to-door transit system for eligible riders with no other means of transportation. Community Coach accommodates riders who use wheelchairs, walkers, canes, service animals and other mobility aids. Throughout January 2024, Community Coach drivers provided more than 1,000 riders with Mobile Voter Packets.

“We are incredibly honored to receive these awards,” said Leslie Rossway Swan, Indian River County Supervisor of Elections. “These recognitions reflect the hard work and dedication of our entire team in ensuring fair, transparent, and accessible elections for the voters of Indian River County.”

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**– Leslie Rossway Swan  
Indian River County  
Supervisor of Elections**

 **Captured on Camera**



**Constitutional officers sworn in**

Indian River County's Constitutional Officers were sworn into office for the 2025-2029 term on Jan. 8, 2025. Pictured, from left, Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller Ryan Butler, Tax Collector Carole Jean Jordan, Sheriff Eric Flowers, Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan and Property Appraiser Wesley Davis. Congratulations to all!



**Operation Love Your Neighbor**

On Feb. 8, more than 400 volunteers from First Methodist Church participated in Operation Love Your Neighbor programs throughout Indian River County. Supervisor Leslie Swan and her husband, Mike, stocked shelves at the United Against Poverty grocery store.



**National Voter Registration Day**

Indian River State College student volunteers helped direct students to the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections' Voter Registration table on National Voter Registration Day in September 2024.



# Wreaths mark 3,100 veterans' graves

SOE volunteers Joe and Sue Crowley started project in Indian River County

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, wreath-laying ceremonies are conducted at 4,000-plus locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. The mission of the Wreaths Across America organization is to remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and to teach our children the value of freedom.

This initiative pays tribute to the sacrifices made by our service men and women by adorning their final resting places with festive wreaths. The ceremony includes remarks from local organizers, along with a solemn wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the dedication and service of those who served our country.

In 2017, when Joe and Sue Crowley moved to Vero Beach from Massachusetts, they wanted to take part in our local National Wreaths Across America Day. They quickly learned this program did not exist in our county.

In 2018, Joe and Sue approached the local veterans' agent seeking to launch the Wreaths Across America program in Indian River County. They were told that they were welcome to organize the event, but that they were pretty much on their own to see the program through.

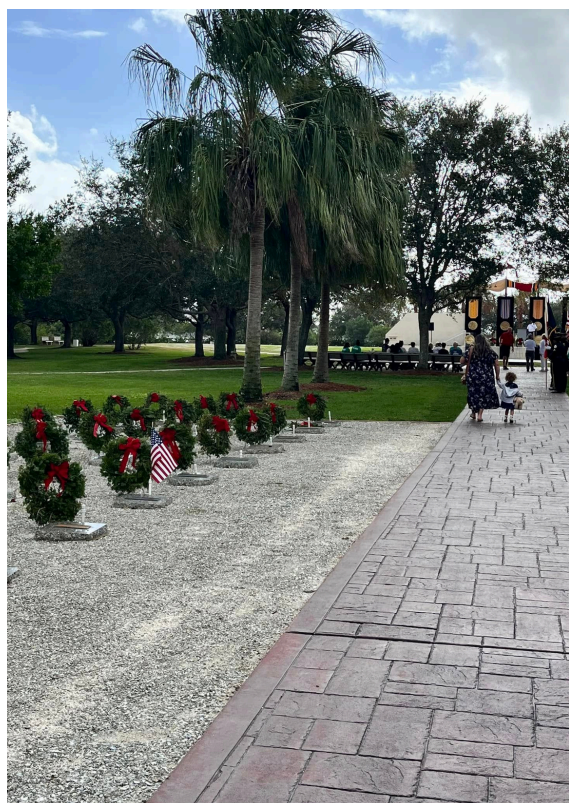
Joe and Sue, both retired firefighters, accepted the challenge. A friend, Rick Lewis, overheard the couple's discussion about their plans to spearhead the program in the county and Rick said, "I'm in!"

Rick is a retired City of Vero Beach employee and is very involved in local veteran organizations. With Rick's connections, the three were able to form a small committee and the work began.

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Supervisor of Elections Logistics and Equipment Manager Joe Crowley, center, and his wife, Sue Crowley, talk to volunteers about placing wreaths on veterans' graves for National Wreaths Across America Day on Dec. 14 at Crestlawn Cemetery in Vero Beach. The Crowleys initiated the county's Wreaths Across America program in 2018.



A Wreaths Across America ceremony was conducted on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary in Vero Beach on Dec. 14.

**The 2024 National Wreaths Across America Day was observed Dec. 14 in Indian River County. Despite a day of scattered rain and wind, more than 200 volunteers placed 3,100 wreaths at Crestlawn Cemetery in Vero Beach, the Sebastian Municipal Cemetery, and cemeteries in Gifford, Winter Beach and on John's Island. A ceremony also was conducted on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary in Vero Beach.**


**Community Outreach**


Supervisor of Elections staff, spouses and children braved the rain and wind to place wreaths on veterans' graves for National Wreaths Across America Day on Dec. 14 at Crestlawn Cemetery in Vero Beach. Pictured are, from left, Angela Harvey and her son, A.J., Katie Otto, Maureen Houssell, Katherine Bauman, Joe Crowley, Supervisor Leslie Swan and her husband, Mike Swan.

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Wreaths Across America Location Coordinators work throughout the year with cemetery contacts and local governments to organize and promote the ceremony, coordinate wreath delivery and manage the placement of wreaths. In addition to location coordinators, the assistance of community members, local businesses, civic groups and organizations are relied upon to place wreaths on the day of the event.

Not only is the logistics of the program a daunting task, but funds must be raised to buy the wreaths. The first year, Joe, Sue and Rick raised enough money to place wreaths on two-thirds of veterans' graves at Crestlawn Cemetery and all of Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary in Vero Beach. During the wreath ceremony on Memorial Island, the trio committed to all in attendance that they would cover all veterans' graves at Crestlawn Cemetery the following year.

In 2019, in addition to placing wreaths at Crestlawn Cemetery and Veterans Memorial Island, the trio expanded north to cover Sebastian Municipal Cemetery. Their five-year goal was to raise enough money to place a wreath on every veteran's grave in the county. Even through the 2020 pandemic, the trio achieved their fund-raising goals to continue the program.

Since 2021, these dynamic individuals have raised enough funds to honor every veteran buried in Indian River County. Even the little known Oslo Cemetery on Old Dixie Highway receives wreaths. This county has been extremely generous and online donations appear weekly. Enough money has been raised for nearly 3,000 wreaths each year, which translates to nearly \$30,000.

Upon retirement from the Ludlow Fire Department in Massachusetts, Joe and Sue continued their roles as civil servants by serving at the Elections Office. The couple volunteered to serve as poll workers. Sue serves as a Clerk on Election Day and has assisted the Vote-By-Mail Department. Joe began his service at the Elections Office as a Poll Deputy and then was recruited to work in the warehouse as the Logistics and Equipment Manager. Rick Lewis serves as a Field Technician. Field Technicians receive specialized training to troubleshoot and provide assistance with equipment at the polling place.

It takes special people to coordinate and implement the Wreaths Across America program. Each year, volunteers and donors are encouraged to participate in this initiative. To make a donation, visit [WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/fl0500](https://WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/fl0500) or to get involved email [wreathsirc@gmail.com](mailto:wreathsirc@gmail.com).

 **Captured on Camera**

# Giving back to the community



The Supervisor of Elections Office was honored to partner with the Gifford Youth Achievement Center and Gifford Historical Museum for the annual Gifford Community Toy Giveaway. It was our staff's fourth year donating to the Giveaway.



Elections Office staff participated in the Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle Campaign in December 2024. Pictured are Elections Administration Coordinator Katie Otto, left, and Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman. The campaign helps provide food, toys and clothes to those in need during the holidays. It is always a fun tradition for our staff!

# PRECINCT MAPS AVAILABLE

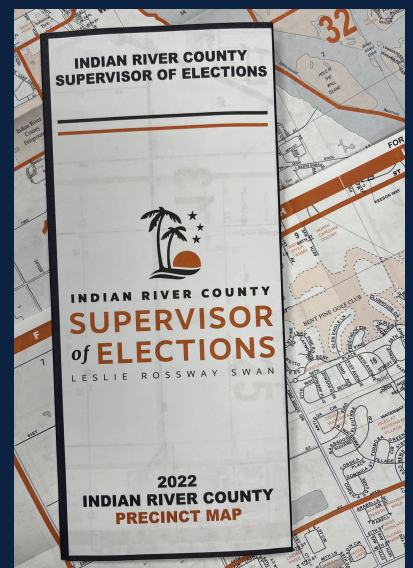
Hot 🔥 off the Press!

Indian River County's voting precincts were redrawn in 2022 based off 2020 Census data.

Maps depicting the new precinct boundary lines are now available online and in print.

An interactive digital Dolph Map is online: [voteindianriver.gov](http://voteindianriver.gov).

Printed precinct maps are available at our office from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The first map is free; additional maps are \$5 each.



 **Captured on Camera**



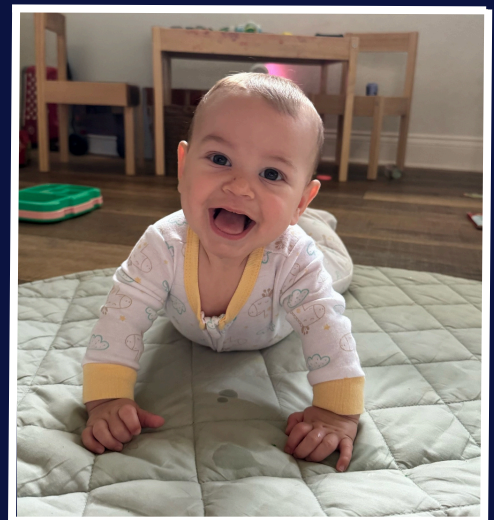
**Sheriff's BBQ**

Indian River County Supervisor of Elections staff attended the annual Sheriff's Office Youth Ranches BBQ on Feb. 26. Staff members Anita Wheeler, David Cruz and Paul James, along with help from Dee Dee Williams of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, helped the public register to vote, renew their requests for ballots by mail and distribute information regarding upcoming elections.



**New additions**

Anita and Keith Wheeler's son and daughter-in-law Bryce and Bri Wheeler welcomed son, Noah, to the world on Nov. 1. Anita Wheeler is our Candidate Coordinator. Noah is her seventh grandchild.



**Noah Wheeler**

Jenny and Garrett Obergfell announce the birth of Lainey Sue on Feb. 14. Lainey weighed 6 lbs, 14 oz and was 19 3/4 inches long. Jenny is our Election Worker Coordinator.



**Lainey Sue Obergfell**

 **Captured on Camera**



**United Way Change Makers**

The United Way of Indian River County awarded the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections staff with its “Change Makers at Work” award for supporting the United Way for the past 32 years. “We’re so honored to partner with our local United Way,” said Supervisor Leslie Swan. Over the 32 years, the Elections Office has donated more than \$36,000 to the United Way.



**Vista Royale elections**

The Vista Royale community invited Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan and Chief Deputy Maureen Houssell to assist with their annual election, conducted March 5, 2025.

**Soap, smiles, shampoo**

SOE staff recently assembled dozens of care packages containing soap, shampoo and other hygiene products that were donated to The Source.



The Source is a homeless ministry serving Indian River County.

 **Captured on Camera**



**Democracy Days**

St. Edward's Upper School students in Dr. Infanzón's AP Government class got a hands-on lesson in the election process on Jan. 11, featuring a special visit from Supervisor of Elections staff members Anita Wheeler and Angela Harvey. The session included insights into voter registration and a fun mock vote on Chick-fil-A menu items. Chicken nuggets won by a close margin, proof that every vote counts! Students age 16 and older also were able to register or pre-register to vote.



**MLK Day Parade**

Vote By Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora, seated here with her husband Liove, and sons, Arlen and Ander, attended the 2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade in Fort Pierce with family and friends. Zamora, who grew up in Fort Pierce, has been attending the parade since childhood.



**Surviving the Turkey Trot**

Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman celebrates after crossing the finish line at the 2024 Thanksgiving Day 5K Trot Against Poverty at Indian River State College's Mueller Campus in Vero Beach. This annual event raises money and awareness for the nonprofit United Against Poverty



# Vote by Mail Renewal Notice

*Aviso de renovación de voto por correo*

**Your Vote by Mail request has expired!**

*¡Su solicitud de votar por correo se ha vencido!*

## Ways to Renew your Request:

*Formas de Renovar su Solicitud:*

- 1** Scan the QR Code to request online

*Escanea el código QR para solicitar en línea*



- 2** [Click for fillable Statewide Vote-by-Mail Request form](#)

*Haga clic para un formulario de solicitud de voto por correo estatal*

- 3** Call 772-226-4700

*Llame al 772-226-4700*



Transparency Tour

# Vero Beach Academy tours SOE office



Vero Beach Academy students, teachers and parents tour the Supervisor of Elections office on Dec. 6, 2024.

Students, staff and parents from Vero Beach Academy visited the Supervisor of Elections Office on Dec. 6, 2024 for a Transparency Tour, where they learned about the voting process, from voter registration to ballot processing.

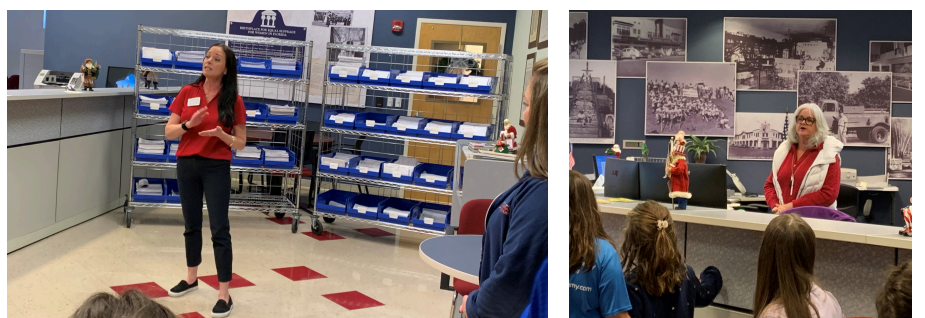
Elections staff conducted a demonstration of the voting equipment and students got a behind-the-scenes look at the SOE facility.

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. “We believe our efforts to educate the community will have a positive effect and instill lifelong voting habits,” said Supervisor Leslie Swan. “Our programs are designed for people of all ages and encourage participation in the democratic process.”

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



IT Specialist Paul James, left, and IT Manager David Cruz, right, talk to students about the voting process on Dec. 6, 2024.



Above left: Elections Administration Coordinator Katie Otto explains the petition process to students. Above right: Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman talks about registering to vote in Indian River County.