

Jan. - Mar.
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INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS



WINTER '26 NEWSLETTER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

‘Health Check. Voter Check.’

SOE partners with TCCH to ensure voters’ records are in good shape.

[Read More ... Pages 4-5](#)



Message from Your Supervisor of Elections

Starting January 2027, new state legislation will require proof of U.S. citizenship to vote.

[Read More ... Page 2](#)



Raising walls

The Supervisor of Elections Office showed its support for Habitat for Humanity’s 2026 Women Build Campaign.

[Read More ... Pages 9-10](#)

◆ Transparency Tour

Indian River County Chamber of Commerce’s 2026 Leadership Class took part in a Transparency Tour on Feb. 12.

[Read More ... Page 3](#)

◆ Students tour office

St. Edward’s Upper School’s Advanced Placement U.S. Government Class visited the Elections Office on Jan. 28.

[Read More ... Page 6](#)

◆ ‘Books & Ballots’

The Elections Office teamed up with local schools to promote two habits: reading and voting.

[Read More ... Page 12](#)



 **Message From Your Supervisor**



At a March 12 Candidate Workshop, Supervisor Leslie Swan welcomes individuals interested in running for office in 2026. Participants learned about the filing and qualifying process, petition requirements, campaign finance, political advertising, and more.

January 2027: New state law will require voters provide proof of citizenship to vote

Leslie R. Swan

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.

 **Transparency Tour**



Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, second from right, with members of Indian River County Chamber of Commerce's 2026 Leadership Class on Feb. 12.

REGISTERED VOTERS IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

(As of April 2, 2026)

- DEMOCRAT - 26,005**
- REPUBLICAN - 62,133**
- NPA - 24,423**
- OTHER - 4,965**
- TOTAL - 117,526**

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

Vote By Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora, left, and Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman greet the public at Treasure Coast Community Health's Fellsmere site in January as part of the "Health Check. Voter Check." initiative. Complete story, pages 4-5.

From front office to warehouse, Leadership Class takes it all in

By Elections Staff

Have you ever wondered what is stored in the warehouse at the Supervisor of Elections Office? Or how many voter registrations are processed each day?

These are things the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce's 2026 Leadership Class learned during a Transparency Tour of the Elections Office on Feb. 12.

Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan greeted the Leadership Class before turning the tour over to Elections Administration Coordinator Katie Otto. The tour started in the front office, moved to the warehouse, stopped in the IT Department, and ended in the conference room. Along the way, the visitors soaked up many facts and demonstrations:

- Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman talked about the number of voter registration applications or renewals processed each day, from 90 to 125; and reviewed other routine Front Office duties.
- Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler explained the steps it takes to file to run for local office.



IT Specialist Paul James, right, demonstrates the electronic poll book (EViD) to a member of the Leadership Class.

- IT Specialist Paul James demonstrated the electronic poll book system used to check in voters during Early Voting or on Election Day. The EViD, or Electronic Voter Identification system, retrieves the voter's data with the swipe of their driver's license, and prints out a ballot based on their precinct.
- Katie Otto reviewed how voters get Vote By Mail ballots, from the request process, printing of the ballots, a demonstration on inserting them into envelopes to be mailed to voters; and how they are processed upon return to the office.

Continued on page 7



‘Health Check. Voter Check.’

SOE partners with TCCH to ensure voters’ records are in good shape

By Elections Staff

The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office partnered with Treasure Coast Community Health in January to launch a new voter outreach program called “Health Check. Voter Check.”

The program was inspired by a new state law requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue driver licenses and state ID cards with four randomly generated numbers.

As people renew or replace their Florida driver licenses or state ID cards, they will receive a new license or ID number different from the one they had before. Florida driver license changes are affecting a voter’s ability to request a mail ballot or have their 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. It is the voter’s responsibility to ensure their updated number is on file with the Elections Office.

To make this process easy and convenient, the SOE office rolled out a unique voter outreach program entitled “Health Check. Voter Check.” that helps residents:

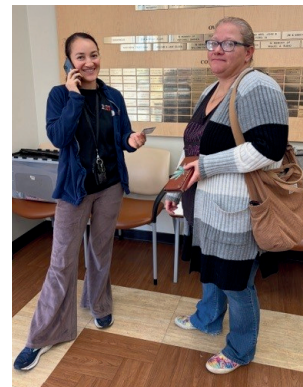
- Make sure their voter record matches their new state ID or driver license number
- Update their voter registration information
- Register to vote for the first time.

The “Health Check. Voter Check.” program was conducted Jan. 5 to Feb. 6.

Continued on next page



ABOVE: Vote By Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora talks with a client at the Treasure Coast Community Health Gifford site in January about updating his voter registration. BELOW: Violeta Pena, right, updates her Vote By Mail request at the TCCH Oslo location as Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman looks on.



ABOVE: Zamora calls the SOE office to see if this voter’s driver’s license number has been updated. BELOW: Bauman and Elections Specialist Lori Lansing greet people at the TCCH site at United Against Poverty in Vero Beach.



IT Specialist Paul James takes his turn working the TCCH West location at 8505 29th Street on Jan. 14.

 **Community Outreach**

‘Health Check. Voter Check.’ program held Jan. 5 to Feb. 6.

Continued from previous page

SOE staff members visited all TCCH locations throughout Indian River County.

January was selected to launch the voter outreach program because patients are already accustomed to updating their paperwork at medical appointments at the beginning of each year.

The “Health Check. Voter Check.” initiative allowed TCCH patients to update their driver license information using a paper voter registration application or by scanning a QR code that links directly to the Supervisor of Elections website. The program also provided patients the opportunity to register to vote or update their voter record with address changes, name changes, or political party changes. Vote by mail request forms were available.

TCCH lobbies had on display elections information including a retractable banner promoting the “Health Check. Voter Check” initiative and election forms housed in an acrylic brochure holder, along with a locked box provided for completed forms.

The brochure holder included materials in both English and Spanish:

- Voter registration applications for new voters and those needing to update their voter record
- Vote-by-Mail request forms
- Voter information brochures.

Completed voter registration forms and Vote-by-Mail forms could be folded and placed directly into the secure lockbox or mailed using the provided envelopes. SOE staff retrieved all submissions.



Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan talks with TCCH employees at the TCCH West office in January.

As part of the TCCH checkout process, patients were offered a “Health Check. Voter Check” giveaway packet. Each packet included:

- Elections Office business card with a QR code linking directly to online voter information services
- A list of important 2026 election dates
- Health aid packet containing mosquito repellent wipes, ibuprofen, antiseptic towelette, sunscreen, burn gel, Band-Aids and Emergen-C.

SOE staff were on site at scheduled dates and times at all eight TCCH locations throughout the 5-week outreach campaign to provide in-person voting information and answer questions.

The Supervisor of Elections team is committed to ensuring that all eligible residents have convenient access to trustworthy voter services and election information. The partnership with TCCH provided a unique opportunity to reach voters during their health visits, making voter record maintenance simple, accessible, and secure.



ABOVE: Chief Deputy Maureen Housell, right, and a TCCH employee at the Gifford location. BELOW: SOE staff members Anita Wheeler, left, and Daisy Zamora at the United Against Poverty site.



Transparency Tour



Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, left, and Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler, right, stand with St. Edward's Upper School's Advanced Placement U.S. Government class, taught by Dr. Jatiel Infanzon, kneeling. The students toured the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office on Jan. 28.

'I had an amazing experience'

St. Edward's students tour Elections Office

Editor's Note: Mark Moore is a student in Dr. Jatiel Infanzon's Advanced Placement U.S. Government Class at St. Edward's Upper School. The students toured the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office on Jan. 28.

**By Mark Moore
St. Edward's School**

During my visit to the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections office, I was privileged to learn about the process of organizing and managing elections at the local level.

We began our tour by learning about Vote-by-Mail ballots, a popular form of voting in which the Supervisor of Elections office handles requests for mail ballots, sends them to voters, and tracks them.

I learned about the specific circumstances under which someone outside the United States can cast a vote in an election via vote-by-mail ballots.

I learned that if someone is outside of the

Continued on next page



Above: Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, right, listens as Vote By Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora explains to students how ballots received in the mail are processed. Below: Elections Administration Coordinator Katie Otto talks about the candidate and initiative petition process.



 **Transparency Tour**

St. Edward's Upper School students tour Elections Office

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country, they can still vote, and the process is quite simple. Someone requests a vote-by-mail ballot from the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections office; it is sent by mail to an international address or electronically via email; the voter fills it out and ships it back to the U.S. so it arrives by election day. It is important that the ballot arrives in time, as Florida is especially strict about deadlines.

Later in our tour, I learned about the many machines that the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections' office uses for various purposes during election periods and year-round.

The machine I remember the most was the ES&S DS200 Precinct Scanner and Tabulator. This machine was responsible for scanning and counting paper ballots. Using optical-scan technology, the machine reads marks on paper ballots and counts them along the way.

Another device I remember is the ExpressVote Universal Voting System.

This one is especially unique because it allows those with accessibility needs or varying disabilities to cast their votes in elections.



Supervisor of Elections Chief Deputy Maureen Houssell, back to camera, and IT Manager David Cruz, left, explain to students the Clear Audit process after ballots are counted by the DS200 ballot tabulating machines.

The machine itself is a touchscreen ballot-marking device, where voters use a touchscreen to make their choice. The device later prints a paper ballot showing what the person selected, and then the printed paper ballot can be fed into the DS200 scanner (the device mentioned earlier) and cast.

I had an amazing experience at the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections office, learning about the specific circumstances for voters when voting, as well as the machinery used for each part of the election process.

I'm grateful that I got to experience it all firsthand and can't wait to cast my vote in my first election sometime in the future.

Chamber's Leadership Class gets inside look at SOE office

Continued from page 3

- Otto also covered how many initiative petitions and candidate petitions the SOE staff processes in an election cycle; and explained the retention and destruction of ballot materials.

- IT Manager David Cruz, with the help of Paul James, talked about the equipment and documents stored in the warehouse. All of the office's DS200 ballot tabulators, ExpressVote and Ballot On Demand printers were on display and demonstrated. Cruz showed how the ballots are run through the DS 850 and discussed the Clear Audit system.

Supervisor Swan closed out the tour with a Q&A session and video of 2024 Election.

Want to schedule a Transparency Tour?

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 Transparency Tour, contact the Elections Office at 772-226-4700.



Orchid holds special election

Town officials ask voters to update charter

By Elections Staff

The Town of Orchid conducted a special municipal election on Feb. 24.

The election was a referendum on a comprehensive update of the Town's Charter. The 531 registered voters who resided within the Town of Orchid and were assigned to Precinct 30, were eligible to vote.

In-person Election Day voting took place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Indian River Shores Community Center, 6001 Highway A1A.

Voters also had the opportunity to vote by mail.

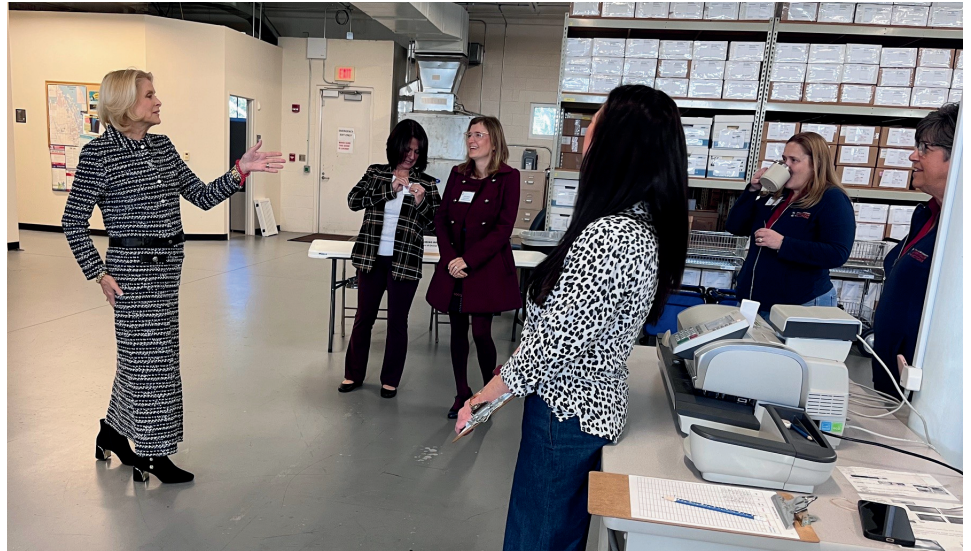
Sample ballots were mailed to the voters ahead of the election, as were requested Vote By Mail ballots.

The comprehensive update of the Town's Charter was approved by the voters.

In preparation for the election, Indian River County Supervisor of Elections staff conducted a Logic & Accuracy test of the voting equipment on Feb. 6.

Members of the Town of Orchid canvassing board were on hand to witness the tests. All equipment tested ready for the Town of Orchid Special Election.

Town Manager Cherry Stowe and Town Clerk Jane Garcia make up the Canvassing Board.



Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, left, welcomes Town of Orchid Canvassing Board members Cherry Stowe and Jane Garcia, along with SOE staff members, to the Logic & Accuracy Test on Feb. 6.



Left photo: Supervisor of Elections IT Manager David Cruz, left, explains the Logic & Accuracy testing of the DS200 ballot tabulating machines on Feb. 6 to members of the Town of Orchid canvassing board. IT Specialist Paul James is also pictured.



Above, left: Sheriff Eric Flowers deputizes SOE staff members in advance of the Feb. 24 election. Right: Vote By Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora was busy in January and February preparing and mailing sample ballots and Vote By Mail ballots to Town of Orchid voters.



Elections staff help raise walls

Habitat for Humanity's 2026 Women Build benefits King sisters

By Habitat for Humanity and Elections Staff

Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office showed its support for Habitat for Humanity's 2026 Women Build Campaign through both financial contributions and hands-on participation.

Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler, and Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman traded their office attire for work clothes, donning hard hats, gloves, and picking up hammers to help raise walls alongside other volunteers.

The Women Build Wall Raising was from 7:30 a.m. to noon March 7.

This year's featured partners are sisters Courtney and Ladreka King, who are working toward a stable future for their families.

"The Elections team loved the opportunity to meet and work with the King sisters and so many amazing volunteers," said Supervisor Swan. "What a great community we live in!"

March was International Women's Month, and Indian River Habitat for Humanity kicked off the month-long celebration with its 2026 Habitat Women Build initiative. The campaign highlighted the critical need for women to have equitable access to safe and affordable homeownership opportunities in the community.

This year's Women Build marked 34 years of partnership with Habitat International's Women Build initiative.

Swan and Wheeler also attended the kick-off celebration, "Hardhats and High Heels" on March 5 at Pepper & Salt at Hogan Yards.

More photos on next page



Habitat for Humanity's Women Build 2026 partner family is the King family, led by sisters Ladreka and Courtney King. Also pictured are Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler and Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman.



ABOVE: Supervisor Leslie Swan hammers nails into a frame at Habitat for Humanity's 2026 Women Build on March 7. AT LEFT: Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman stands on a ladder as she prepares to hammer nails into a frame.



2026 Women Build benefits King sisters



Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan, Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler, and Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman traded their office attire for work clothes, donning hard hats, gloves, and picking up hammers to help raise walls March 7 for the 2026 Women Build Wall Raising. Habitat for Humanity homes are being built for sisters Ladreka and Courtney King.



 **Captured on Camera**

Hibiscus Children’s Village



Operation Love Your Neighbor was held Feb. 7. More than 300 volunteers from First Methodist Church Vero Beach traveled throughout the community to complete service projects. Mike and Leslie Swan served at The Hibiscus Children’s Village.



Swan attends MLK Scholarship banquet

Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan attended the 2026 MLK Scholarship Banquet on Jan. 17 at the Gifford Youth Achievement Center. Swan is pictured here with Larry Staley, an SOE Deputy for Early Voting.

Vista Royale election



The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections team was on-site March 4 to assist Vista Royale with its annual Board of Directors election. Pictured counting ballots are Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman, left, and Information Technology Specialist Paul James. Supervisor Leslie Swan and Chief Deputy Maureen Houssell also helped tabulate results.



Sheriff’s BBQ

Supervisor of Elections employees always have a great time at the Indian River County Sheriff’s BBQ. Election Worker Coordinator Jenny Obergfell, left, and Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler assisted residents March 4 with voter registration updates, vote-by-mail requests and answered questions about this year’s elections.

Students merge 'books and ballots'

By Elections Staff

The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office teamed up with local elementary and middle schools to promote two important lifelong habits: reading and voting.

Every Spring, the Elections Office works with public and private schools to host elections for the Sunshine State Young Reader's Award (SSYRA) and Florida Readers Association (FRA) programs. To participate, students read at least three books from the designated lists before casting a formal ballot for their favorite title.

By merging "books and ballots," this initiative provides students with hands-on experience in the voting process while cultivating a passion for reading and civic participation.



Citrus Elementary School students take part in the Sunshine State Young Reader's Award and Florida Readers Association programs on March 24. Below: Elections Administration Coordinator Katie Otto plays a video about the election process for students at Citrus Elementary School. Below, left: Elections Specialist Lori Lansing and Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman at Beachland Elementary School on March. 23.



Taxpayers Association of Indian River County luncheon

Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan was a featured speaker at the March 6 luncheon of the Taxpayers Association of Indian River County. Swan enjoyed answering questions from members.



Chief Deputy Maureen Houssell, right, catches up with Lance Lunceford, Taxpayers Association president, at the luncheon at the Vero Beach Yacht Club.



 **Captured on Camera**

It's a wrap on initiative petitions



Elections Administration Coordinator Katie Otto, with help from Warehouse Manager Joe Crowley, takes the 16,914 initiative petitions (a total of 18 cubic feet) from the warehouse to the FedEx truck as the forms are shipped to the state. The Elections Office staff worked hard to get the initiative petitions verified before the Feb. 1 deadline.

FSE Workshop



Election Worker Coordinator Jenny Obergfell shines as a panelist at the Florida Supervisor of Elections' Election Worker Workshop in Martin County in February, sharing her expertise and representing Indian River County with excellence.

MLK Day parade



Vote By Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora's children, Ander and Arlin, are ready to attend the Fort Pierce Martin Luther King Day Parade. This is a family tradition for the Zamora family.



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:

Spouse

Grandparent

Parent of voter's spouse

Child of voter's spouse

Sibling of voter's spouse

Voter's legal guardian

Parent

Grandchild

Grandparent of voter's spouse

Grandchild of voter's spouse

Designee for a voter with a disability

Child

Sibling

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

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