



Why You Can Have Confidence in Indian River County Elections

Every election is built on one simple promise; every eligible voter deserves the opportunity to cast a ballot, and every lawful ballot deserves to be counted accurately.

At the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office, protecting that promise is our highest responsibility. While elections are administered locally, they are conducted under Florida Law using multiple layers of security, transparency, and accountability. These safeguards work together to protect every step of the election process – from voter registration through the certification of results.

Election security begins long before Election Day. Florida maintains one of the most comprehensive voter registration verification systems in the nation. When an individual registers to vote, election officials verify the information provided using state and federal databases as required by law. Recent legislation has further strengthened these safeguards by requiring additional verification of citizenship for voter registration beginning in January 2027.

County Supervisors of Elections continuously maintain voter registration records by processing updates from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the Department of Health, the courts, and other authorized agencies. These ongoing updates help ensure voter rolls remain current and accurate.

Florida's voting equipment must meet rigorous state certification standards before it can be used in an election. Indian River County's voting equipment is regularly maintained with the latest software patches and security upgrades.

Prior to every election, the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections Office conducts a public Logic and Accuracy Test to verify that every ballot style is programmed correctly and that voting equipment tabulates votes accurately.

Whether a voter casts a ballot at an early voting site, on Election Day, or by mail, strict procedures are in place to protect every vote.

Ballots are tracked through documented chain-of-custody procedures, transported in sealed containers, and handled only by authorized election personnel. These safeguards ensure accountability from the time ballots are printed until they are securely archived after the election.

Florida's vote-by-mail process includes multiple security features. Voters must request a vote-by-mail ballot. The voter must provide the Elections Office with either their Florida driver license number or the last four digits of their social security number, whichever is indicated in their voter record, to confirm their identity when requesting a mail ballot. The request is only good through one general election cycle

and then the request expires. Each returned ballot envelope must include the voter's signature. Election officials compare the signature on the return envelope with the voter's signature on file before the ballot can be counted. If the signature is missing or does not appear to match, Florida law provides a process allowing eligible voters, the opportunity to correct or "cure" the issue within the timeframe established by law.

Election officials and voters can track a vote-by-mail ballot from request to return. The tracking shows when the ballot was requested, mailed, received by the Elections Office, and whether any issues exist, such as a missing or mismatched signature.

The state of Florida has a state-wide voter registration database which prevents voters from being registered to vote in more than one county. When a voter moves to another county within the state, the voter's registration moves with them.

When voting in-person, voter's check-in using an electronic poll book, which performs the same function as the traditional paper registration book. Each electronic poll book contains a list of registered voters who are eligible to vote at that specific polling place or early voting site.

Electronic poll books are connected through a secure, real-time network that helps safeguard the integrity of the election process by preventing duplicate voting. When a voter casts a ballot during early voting, their voter record is immediately updated to indicate that they have already voted. This real-time communication ensures that the same individual cannot vote again at another early voting location or on Election Day

The same safeguard applies to vote-by-mail ballots. If a voter returns a voted mail ballot and later attempts to vote in person during early voting or on Election Day, the electronic poll book reflects the status of the returned ballot.

During in-person voting, Indian River County utilizes ballot-on-demand printing technology. This system allows ballots to be printed individually at the time a voter checks in, based specifically on the voter's assigned precinct and district. By generating ballots on demand, the process significantly reduces the potential for human error in selecting the correct ballot style.

Ballot-on-demand printing also enhances efficiency and fiscal responsibility. Ballots are produced only as needed, eliminating the need for large pre-printed inventories, reducing printing costs, and saving thousands of dollars in election expenses. This approach further ensures that polling locations do not risk running out of ballots.

While the Supervisor of Elections administers the election, the Canvassing Board functions independently to review ballots and certify the results. The Canvassing Board consists of a County Judge, Chair of the Board of County Commissioners, and the Supervisor of Elections. If one of these officials is unable to serve due to a conflict of interest or other legal reason, Florida law provides for the appointment of an alternate member. The Canvassing Board's key responsibilities include: canvassing election returns, reviewing and overseeing the counting of vote-by-mail ballots, determining voter intent, reviewing

provisional ballots, overseeing recounts, reviewing ballots challenged during the canvassing process, and certifying the county's official election results.

Many election activities – including equipment testing, vote-by-mail ballot processing, canvassing board meetings, recounts, and post-election audits – are open to public observation. Candidates, political parties, media representatives, and interested citizens are encouraged to observe these processes. Transparency helps build confidence because voters can see firsthand how elections are conducted.

Behind every successful election is a dedicated team of trained professionals and election workers. In Indian River County, election workers receive comprehensive training before every election to ensure they understand election laws, voting procedures, and customer service expectations. Polling locations are staffed by election workers from different political parties. Their commitment helps provide every voter with a secure, efficient, and welcoming voting experience.

Election security does not end when the polls close. Florida requires counties to conduct post-election audits to verify that all voting equipment accurately counted ballots. These audits provide an independent review of election results and confirm the accuracy of the tabulation process. In close contests, Florida law also provides for automatic machine recounts and manual recounts under specified circumstances.

Maintaining secure elections is an ongoing responsibility shared by election officials, election workers, candidates, political parties, law enforcement, and voters themselves. Through careful planning, continuous training, and adherence to established laws and procedures, Florida continues to demonstrate its commitment to conducting elections that are secure, transparent, accurate, and worthy of the public's trust.

The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections team encourages every voter to stay informed, ask questions, and take advantage of the many resources available at the Elections Office and on our website at www.VoteIndianRiver.gov.