



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

WINTER NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERVISOR

The State of Florida and Indian River County use 2020 Census Data to redraw legislative districts based on shifts in population.

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WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

On Saturday, December 18, staff from the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections office went to cemeteries across Indian River County to remember and honor our veterans by placing wreaths at their gravesites.

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SUNSHINE STATE YOUNG READERS

Every year our office facilitates voting for Indian River County schools in partnership with the Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA) & Florida Literacy Association programs.

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERVISOR

In December 2021, the district boundaries for the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners and School Board were adjusted to make the five districts equal in population, or nearly equal as possible.

The Florida Legislature is now in the process of redrawing congressional and state legislative districts to reflect population growth in the state. Starting March 7, 2022, the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections temporarily suspended the mailing of voter information cards. All new voter registration applications will be processed; however, instead of receiving a voter information card, the voter will receive a letter acknowledging their placement on the voter registration rolls for Indian River County.

Redistricting often causes altered precinct boundary lines and possible changes in Election Day polling places. The Elections Office decided to stop mailing voter information cards until the conclusion of the redistricting process to avoid confusion about Election Day polling place locations.

The Supervisor of Elections estimates redistricting will be completed by early June 2022 and all voters will receive a new voter information card shortly thereafter. Voters are encouraged to verify the political party affiliation listed on their voter card. Florida is a closed primary election state, therefore, in primary elections you may only vote in partisan races for candidates of the party in which you are registered. Florida's primary election is August 23, 2022.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

While we have Veterans Day in the fall and Memorial Day in the spring, our servicemen and women sacrifice their time and safety every single day of the year to preserve our freedoms. And in many homes across the U.S., every day there is an empty seat for one who is serving, or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

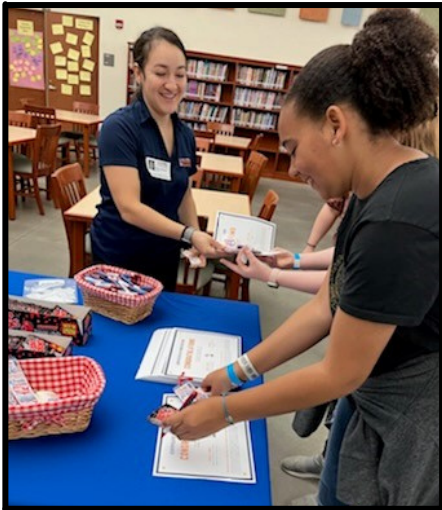
Wreaths Across America (WAA) is a national non-profit organization best known for remembering fallen veterans with wreaths placed each December at Arlington National Cemetery.



However, the organization is much more. The non-profit has placed more than 2 million sponsored veterans' wreaths at more than 2,100 participating locations nationwide while offering various year-long programs. These programs help live a mission to remember, honor and teach.

All throughout the year, Wreaths Across America works in a number of ways to show our veterans and their families that we will not forget—we will never forget



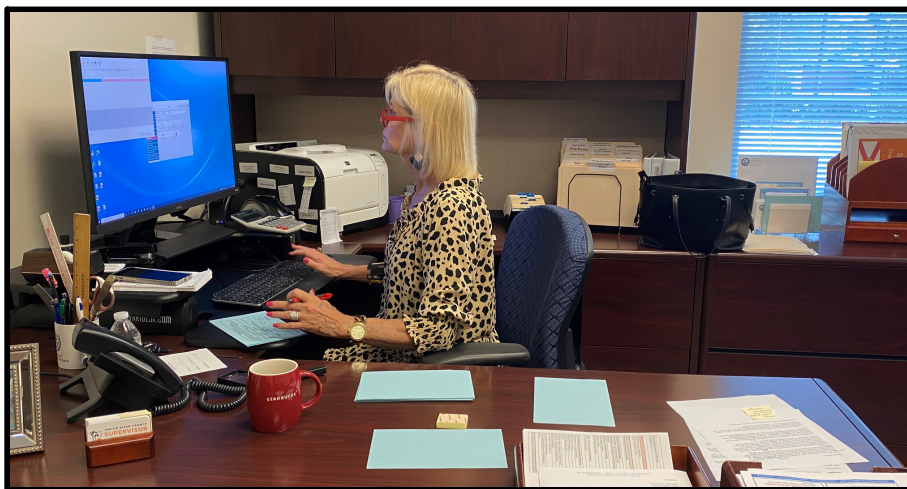


SUNSHINE STATE YOUNG READERS

Every year our office facilitates voting for Indian River County schools in partnership with the Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA) & Florida Literacy Association programs.

Both programs are similar in that they encourage children in grades K-8 to read independently or in groups. The students then get to vote on their favorite book from their school's reading list.

Our office is facilitating voting from March 7 to April 14 in 10 schools across the county. We are very excited to be able to be back in schools for in-person voting.



VOTER ROLLS & PETITIONS

The Front Office staff has recently been processing ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center) files. It is important that when voters move out of state they contact the county that they are leaving so they can be removed from the rolls.

Elections staff has been busy verifying petitions. From November 1, 2021 to date, 15,842 initiative petitions and 3,415 candidate petitions have been verified.

BUSTING THE MYTHS

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON ELECTION MISINFORMATION

MYTH: Mail ballots are not counted unless the race is close

FACT: All valid vote-by-mail ballots, properly signed and received in time, are counted, regardless of the closeness of the race.

MYTH: We send a mail ballot to every voter

FACT: In order to receive a mail ballot, a voter must request a ballot with the Elections Office by providing their name, date of birth, FL DL number or FL ID number or last four of their Social Security number, residence address and signature (written requests only).

MYTH: Voters wearing campaign apparel will not be allowed to vote

FACT: Voters may wear campaign t-shirts, buttons, hats, or other apparel which expresses their political preferences as long as they are not actively campaigning in the polling room or within the 150 foot no-solicitation zone.



NEW ELECTION WORKER ORIENTATION

Election Worker Coordinator Jenny Obergfell has been busy this winter conducting four Election Worker Orientation events. Indian River County Supervisor of Elections office welcomed 120 new prospective election workers.

During the orientation classes, prospective election workers learned about the intricacies of being an election worker. The two-hour training class covered all of the election worker responsibilities.

If you are interested in becoming an election worker complete the application online at VoteIndianRiver.gov or call Election Worker Coordinator Jenny Obergfell at 772-226-4720.



IRSC GETS CONNECTED

On Tuesday, January 18, the Supervisor of Elections office setup a booth at Indian River State College's Mueller Campus.

During the "Get Connected" event, students came to the Schumann Center to learn how to connect with the people, resources and opportunities offered at Indian River State College.

The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections office informed students of upcoming elections and changes in Election laws.

If you are interested in having the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections office host a voter registration drive, please contact Director of Communications Shane Bias at SBias@VoteIndianRiver.gov.



DEMOCRACY DAYS

Elections Office workers have entered the classroom to teach students about the importance of voting. Democracy Days is an hour-long presentation given to students at local high schools to teach them about the voting process, laws and regulations and history of voting.

The students are offered an opportunity to register or pre-register to vote if they are at least 16 years of age. After the presentation, students participate in a mock election.





2022 CANDIDATE WORKSHOP

Indian River County Supervisor of Elections office held a candidate workshop Friday, February 25, 2022. The workshop covered a variety of topics candidates need to know, such as campaign finance, requesting voter data, mail ballots and more.

Ten people were in attendance for the workshop. If you missed the candidate workshop or need any information about becoming a candidate visit our website at VoteIndianRiver.gov or contact Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler at 772-226-4715.

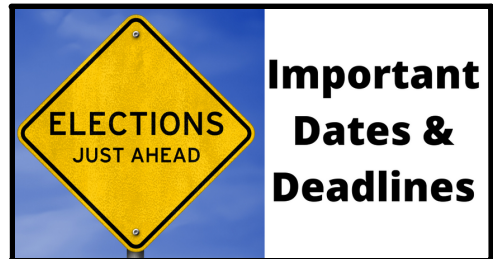


SHERIFF'S BBQ

Elections staff participated in the 28th annual Sheriff's Youth Ranches BBQ on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 to register voters and distribute information about the redistricting process. The Elections Office was able to get two new voter registration applications, as well as, two vote by mail applications while at the BBQ at the Indian River County fairgrounds.

The event included Sheriff's Office demonstrations by canine and special weapons and tactics (S.W.A.T) teams; a variety of booths and games.

Since 1957, the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches has continued to answer the needs of troubled and neglected children. The Youth Ranches has redirected the lives of thousands of young people throughout Florida.



March 28, 2022 – Noon, Petition Deadline for Judicial Candidates

March 31, 2022 – Canvassing Board Workshop 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Orlando

April 11, 2022 – Prequalifying Begins for Judicial Candidates

April 13, 2022 – Impact 100 Elections

April 15, 2022 – Good Friday Holiday

April 21, 2022 – SOE Speaking to Realtors Association Members, 12:15 p.m.

April 22, 2022 – Prequalifying Ends for Judicial Candidates

April 25, 2022 – Noon, Judicial Qualifying Begins

April 29, 2022 – Noon, Judicial Qualifying Ends

May 16, 2022 – Noon, Petitions Due for June Qualifying

May 30, 2022 – Memorial Day Holiday

May 31, 2022 – SOE Prequalifying Begins for County and Special District Candidates

June 10, 2022 – SOE Prequalifying Ends for County and Special District Candidates

June 13, 2022 – Noon, SOE Qualifying Begins for County and Special District Candidates

June 17, 2022 – Noon, SOE Qualifying Ends for County and Special District Candidates

June 28, 2022 – Poll Watcher Orientation 3 p.m. SOE Office



THIRD-PARTY VOTER REGISTRATION TRAINING

Voter Services Manager Cathy Boyle and Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler gave a presentation on third-party voter registration Tuesday, January 18.

The event was well attended and the class reviewed helpful hints about third-party voter registration organization processes and procedures.

A third-party voter registration organization is any person, entity or group that collects any voter registration application. To learn more about third-party voter registration organizations or to see the PowerPoint from the presentation, visit our website at VoteIndianRiver.gov.



OPERATION LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan and husband Mike Swan pressure washed the Women's Refuge Center with their church for Operation Love Thy Neighbor.

ELECTION MOMENTS

Dr. Courtney Swan married Pablo Alvarez on January 15, 2022 in Coconut Grove, Florida. Courtney and Pablo both attended the University of Virginia, but did not formally meet until they both attended a medical student/law student mixer at the University of Florida. They dated for five years before tying the knot.



Do you have any elections related questions or topics you would like to see featured?

Send your question or topic to Director of Communications Shane Bias at SBias@VoteIndianRiver.gov.



Elections Office staff giving back to the community by ringing the bell for **The Salvation Army's** annual Red Kettle Campaign. We raised **\$454.55** this year!





HAPPY 7-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Director of Communications Shane Bias celebrated his seven-year anniversary with the Elections Office on February 13th.



HAPPY 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Vote-By-Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora celebrated her five-year anniversary with the Elections Office on January 28th.

