



Leslie R. Swan
Supervisor of Elections
Indian River County

Your Vote Is Your Voice...Speak Up!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Alert

ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE NON-FORWARDABLE

Supervisor of Elections, Leslie Swan would like to inform voters who request an absentee ballot that absentee ballots cannot be forwarded by the U.S. Post Office, nor can they be held at the post office. Voters who have moved will not receive their absentee ballot even if they have filed a change of address with the post office to have their mail forwarded.

This is also true for voters who have had their mail forwarded during a temporary absence – such as Florida residents who reside elsewhere in the summer. Unless these voters have filed an address change with the elections office, their ballots will be returned as undeliverable. If a voter's absentee ballot is returned to the Elections Office, all requests on file will be canceled per Florida Statute 101.62.

If a voter is mailed an absentee ballot and later decides to vote a regular ballot at the polls, the voter will be required to hand over their absentee ballot to the poll worker so that it can be cancelled before the voter is allowed to vote a new ballot. If the voter does not have the ballot with them, a poll worker will contact the elections office to verify that the ballot has not been received. If the Supervisor of Elections office confirms that the ballot has not been returned, the voter will be able to cast a regular ballot. If for some reason, the poll worker is unable to receive confirmation that the ballot has not been returned, the voter will be required to cast a provisional ballot. After the election, the canvassing board will determine whether to count those ballots.

Voters may contact the Elections Office and request an absentee ballot in person, by mail, on the SOE website, or by calling (772) 226-3440. Voters must remember to sign the voter certificate on the backside of the absentee ballot return envelope. It is important that the signature on the absentee ballot certificate matches the signature that the Elections Office has on the voter's record. Since it is common for signatures to change throughout the years, voters are encouraged to update their signature by submitting a voter registration application and checking the "signature update" box.

Voted absentee ballots must be received by the Elections Office by Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, 2011 no later than 7:00 p.m. Any ballots received after Election Day will not be counted even if they are postmarked on November 8, 2011. Voters can visit the Indian River County Supervisor of Election's website at www.voteindianriver.com to check the status of their absentee ballot request or call the Elections Office at 772-226-3440.