



Leslie Rossway Swan

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Your Vote Is Your Voice...Speak Up!

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Media Alert

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE FLORIDA ELECTION VERIFICATION PROJECT

The Florida Election Verification Project is the first ever large-scale attempt to verify elections cast on paper ballots across multiple voting systems. This project is a year-long pilot program involving a system from the Clear Ballot Group in Boston, Massachusetts and the Supervisor of Elections from six Florida counties including Indian River, Bay, Citrus, Duval, Leon and Okaloosa. Clear Ballot's vision is to bring a new class of tools to election officials that will enable them to lower costs, improve confidence and communicate integrity for recounts and audits.

Under the guidance of Kurt Browning, former Florida Secretary of State, six counties agreed to participate in the Florida Election Verification Project. All three of Florida's certified voting equipment manufacturers are represented – Premier, ES&S and Sequoia. This project involves using equipment to scan images of each ballot in record time and compute a density score for every voted contest. The scanner electronically captures the vote image for each voted contest so that the votes can be viewed on a computer monitor. The scanner shows voted images in descending order by density. Any questionable markings can be viewed on the computer monitor to determine voter intent.

Florida Statute 101.591 requires Supervisor of Elections to conduct a manual audit after each election to ensure that votes were counted correctly. The audit is a very labor intensive procedure involving many hours of sorting ballots. Teams are assembled to manually count the vote totals to ensure that the machine count matches the manual count. Supervisor of Elections, Leslie Rossway Swan, said, "This state-of-the-art technology could save elections officials countless hours when conducting manual audits." Currently election law mandates a manual recount following each election, but with new technology evolving, future election laws may allow use of this new equipment. Swan said, "I jumped at the opportunity to be involved with the testing of this new technology. I am always researching new ways to improve efficiency, lower costs, and promote transparency in the elections process."