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Your Vote Is Your Voice...Speak Up!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 12, 2012

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Media Alert

DEMOCRACY DAYS COMING TO LOCAL HIGHSCHOOL STUDENTS

The Supervisor of Elections office is gearing up for the upcoming Presidential Election and is making a concerted effort to involve the county's youngest voters. Statistics indicate that citizens in the 18 – 24 age-range have the lowest voter turnout, but our office is in the process of changing that statistic for the better.

An innovative countywide youth voting program, "Democracy Days", is being launched by the Supervisor of Elections office. This national program is aimed at actively engaging high school students in the elections process. "Democracy Days" is designed to teach students why voting matters and it is one of numerous voter education programs offered to students throughout Indian River County.

The Supervisor of Elections and her staff will be touring the county's high schools, hosting a 45-minute program geared towards 11th and 12th grade students. The 45-minute lesson plan uses music, pop culture, video, classroom discussion and a mock election to teach young people skills to navigate the elections process.

During the program, students will be given the opportunity to register to vote. In Florida, a person who is otherwise qualified may pre-register to vote at 16 or 17 years old. The advantage to pre-registering to vote is that the voter is automatically eligible to vote on their 18th birthday. If the registrant waits until their 18th birthday to register to vote, they may be ineligible to vote in an upcoming election because the law requires the registration books close 29 days prior to each election.

The information that is shared with these students during the Democracy Days program will help them know what to expect when the time comes for them to vote. Through education, we believe our efforts to educate this new generation will have a positive effect and instill lifelong voting habits.