



# INDIAN RIVER COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

## FALL NEWSLETTER

### MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Another election has wrapped up! The November 8, 2022 General Election had several distinguishing characteristics.

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### GENERAL ELECTION

The General Election turnout this year was 64.99 percent, which ranked sixth-highest turnout in the state.

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### WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Indian River County's 5th Annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony took place December 17 at cemeteries across Indian River County.

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★ YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE ★

# 2022

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ACROSS AMERICA



AND MORE...



## Message From Your Supervisor

**Leslie R. Swan**

First, many voters experienced a change in their Election Day polling place. Following the 2020 U.S. Census, the Supervisor of Elections adjusted precinct boundary lines to reflect changes in population, new legislative districts, municipal boundaries, and future population growth. New precinct boundary lines prompted polling place changes and three new polling locations. Precinct numbers were also changed.

The second distinguishing characteristic was the number of ballot cards issued to the voter, either a one-card ballot or a two-card ballot. All voters in Indian River County were issued a one-card ballot except voters who reside in the City of Vero Beach precincts; these voters were issued a two-card ballot due to six referendum questions. This is the first time ever that not all voters received the same number of ballot cards.

The third distinguishing characteristic dealt with a citizen's initiative referendum question appearing on the City of Vero Beach ballot. Several weeks prior to Election Day, the citizen's initiative referendum question was challenged in court. The Judge presiding over the case issued her ruling at 7:01 p.m. on election night declaring the referendum question and election results invalid, null and void. The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections was ordered not to publish or certify the results of the subject referendum.

The fourth distinguishing characteristic was the record number of vote-by-mail ballot requests. The 2022 Gubernatorial Election had a 102% increase in the number of vote-by-mail ballot requests as compared to the 2018 Gubernatorial Election.

Now on to the next election: the January 24, 2023 Town of Indian River Shores all-mail ballot election to amend its town charter.

## ELECTION MOMENTS

Accounting Coordinator Tricia Boyle and her husband Steven welcomed baby Jack into the family. Jack James was born on November 11, 2022 and is loved by all.





### General Election 2022

Voters in Indian River County came out in droves as 77,624 voters cast their ballot in the 2022 General Election.

Mail ballots were the most popular method of voting for the General Election: 39.95 percent of voters voted by mail, 33.54 percent voted on Election Day and roughly 26.46 percent voted during early voting.

We are very fortunate to have such amazing election workers here in Indian River County; we couldn't have run another successful election without them. Working a 14-plus hour day isn't easy, especially coming off of 13 days of early voting. Our election workers continue to step up to the plate and do an amazing job!



*Thank You*



# DATES TO REMEMBER

**December 21, 2022 – First Day of Winter**

**December 23, 2022 – Office Closed in Observance of Christmas**

**December 25, 2022 – Christmas Day**

**December 26, 2022 – Office Closed in Observance of Christmas**

**December 27, 2022 – Book Closing Deadline (Town of Indian River Shores)**

**January 1, 2023 – New Year's Day**

**January 2, 2023 – Office Closed in Observance of New Year's Day**

**January 16, 2023 – Office Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**January 24, 2023 – Indian River Shores Charter Referendum Election**

**January 26, 2023 – Certify Election 5 p.m.**

**January 31, 2023 – Post-Election Audit (Noon)**



## Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is a national non-profit organization best known for remembering fallen veterans with wreaths placed each December at more than 3,400 locations across the United States, at sea and abroad.

Location Coordinator for Indian River County Wreaths Across America is Joseph Crowley, who also happens to be the Logistics & Equipment Manager for the Elections Office. Crowley played a pivotal role in bringing the tradition to Indian River County in 2018.

"Every year back in my hometown (Ludlow, Massachusetts), I had the honor of putting wreaths on my family and many other fallen veterans graves," Crowley said. "I strongly believe in the cause and Wreaths Across America is something I thought should be done everywhere."

Crowley and his co-worker Rick Lewis started the program by going to local veterans groups such as the Veterans Council, American Legion Post 39 in Vero Beach and Vero Beach Veterans Club to help rally support for the ceremony.

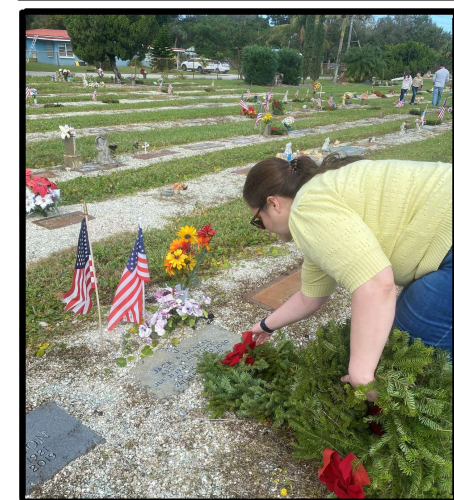
Wreaths Across America in Indian River County has come a long way since 2018.

During that year, Crowley and his team were able to raise enough money to buy and lay 900 of the 1,400 wreaths they needed to ensure every veterans gravesite was covered at the participating cemeteries. Indian River County had 150 volunteers in 2018 to help lay the wreaths.

Fast forward to today, Crowley and his team were able to meet their 2022 goal of 2,850 wreaths, ensuring every veteran in the participating cemeteries received a wreath. Crowley now has the support of over 600 volunteers to help place the wreaths.

"It really is a blessing to see the community come out in such high numbers to remember and honor our veterans," Crowley said.

Those interested in sponsoring a wreath or becoming a volunteer for Wreaths Across America, can visit [Wreathscrossamerica.org/fl0500](https://wreathscrossamerica.org/fl0500).



**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](mailto:SBias@VoteIndianRiver.gov).**



## Voter Services

Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman and Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler are breathing easier now that the 2022 election season has passed, but they are not resting on their laurels.

Anita oversaw all poll watcher responsibilities during the 2022 election cycle. Candidates and political parties submitted lists of registered voters to serve as poll watchers. The Elections Office conducted three Poll Watcher Orientation classes. During the Primary election, 221 people applied to become poll watchers. The number increased in the General election to 329 poll watcher applications.

★ ★	<b><u>Primary Election</u></b>	<b><u>General Election</u></b>	★ ★
	Early Voting: 100	Early voting: 145	
	Election Day: 121	Election Day: 184	

Katherine welcomed retirees Anne Kroh and Kathy Crockett back during the 2022 Primary and General elections. Their assistance at the front desk was invaluable.

The 2022 elections kept the front office busy with voter registration applications, assisting voters with questions regarding Vote-By-Mail, precinct changes, polling locations and handling the large volume of telephone calls that come with any election season. The front desk staff processed the daily Suspense Queue (usually 65-80 voters daily) and responded to voter information requests, just to name a few things in the day of a voter services employee.

### REGISTERED VOTERS IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

(As of December 2022)

**DEMOCRAT - 30,072**

**REPUBLICAN - 57,790**

**NPA - 28,649**

**OTHER - 2,739**

**TOTAL - 119,250**

### LET'S GET SOCIAL

Be sure to like and follow us to receive frequent updates and accurate information from your trusted source of voting and election information in Indian River County.



**#TRUSTEDINFO2022**



**Elections Office staff giving back to the community by ringing the bell for **The Salvation Army's** annual Red Kettle Campaign. We raised **\$738.08** this year!**



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### FSE Mid-Winter Conference

Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan attended the Florida Supervisor of Elections (FSE) Mid-Winter Conference in Daytona on December 4-7.

As Chair of the Scholarship Committee, Swan announced four \$1,200 scholarships are available in 2023 for students attending a Florida university or college, which is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Three of the scholarships are provided by the FSE and Fred Schmidt of DMIS Consulting has graciously sponsored an additional scholarship.

Scholarship guidelines are available by visiting the FSE website at MyFloridaElections.com. Students who wish to apply for the FSE scholarships must submit an application to their local Supervisor of Elections office. The 2023 scholarship deadline is March 10, 2023.



### A New Beginning

Candidate Coordinator Anita Wheeler's daughter, Lexi, married Bailey Bevis on Saturday, November 26, 2022 at the Sugar Barn in Lake Wales. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Bevis!

## 15TH ANNUAL TURKEY TROT

Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman and Vote By Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora participated in the 15th Annual Thanksgiving Day Trot Against Poverty.

The goal of this community-based event is to raise funds and awareness for the non-profit United Against Poverty.



Voter Services Manager Katherine Bauman



Vote By Mail Coordinator Daisy Zamora (right) and her husband Liove Zamora (left)



## **HAPPY 2-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

**Election Worker Coordinator Jenny Obergfell celebrated her two-year anniversary with the Elections Office on November 6.**



## **HAPPY 3-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

**Elections Administration Coordinator Katie Otto celebrated her three-year anniversary with the Elections Office on December 2.**