



Leslie Rossway Swan

Supervisor of Elections
Indian River County

Your Vote Is Your Voice...Speak Up!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Alert

1,871 STUDENTS FROM 18 SCHOOLS VOTE ON THEIR FAVORITE BOOK

The Supervisor of Elections office partnered with local schools through a program called Sunshine State Young Readers. The Sunshine State Young Readers (SSYR) program is a statewide reading motivation program for students in grades 3–8. Students can either read a minimum of three books or hear them read aloud in order to be eligible to vote for their favorite book. Students from 18 elementary and middle schools throughout Indian River County participated in the program this year.

SSYR issued two reading lists consisting of 15 books, one list for grades 3–5 and another reading list for grades 6–8. The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections office programmed a special ballot consisting of the 15 book titles and delivered touch-screen voting machines to the school on a designated voting day. Eligible students voted for their favorite book using official voting machines. After voting was completed, the elections staff tallied all of the votes and printed the results report from the machines. Teachers then announced the student's favorite author at the conclusion of voting.

This year the Freshman Learning Center at Vero Beach High School participated by voting on books from the Florida Teen Reads program. The Elections Office also extended the voting program to grades K-2 utilizing the Florida Reading Association book list.

Supervisor of Elections, Leslie Rossway Swan, said, "This year 1,871 students participated in the voting program. The program not only encourages reading, but it also engages students in the voting process. This is a major undertaking which took six weeks, beginning on March 19th and ended with Fellsmere Elementary School on April 27th." Students who participated in the voting received an official certificate from the Supervisor of Elections.

