New Year, New Look, New Laws

NEW YEAR- First off, I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. 2013 was a productive year at the Elections Office as we conducted two elections and thirty voter registration drives. We also received national recognition for our voter outreach program Ride & Register. We are looking forward to 2014, as it promises to be a busy election year.

NEW LOOK- Same URL address, fresh, new look. As part of our contract with VR Systems, VoteIndianRiver.com received a bit of a facelift. Visit our website, and see for yourself. The information is updated, and we hope you find the new layout to be more user friendly. We also added some flare to our homepage with hot tabs, a scrolling slideshow, and Dates To Remember.

NEW LAWS- With each year, comes new laws passed down from the State Legislature. Here are a few important changes to expect in 2014. Registration: The IRC Elections Office now permits a registered voter who moves from one Florida county to another county to vote a regular ballot (and not a provisional ballot) if the county to which (cont. on page 2)

Nov. 5 2013 Municipal Election Recap

5,363 (20%) voters turned out to cast a ballot for the November 5 Municipal Election for the cities of Vero Beach and Sebastian. Vero residents retained Dick Winger and elected newcomer Amelia Graves. Sebastian residents elected incumbents Andrea Coy and Bob McPartlan and welcomed back former councilman, Richard Gillmor.

NEW: Sample Ballots Via Email

The State of Florida released a new version of the Voter Registration Application that includes an opportunity to opt in to receiving a Sample Ballot via email. If you would like to opt in to receiving sample ballots from the Indian River County Elections Office via email, please fill out a voter registration application. Note: This information is public record.

Candidate Workshop

Before campaign season heats up, the Elections Office is offering a candidate workshop. Voters interested in running for public office can learn what it takes to become a candidate. The workshop will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2014 from 9-11 a.m. at the Supervisor of Elections office located at 4375 43rd Avenue in Vero Beach.

The workshop is open to candidates, campaign managers, campaign treasurers, members of the public and anyone interested in running for office, whether they are a first time candidate or a long-standing incumbent. Election laws are constantly changing, so it is imperative that candidates are familiar with the new legislation. The workshop focuses on the fundamentals of filing to become a candidate and introduces participants to candidate qualifying and reporting, campaign finance, political advertising and ethical conduct. Interested parties must register for the candidate workshop no later than February 3rd. To register, please contact Kathy Crockett by calling (772) 226-3440 or by emailing KCrockett@voteindianriver.com. There is no cost to attend.
NEW LAWS (cont.) - the voter moved uses an electronic database as a precinct register at the polling place. Indian River County processes voters utilizing electronic poll books, eliminating the need for voters moving into our county to vote a provisional ballot. Absentee Ballots: Voters are required to sign a voted absentee ballot so that their signature can be verified by the Elections office staff as valid. In the past, if a voter neglected to sign their absentee ballot, the ballot would not be tabulated. New election law allows a voter to “cure” the missing signature if he or she completes an absentee ballot affidavit and provides an ID by 5 pm on the day before the election. New legislation also requires written permission signed by the voter if the voter requests their absentee ballot be mailed to an address other than their address on file with the Elections Office (the only exception to this new law is absent uniformed service voters or overseas voters).

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DATES TO REMEMBER

January 16: Facility Tour – IRC Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class
January 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 1: Initiative Petition Signature Certification Deadline
February 6: Candidate Workshop
March 4: Legislative Session Begins
March 5: Sheriff’s BBQ
March 17: FSASE Scholarship Application Deadline

THANK YOU

Calico Corners, Costa d’Este Beach Resort, Florida Eye Institute, Marriott Springhill Suites, Mel Fisher’s Treasure Museum, Marine Bank & Trust, Ocean Grill, Seacoast National Bank, Swap Til You Drop, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach Citrus Museum, Vero Beach Hotel & Spa, Wabasso Tackle Shop for your generous donations to the Poll Worker Appreciation Event.

Indian River County Registered Voters

**JANUARY 2014**
- Republicans: 44,660
- Democrats: 27,260
- Other: 24,182
- Total: 96,102

**JANUARY 2013**
- Republicans: 44,713
- Democrats: 27,247
- Other: 22,585
- Total: 94,545

WHAT DOES THE FOX SAY? Elections staff walked (danced) in the annual Vero Beach Christmas Parade dressed in costumes made with Electroluminescent wire. Want to see us in action? Watch the video clip on our Facebook page.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
4375 43rd Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32967 | (772) 226-3440 | www.voteindianriver.com
Poll Worker Appreciation

The appreciation event was outstanding! If you are a poll worker and weren’t able to attend, make sure you stop by the Elections Office to pick up your party favors and a poll worker application from Martha Osborne. Here are a few of our favorite moments, captured on camera. View all of the pictures from the festivities on our Facebook page.
VOTER OUTREACH

TRI UPWARD BOUND

Democracy Class with Mr. O'Neil @ VBHS

Mock Debate

In 2013, the Elections Office registered 291 Indian River County students to vote through Democracy Class, our interactive voting presentation, and on campus voter registration drives. During Democracy Class students experience first-hand why it is important not only to register to vote, but also to vote. The millennial generation is diverse and huge in number, making up nearly 1/4 of the entire electorate in 2012. By engaging them in the electoral process, we hope to show young voters how powerful their vote truly is.