



Leslie R. Swan
Supervisor of Elections
Indian River County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 21, 2017

For Additional Information Contact:
Leslie Rossway Swan
772-226-3440
4375 43rd Avenue
Vero Beach, FL 32967

Media Alert

COMMISSIONERS APPROVE COUNTY'S NEW VOTING SYSTEM

Indian River County, FL – The process of acquiring a new voting system for Indian River County is a step closer to coming to fruition. On Tuesday, March 21, 2017, Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan appeared before the Board of County Commissioners to recommend the Board enter into a formal contract with Election Software and Systems (ES&S) for the acquisition of a new voting system.

Several factors have facilitated the purchase of new voting equipment. The current system has reached its end of life. The tabulation system is over 15 years old. In addition to the age of the equipment, the vendor, Sequoia Voting systems, is no longer in business. Purchase of the new voting system is also necessitated by Florida Statute 101.56075, which mandates that by 2020 all counties must be using a voting system, which enables all voters the ability to cast a vote in the same manner, regardless of physical limitations.

Three years ago, Swan approached the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) about reserving funds for the future purchase of a new voting system. At the conclusion of the 2016 Presidential Election, Swan and the Indian River County Purchasing Department began the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, which is governed by strict rules and a lengthy review process.

The ES&S voting system is \$455,432 less than the initial estimate of \$1.4 million, and 43 of Florida's 67 counties currently use ES&S as their voting system vendor.

Commissioner Solari motioned to approve the proposal and commissioners unanimously approved. Now that the Board of County Commissioners has approved the RFP, the following steps will take place:

- April-May: Planning meetings are held with the approved vendor
- May 15-31: Receipt of the approved voting equipment
- June: Logic and accuracy testing, staff training and mock elections

The new voting equipment will be deployed for the November 7, 2017 Municipal Elections. In the coming months, more information detailing the approved voting system will be available on the Indian River County Supervisor of Elections website at VoteIndianRiver.com.

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