

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

2011

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

November 8, 2011

City of Fellsmere

City of Sebastian

City of Vero Beach

2012

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY

January 31, 2012*

Deadline to Register January 3, 2012*

Early Voting January 21-28, 2012*

PRIMARY

August 14, 2012

Deadline to Register July 16, 2012

Early Voting August 4-11, 2012

GENERAL

November 6, 2012

Deadline to Register October 9, 2012

Early Voting Oct. 27-Nov. 3, 2012

*The date or dates may change subject to a decision by the Presidential Preference Primary Date Selection Committee on October 2, 2012

2011 VOTER GUIDE

Indian River County

Supervisor of Elections

LESLIE SWAN

4375 43rd Ave.

Vero Beach, FL 32967

772-226-3440



www.voteindianriver.com

Voter's Bill of Rights

Each registered voter in this state has the right to:

1. Vote and have his or her vote accurately counted.
2. Cast a vote if he or she is in line at the official closing of the polls in that county.
3. Ask for and receive assistance in voting.
4. Receive up to two replacement ballots if he or she makes a mistake prior to the ballot being cast.
5. An explanation if his or her registration or identity is in question.
6. If his or her registration or identity is in question, cast a provisional ballot.
7. Written instructions to use when voting, and, upon request, oral instructions in voting from elections officers.
8. Vote free from coercion or intimidation by elections officers or any other person.
9. Vote on a voting system that is in working condition and that will allow votes to be accurately cast.

Voter Responsibility

Each registered voter in this state should:

1. Familiarize himself or herself with the candidates and issues.
2. Maintain with the office of the Supervisor of Elections a current address.
3. Know the location of his or her polling place and its hours of operation.
4. Bring proper identification to the polling location.
5. Familiarize himself or herself with the operation of the voting equipment in his or her precinct.
6. Treat precinct workers with courtesy.
7. Respect the privacy of other voters.
8. Report any problems or violation of election laws to the Supervisor of Elections.
9. Ask questions, if needed.
10. Make sure that his or her completed ballot is correct before leaving the polling location.

NOTE TO VOTER: Failure to perform any of these responsibilities does not prohibit a voter from voting.

For Your Information (continued)

Poll Workers

On election days, the Supervisors of Elections are among the largest employers of their counties, hiring many workers to conduct the election. Election days can sometimes be demanding, but it is a rewarding experience to assist Florida's citizens in the important process of casting their votes. Supervisors of Elections are looking for friendly, dedicated people to work at the polls on Election Day. Applications available at the Supervisor of Elections office or online at www.voteindianriver.com or by calling our office at 772-226-3444.

(See Sections 102.012 and 102.014, Florida Statutes)

How to Report Election Law Violations

Violations relating to Chapters 104 and 106 and Section 105.071, Florida Statutes, should be reported by sworn written complaint to the Florida Elections Commission, Suite 224 Collins Building, 107 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32339-1050, 850-922-4539.

The Florida Elections Commission is an entity not aligned or affiliated with the Department of State, Divisions of Elections.

(See Section 106.25, Florida Statutes)

Violations of either the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, or the Help America Vote Act of 2002 or any irregularities or fraud involving voter registration, candidate or issue petitions, removal procedures, or voting under the Florida Election Code should be reported in writing to the Division of Elections, Room 316, R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050, 850-245-6200.

All other violations should be reported to the local state attorney.

(See Sections 97.012(15), 97.023, and 97.028, Florida Statutes)

For Your Information

Assistance in Voting

A person who is unable to read or write or who, because of a disability, needs assistance in voting may designate someone of his or her own choice, other than an employer or an officer or agent of the person's union, to provide such assistance. Election officials of different parties may also provide assistance. All polling places are accessible for voters with disabilities.

(See Sections 97.061 and 101.51, Florida Statutes)

Nonpartisan Judicial Elections

Candidates for the Florida Supreme Court and District Courts of Appeal will appear on the ballot in the general election for a vote on their retention. Candidates for circuit and county court judge will appear on the primary ballot and on the general election ballot, if necessary.

(See Section 105.041, Florida Statutes)

Poll Watchers

Each political party, each political committee with issues on the ballot that they are registered to support or oppose, and each candidate may have one poll watcher in each polling room or early voting area at any one time during an election. Poll watchers must be registered voters in the county and cannot be candidates or law enforcement officers. Each political party, each political committee and each candidate requesting to have poll watchers must designate, in writing, to the Supervisor of Elections, poll watchers for each precinct prior to noon of the second Tuesday preceding the election. Poll watchers for early voting shall be requested in writing to the Supervisor at least 14 days before early voting begins. Designated poll watchers will be provided with a badge issued by the Supervisor of Elections.

(See Section 101.131, Florida Statutes)

Three Ways to Vote in Indian River County

1. At Your Precinct On Election Day

Florida law says you must vote in your correct precinct on Election Day. Your voter information card will specify the precinct number and will specify polling location for your precinct. The polls are open from 7 a.m.- 7 p.m. If you are unsure of your polling place, you can go to the Supervisor of Election's website at www.voteindianriver.com or contact our office at 772-226-3440.

2. Early Voting

Starting 10 days prior to each primary and general election, you may vote at any designated early voting site in Indian River County. These sites are open for 8 days including Saturdays and Sundays. Voting early is just like voting on Election Day. Early voting will end on the 3rd day prior to an election.

3. Vote By Absentee/Mail Ballot

Voting by absentee/mail is a service offered by the Supervisor of Elections for registered voters who do not wish to vote at their precinct polling location on Election Day or do not choose to take advantage of Early Voting. Voting by absentee/mail has never been easier. A request for an absentee/mail ballot can be made in person, by mail, by telephone or you can request one online at www.voteindianriver.com. An absentee/mail ballot may be requested for a specific election or for all elections through two election cycles. Voted absentee/mail ballots must be received at our office by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Voter Registration Information

Who Can Register to Vote

- You must be 18 years of age (a person may pre-register at age 16 and may vote in any election held on or after that person's 18th birthday).
- You must be a citizen of the United States of America.
- You must be a resident of the Florida county in which you wish to register.

(See Section 97.041, Florida Statutes)

Persons Not Entitled To Register Or Vote

- Persons who have been found by a court in this or another state to be mentally incapacitated with respect to voting and who have not had their right to vote restored.
- Persons who have been convicted of any felony in any court and who have not had their right to vote restored.
- Any person who is not a citizen of the United States of America.
- Any person who is not registered to vote may not vote.

(See Section 97.041, Florida Statutes)

How To Register

To register to vote, you must fill out a Voter Registration Application. Voter Registration Applications are available at your local Supervisor of Elections office, the Division of Elections (also see web site at <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/RegToVote/regform.shtml>), driver's license offices, state agencies that provide public assistance, state agencies that serve persons with disabilities, public libraries and many other public locations. Refer to IRC Supervisor of Elections website for a list of locations where forms are available or to download a registration form at www.voteindianriver.com or call our office at (772)226-3440.

Military And Overseas Citizens (continued)

State Write-in Ballot

An overseas voter may request, not earlier than 180 days before a general election, a state write-in absentee/mail ballot from the Supervisor of Elections in the county of registration. In the request, the voter must indicate that due to military or other contingencies that preclude normal mail delivery, the voter cannot vote an absentee/mail ballot during the normal absentee voting period. In completing the ballot, the overseas voter may designate his or her choice by writing in the name of the candidate or by writing in the name of a political party, in which case, the ballot must be counted for the candidate of that political party, if there is such a party candidate on the ballot.

(See Section 101.6951, Florida Statutes)

Late Registration

An individual or accompanying family member who has been discharged or separated from the uniformed services, Merchant Marine, or from employment outside the territorial limits of the United States, after the book closing for an election pursuant to section 97.055, Florida Statutes, who is otherwise qualified, may register to vote in such election at the office of the Supervisor of Elections until 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before that election. Such persons must produce sufficient documentation showing evidence of qualifying for the late registration pursuant to this section.

(See Section 97.0555, Florida Statutes)

Military And Overseas Citizens

Registering and Voting Absentee/Mail Ballot

If you are a United States uniformed services member on active duty, a Merchant Marine member, spouse or dependent thereof, or a United States citizen residing outside of the United States, you can apply for voter registration or request an absentee/mail ballot with a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), which may be obtained from a Voting Assistance Officer or through the Internet at www.fvap.gov. The Federal Post Card Application request for an absentee/mail ballot will be effective for all elections through the end of the calendar year of the second ensuing regularly scheduled general election. If the FPCA is not available, phone or send a written request by mail, fax or e-mail to the Supervisor of Elections and a voter registration application or absentee/mail ballot will be sent to you. Absentee/mail ballots will be transmitted to military and overseas citizens at least 45 days before each election.

If you are a United States uniformed services member on active duty, a Merchant Marine member, *absent stateside or overseas from your place of residence*, a spouse or dependent thereof (who is also absent due to the member's absence), or a United States citizen residing overseas, you may have your absentee/mail ballot either faxed or e-mailed to you, in lieu of receiving it by regular mail.

If you include an e-mail address with your absentee/mail ballot, the Supervisor will notify you by e-mail that your request has been received. The Supervisor will also provide you the estimated date the ballot will be sent to you and let you know when he or she has received your voted ballot.

(See Sections 101.6952 and 101.697, Florida Statutes)

Additional information for military and overseas voters is available from:

Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Washington Headquarters Services
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1155
FVAP Fax 703-588-0108
Email vote@fvapncr.gov
Toll-free 800-438-8683

How to Register (continued)

You will be offered the opportunity to apply to register to vote or change your voter registration when you obtain your driver's license, when you apply for public assistance at state agencies, or when you apply for services at state agencies that serve persons with disabilities.

A voter registration application is complete if it contains:

- Your name.
- Your legal residence address.
- Your date of birth.
- Your valid Florida driver's license number or Florida identification card number. If you do not have either of these, you must provide the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you have not been issued a Florida driver's license, a Florida identification card, or a Social Security number, you must indicate "none" in the box provided for this information.
- A mark in the check box affirming that you are a citizen of the United States of America.
- A mark in the check box affirming that you have not been convicted of a felony or that, if convicted, you have had your civil rights restored.
- A mark in the check box affirming that you have not been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting or that, if so adjudicated, you have had your right to vote restored.
- You must sign the oath printed on the form swearing or affirming under the penalty for false swearing that the information contained in the registration application is true. (Power of Attorney is not accepted).

NOTE: An applicant who fails to designate a political party affiliation will be registered without a party affiliation.

(See Section 97.053, Florida Statutes)

When Can You Register

You can apply to register to vote at any time either by mail or in person. However, the registration books will be closed on the 29th day before each election and will remain closed until after that election. You must be registered for at least 29 days before you can vote in an election. The date your voter registration application is postmarked or hand delivered to your county Supervisor of Elections, the Division of Elections, a driver's license office, a voter registration agency, or an armed forces recruitment office will be your registration date. If your application is complete and you are qualified as a voter, a registration information card will be mailed to you.

When the registration books are closed for an election, voter registration and party changes will be accepted, but only for the purpose of subsequent elections.

(See Sections 97.053 and 97.055, Florida Statutes)

First-Time Voters Who Register By Mail

If you register by mail and you are a first-time voter in the State and you have NOT been issued a Florida driver's license, Florida I.D. number, or a Social Security number, you are required to provide additional identification. To assure that you will not have problems when you go to vote, you should provide a copy of the required identification at the time you mail your voter registration form. If you are voting an absentee/mail ballot, you must provide the proper identification prior to 7 p.m. election day or your absentee/mail ballot will not count. The following forms of identification are acceptable if they contain your name and photograph:

- United States passport.
- Debit or credit card.
- Military identification.
- Student identification.
- Retirement center identification.
- Neighborhood association identification
- Public assistance identification.

Vote By Mail (continued)

Marked ballots must be mailed or delivered in person reaching the Supervisor of Elections office not later than 7 p.m. on the day of the election. Do not return your voted mail ballot to a polling place.

If you have obtained an absentee/mail ballot but want to vote in your precinct on Election Day, you must take the ballot with you to the polls, whether or not it has been marked so that it can be cancelled. However, if you are unable to return the ballot, you may vote a provisional ballot.

Picking Up Ballots For Another Person

Any qualified voter may designate in writing another person to pick up a mail ballot for the voter. Carry out ballots are available to a designee on Election Day or up to five days prior to the election. The designee may only pick up two (2) mail ballots per election other than his or her own, except for the ballots picked up for members of his or her immediate family. The designee must provide picture identification, the written authorization from the voter and complete an affidavit.

Vote By Mail

Who Can Vote By Absentee/Mail Ballot

All qualified voters are permitted to vote by mail under Florida law.

(See Sections 97.021(1) and 101.62, Florida Statutes)

How To Request An Absentee/Mail Ballot

A request for an absentee/mail ballot can be made in person, by mail, by telephone or by requesting the ballot on our website: www.voteindianriver.com. Only the voter or a designated member of his or her immediate family or legal guardian can request a mail ballot for a voter. Immediate family means the voter's spouse or the parent, child, grandparent, or sibling of the voter. The person requesting an absentee/mail ballot must disclose:

- The name of the voter for whom the ballot is requested
- The voter's address
- The voter's date of birth
- The voter's signature (written request only)

If the voter has designated an immediate family member or legal guardian to request an absentee/mail ballot for him or herself, that designee must provide the above information in addition to the following:

- The requester's name
- The requester's address
- The requester's driver's license number, if available
- The requester's signature (written request only)
- The requester's relationship to voter

When Ballots Are Mailed

The initial mail-out of domestic absentee/mail ballots shall be sent between the 35th and 28th days prior to each election to those voters who have requested an absentee/mail ballot. Absentee/mail ballots cannot be forwarded.

First-Time Voters Who Register By Mail (continued)

Instead of the photo ID, you may provide a copy of a current and valid utility bill, bank statement, government paycheck, or other government document containing your name and current residence address. Do not send original identification documents to the Supervisor of Elections.

The following persons are not required to provide the identification required under the previous paragraph:

- Persons 65 years of age or older.
- Persons with a temporary or permanent physical disability.
- Members of the uniformed services on active duty and their spouses and dependants, who, by reason of such active duty, are absent from the county on Election Day.
- Members of the Merchant Marine and their spouses and dependents, who, by reason of service in the Merchant Marine are absent from the county on Election Day.

Placement on Inactive Voter Rolls and Removal

If the Supervisor of Elections receives information from the post office or another source indicating your residence may have changed to another address in Florida, your registration record will be changed to reflect that new address. You will then be mailed an address change notice asking that you verify or correct the new address. If the information shows you have moved outside the state, you will be sent an address confirmation final notice. If you do not respond to the address confirmation final notice within 30 days, your registration status will be changed to inactive. You can restore your status to active at any time if you update your voter registration record, go to the polls to vote, or request an absentee ballot. However, if you do not do any of these things after two general (federal) elections from the date you were made inactive, you will be removed from the registration records and must register again in order to vote.

(See Section 98.065, Florida Statutes)

Registration Is Public Record

In Florida, voter registration records are open to the public and may be examined or copied by any person. However, the following registration information is confidential: location of voter's place of registration, location of place of registration update, Social Security number, driver's license number and Florida identification number. A voter's signature may be viewed but may not be copied.

(See Section 97.0585, Florida Statutes)

Changes in Address, Name or Party

When Voters Move

- You must vote in the precinct in which you live. If you move, you must notify the Supervisor of Elections by providing a signed Voter Registration Application indicating the address change or by calling our office at 772-226-3440. However, address changes by phone can only be accepted if the call is made by the person with the address change.
- Generally, you cannot vote in any precinct other than the one in which you live and are registered. However, if you are temporarily living outside your home county, you can apply to be registered and vote in the precinct that contains the mail office of the Supervisor of Elections. These voters will not be registered to vote in the municipal elections.
- If you are making a county to county address change at the polls on Election Day, you will be required to vote a provisional ballot.
- If you are making an address change at the polls on election day within the county, you will be required to update your information by completing a Voter Registration Application before being allowed to vote.

(See Sections 97.1031 and 101.045, Florida Statutes)

Sample Ballot

A sample ballot will usually be available a few weeks prior to an election. Check your mailbox and/or newspaper or go to our website at www.voteindianriver.com for more information.

Early Voting

As a convenience to the voter, early voting is a service offered by the Elections Office. Early voting is available for an 8 day period beginning from the 10th to the 3rd day before a county or state election.

Check the Supervisor of Elections website for times and exact dates.

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

(for County or State elections only)

The Supervisor of Elections Office

(across from Dodgertown Elementary School)

4375 43rd Avenue, Unit #101

Vero Beach

The Main Library in Vero Beach

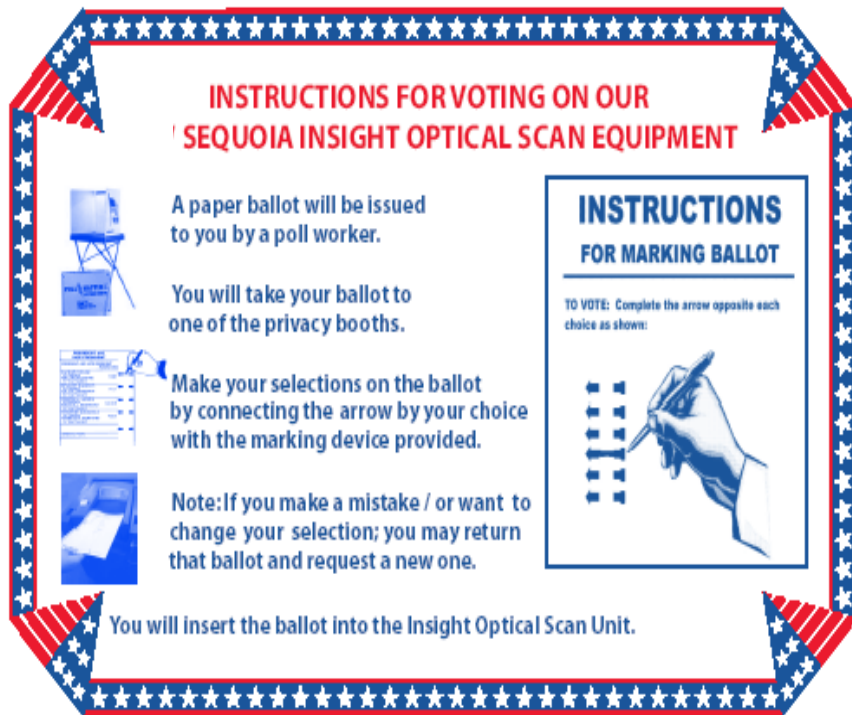
1600 21st Street

Vero Beach

Historic Sebastian City Hall

1235 Main Street

Sebastian



Primary Election

Florida is a closed Primary Election state. Only voters who are registered members of political parties may vote for their respective party's candidates in a primary election. Voters without party affiliation are not eligible to vote for major party candidates in a primary election. However, Article VI, Section 5(b), Florida Constitution, provides that if all candidates have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the general election, all qualified voters, regardless of party affiliation, may vote in the primary election for that office. This is known as a Universal Primary Contest.

Nonpartisan judicial and school board offices, nonpartisan special districts, and local referendum questions are included in some primary elections. All registered voters, including those without party affiliation are entitled to vote in nonpartisan races/issues. At general elections, all voters receive the same ballot and may vote for any candidate or question on the ballot.

(See Sections 100.051, 100.061 and 101.021, Florida Statutes, and Article VI, Section 5(b), Florida Constitution)

Changes in Address, Name or Party (continued)

When Voters Change Their Name

- If you change your name by marriage or other legal process, you are required to update your information by completing a Voter Registration Application. If you have not provided this information prior to going to vote, you will be allowed to update this information prior to voting.

(See Section 97.1031, Florida Statutes)

When Voters Want To Change Their Party Affiliation

- If you want to change your party affiliation, you must provide the notice of such change to a voter registration official using a signed Voter Registration Application. Party affiliation may be changed at anytime, however, changes within 29 days of an election will not go into effect until after the election.

(See Section 97.1031, Florida Statutes)

Signature Updates

- Voters may update his or her signature on file in the statewide voter registration system at any time by completing a Voter Registration Application.
- All signature updates for use in verifying absentee/mail and provisional ballots must be received at the Supervisor of Elections office no later than the start of the canvassing of absentee/mail ballots by the canvassing board.

(See Section 98.077, Florida Statutes)

Polling Place Change

Occasionally the location of a polling place must be changed for an election if the polling location becomes unavailable or the Supervisor of Elections determines that the polling place is inadequate for voting. A new polling place will then be assigned and a notice of the change shall be mailed to each registered voter involved. This notice of change must be mailed at least 14 days prior to an election.

What To Expect At The Polls

Polls will be open Election Day from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. local time. To determine your polling place, check your voter information card or call our office at 772-226-3440.

You will be asked to show a photo and signature identification when you go to the polls to vote. Acceptable forms of photo identification include:

- Florida driver's license
- Florida identification card issued by the DHSMV
- United States Passport
- Debit or credit card
- Military identification
- Student identification
- Retirement center identification
- Neighborhood association identification
- Public assistance identification

If your photo identification does not contain your signature, you will be required to show an additional identification that provides your signature.

Once your identity has been established, you will be asked to sign the precinct register or electronic device before being allowed to vote.

If you need assistance in marking your ballot, please inform the poll worker.

If you make a mistake when voting on a paper ballot, ask for a replacement. You may receive up to two replacements, or a total of three ballots.

If you do not have the proper identification, you will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot.

What To Expect At the Polls (continued)

If you vote a provisional ballot solely because you did not bring photo and signature identification to the polls, you do not have to present further evidence of eligibility. The local canvassing board will simply compare your signature on the provisional ballot certificate with your signature on the voter registration record. If the signatures match, your provisional ballot will count (provided you were in the proper precinct). At the time that you vote, you will be given a written notice of your rights as a provisional ballot voter. The notice will include a statement as to whether or not and by when you have to present further evidence of eligibility and information as to how to find out if the voter's provisional ballot was counted, and if not the reason(s) why.

If your eligibility to vote cannot be determined, you will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot. A person casting a provisional ballot may present written evidence supporting his or her eligibility to vote to the Supervisor of Elections by no later than 5 p.m. on the second day following the election.

All voters who vote provisionally regardless of the reason are to be given a written notice of rights that includes:

- A statement that the provisional ballot voter has until 5 p.m. of the second day to bring to the Supervisor of Elections written evidence of his or her eligibility.
- A statement that a voter who votes a provisional ballot because he or she did not bring in identification does not need to bring in further evidence of eligibility. If the voter voted in the right precinct and the signature on the provisional ballot certificate matches the signature on the voter registration record, the provisional ballot will be counted.
- Instructions as to how the provisional ballot voter may find out if his or her provisional ballot was counted, and if not, the reason(s) why.
- A statement that if this is a primary election, the person should contact the Supervisor of Elections office immediately to confirm that the person is registered and can vote in the general election.

(See Sections 101.048 and 101.043, Florida Statutes, and Rule 1S-2.037, Florida Administrative Code)