

Charlotte County Chamber Candidate Forum  
Leah Valenti for Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections

**Answer to Question 1:**

I have implemented the following measures and plan to continue to expand as I move into the General Election and beyond:

1. Improved Voter Education: I have launched a comprehensive voter education effort to inform voters about the importance of voting, how to register, and where and when to vote. Utilizing local media, social media platforms, and community events can help reach a wider audience. I prioritize sample ballots so that voters are well-educated before they get to the polls. I also started “Text My Gov,” a text platform where voters can ask voting-related questions and receive up-to-the-minute responses.
2. Community Engagement: Fostering relationships with community leaders and organizations to encourage voter participation and address any concerns or barriers specific to different community groups.

Voters can trust that I will always focus on maximizing voter participation among residents, ensuring an active democratic process for all.

**Answer to Question 2:**

To ensure the integrity and security of the electoral process amidst evolving technological threats, we are steadfast in keeping up with any advanced cybersecurity measures, conducting regular audits, and employing secure voting systems. Training election officials on the latest security protocols and procedures is paramount to a transparent process. Collaborating with federal and state cybersecurity agencies is also prioritized. Additionally, enhancing voter education here in Charlotte County so that the electorate understands using optical scanners is mandated by law and no other system, unless certified by the state, can be used. Florida IS the Gold Standard because of the rigorous security measures we, as Supervisors, MUST adhere to.

**Answer to Question 3:**

To foster transparency and accountability, I have implemented regular e-newsletters to communicate with voters exactly what the office is doing and upgraded technology to include a 100% post-election audit system to where we will have a digital image of every ballot cast and to adjudicate every contest on every ballot more accurately. I have maintained open communication channels with voters, including speaking engagements, social media, and local press. Engaging community stakeholders and providing clear, timely information about electoral processes fosters trust and ensures accountability within the office. If the public knows exactly what we are doing, they can feel confident about discussing policies and procedures.