



# Wesley Wilcox

Supervisor of Elections, Marion County, FL

## Election Center

981 NE 16<sup>th</sup> ST • Ocala, FL 34470

M PO Box 289 • Ocala, FL 34478-0289

P 352-620-3290

F 352-620-3286

W [www.VoteMarion.com](http://www.VoteMarion.com)

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For more information contact:

Starley Ard

352-620-3294 ext. 221

[SArd@VoteMarion.com](mailto:SArd@VoteMarion.com)

## NEWS RELEASE: Elementary School Students Vote for Their Favorite Sunshine State Book



Pictured above: Students from East Marion Elementary school holding their favorite sunshine state book and showing off their "I Voted" stickers.

**Marion County, FL.** –April 25, 2017: During the month of April, the Marion County Election Center partnered with twelve elementary schools throughout Marion County to conduct elections for the 2017 Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA) program. A total of 912 students voted for their favorite book and received "I Voted" stickers!

The SSYRA Program encourages students to read independently for pleasure and to improve their reading fluency. Students must read a minimum of three out of the 15 SSYRA books and pass the tests to be eligible to vote. Voting was offered using actual voting equipment or online voting through DoubleClick Democracy. Students were enthusiastic and eager to participate and use the voting machines.

Sunshine State Young Reader Awards Elections are one of the ways the Marion County Election Center engages our youth in the democratic process and inspires life-long voting habits. To get involved or learn about other ways your elections office is involved with the schools and community, visit [VoteMarion.com](http://VoteMarion.com).

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