

Drinda Merritt wins reelection as mayor of Inglis -- 170 to 57

By Jeff M. Hardison © March 15, 2017 at 10:47 a.m.

* Updated March 15, 2017 at 2:47 p.m.

INGLIS -- Inglis Mayor Drinda Merritt won reelection to her post Tuesday (March 14) in a 3-to-1 landslide election, according to information provided by Town Clerk Sally McCranie.

McCranie is the supervisor of elections for municipal elections in Inglis.

The final count showed Merritt with 170 votes (75 percent) and candidate Michael Andrew “Drew” White with 57 votes (25 percent).

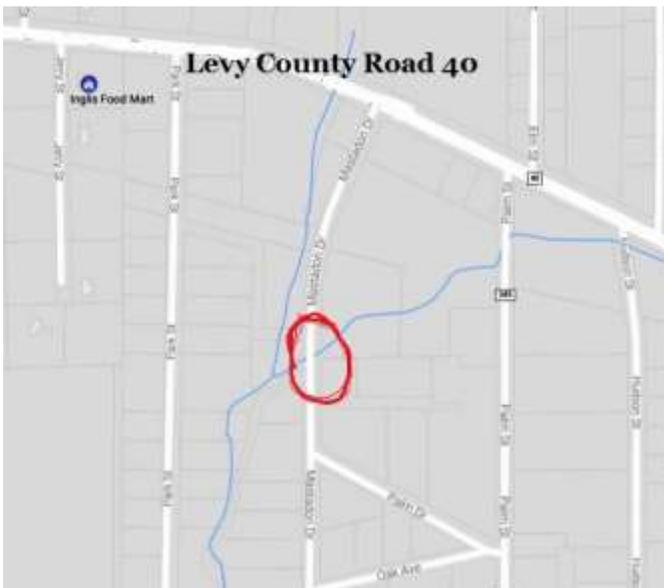
There were 959 registered Inglis voters as of book closing for this election, Levy County Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones said. That means there was a 24 percent turnout by 227 people voting in the 2017 Inglis mayoral election.

Levy County Supervisor of Elections Jones said a municipal election with only one race is going to usually have a low voter turnout.

Two Inglis City Council members were unopposed and they sought reelection without any contest, Town Clerk and Town Elections Supervisor McCranie said.

Inglis City Council Member Pat Tully, who is the animal control and Fire Department liaison to the City Council, and Betsy Webb, who is the recreation and health liaison to the City Council, were both reelected, McCranie said.

The other members of the Inglis City Council are Thomas Brennan, budget and finance liaison; Ann Morin, water liaison; and James Williams, roads and bridges, and maintenance liaison, McCranie said.



Winning mayor comments

This map shows where Mastodon Drive crosses a stream that leads into the Withlacoochee River. This is on the west side of U.S. Highway 19 and it is to the south of Levy County Road 40.

Mayor Merritt on Wednesday (March 15) said her reelection will allow her to continue working on projects to bring them closer to being under way.

One project is the white water kayak venue.

Another project is the addition of a wastewater treatment facility. Mayor Merritt said state leaders who represent this

part of Florida have a \$10 million proposed bill that the whole Florida Legislature can approve to help meet this urgent need.

That treatment plant would help reduce nutrients going into the Withlacoochee River, as well as provide a resrouces for business growth.

About 22 percent of property owners in Inglis currently pay ad valorem property taxes, the mayor said. She wants the city to grow so that there can be more jobs, a better local economy and an even better quality of life than already exists in Inglis.

Another project that Mayor Merritt is hoping to see come to fruition is the repair or replacement of the Mastodon Bridge. The bridge was first damaged as a result of Hurricane

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Frances in 2004, she said.

It was repaired. Ten years later, though, the storms in 2014 caused the bridge to be damaged again. The city maintenance team reached out to the Florida Department of Transportation, she said, which resulted in that bridge becoming a numbered FDOT bridge.

And so on the list of FDOT bridge repairs, that one is showing a date of 2022 for repair, Merritt said.

Even though there is access to a subdivision served by that bridge, this bridge would be an improvement to bring the level of service for transportation in that area back to where it was before the storms of 2014, she said.

Mayor Merritt said this is something she hopes to see started within the next two years. The mayoral election happens each two years in Inglis.