

# Media Release



**bluffton**  
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

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For More Information:

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“Am I A Town Resident?”

Town of Bluffton Aims to Educate Voters About Town Limits Before Election

The Town of Bluffton is reaching out to every neighborhood which has a Bluffton address to help educate residents regarding whether they reside within the Town of Bluffton limits and thus whether they are eligible to participate in Town of Bluffton municipal elections.

“Due to the geography of the annexations that have occurred over the years, it can be confusing for some as to whether they actually live in the Town,” Deputy Town Manager Scott Marshall said. “In some areas you can be completely surrounded by the Town of Bluffton corporate limits, yet still be in unincorporated Beaufort County. Having a Bluffton address and zip code doesn’t guarantee Town residency. This sometimes creates confusion for voters during Town municipal elections.”

Marshall, who was formerly the executive director of the Beaufort County Board of Voter Registration and Elections, has first-hand experience with this confusion.

“I would encourage voters to be as informed as possible, not only about the candidates, but also about their own political districts and voting eligibility. The best way to check your voter status is online at [scvotes.org](http://scvotes.org),” Marshall said. “Another great online resource to determine if your address is within Town limits is the Bluffton Explorer app on the Town’s website at [Townofbluffton.sc.gov](http://Townofbluffton.sc.gov).”

Other indicators of whether a property is located within the Town of Bluffton include whether the property owner pays Town of Bluffton property tax and whether the Town manages curbside waste and recycling for the address in question. If residents have a Bluffton address and they do not pay Bluffton taxes, and they or their property owners’ associations manages their waste management contract, then they are likely residents of unincorporated Beaufort County.

Due to the nature of state law which dictates property owners must petition the Town for annexation, there are several so-called “doughnut-holes” or enclaves in which several neighborhoods are not within the Town of Bluffton yet are surrounded or are adjacent to other neighborhoods that are in Town limits. For example, Woodbridge and Sandy Pointe area

neighborhoods are in unincorporated Beaufort County, while the majority of Buckwalter Parkway developments are within Town limits.

“We feel like it’s important to be an accurate source of information, not just for people who reside in the Town limits, but to everyone in the greater Bluffton community,” said Marshall. “This is especially important as we prepare for our municipal election in November, and as we maintain our preparedness and communication plan through the hurricane season.”

The Town is asking property or community managers or members of boards of directors of all neighborhoods with a Bluffton address to please contact the Town’s public information officer to provide reliable contact information to aid in this effort.

Please email your neighborhood’s contact person’s name, email and phone numbers to Debbie Szpanka at ([dszpanka@Townofbluffton.com](mailto:dszpanka@Townofbluffton.com)) or call (office) 843.706.4534. They will also use this contact information for region-wide events such as elections, hurricanes, parades, and events which affect the greater Bluffton community. Each property or community manager can decide whether or not to pass along the information to his or her specific community.

The attached lists specify the governmental jurisdiction of each neighborhood.

Any questions, please contact Public Information Officer Debbie Szpanka ([dszpanka@Townofbluffton.com](mailto:dszpanka@Townofbluffton.com)) or (Office) 843.706.4534.

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