



FLORIDA
★ DIVISION OF ★
ELECTIONS

Florida Voter Guide

2023 Election Cycle



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What types of elections are there?

Presidential Preference Primary Election

The Presidential Preference Primary Election (PPP) is held every 4 years but not in the same election cycle as the gubernatorial election year. The PPP is part of the nominating process in Florida for the United States presidential elections. In the PPP, voters registered with one of [Florida's major political parties](#) express their preference for the presidential candidate they would like to see representing their party on the General Election ballot in November. For more information about the process and what follows, visit the Division of Elections' webpage – Quick Facts – [Presidential Preference Primary Elections](#) and [Presidential Electors /Electoral College](#).

Primary Election

The Primary Election is held 11 weeks before the General Election. Florida is a closed primary election state. This means that only voters who are registered with a [Florida political party](#) may vote for respective party candidates or nominees for an office in a primary election (this applies to a presidential preference primary election too). However, if all the candidates for an office have the same party affiliation and the winner of the primary election will not face any opposition in the general election, then all registered voters can vote for any of the candidates for that office in the primary election. Also, if races for nonpartisan judicial and school board offices, nonpartisan special districts or local referendum questions are on the primary election ballot, then all registered voters, including those without party affiliation are entitled to vote those races on the ballot.

General Election

A General Election is held in November of every even-numbered year. All registered voters, regardless of party affiliation or no party affiliation, may exercise their right to vote for federal and state races, judicial retention and statewide proposed constitutional amendments and revisions on the General Election ballot. The ballot may include party candidates who advanced from the Primary Election, no party affiliation candidates, and spaces to write-in the name of qualified write-in candidates. In addition, voters may vote in county and local races and local public measures.

Special Election

A special election is called:

- If no person has been elected at a general election to fill an office which was required to be filled by election at such general election.
- If a vacancy occurs in the office of state senator or member of the state

house of representatives.

- If it is necessary to elect presidential electors, by reason of the offices of President and Vice President both having become vacant.
- If a vacancy occurs in the office of a member from Florida of the House of Representatives of Congress. (Note: A vacancy in the office of a U.S. Senate is filled by temporary appointment until the vacancy is filled at the next general election.

Information on currently scheduled special elections can be found on the Division of Elections' [Special Elections webpage](#).

Local Election

A town, city or municipality may either schedule its local election to be held at the same time as a statewide or county election or held separately. Contact or visit the [Marion County Supervisor of Elections](#) for more information on local elections.

What are the election dates for 2024?

Presidential Preference Primary Election 2024

Tuesday, March 19

Primary Election 2024

Tuesday, August 20

General Election 2024

Tuesday, November 5

Visit [Election Dates webpage](#) on the Division of Elections' [Publications](#) webpage for Election Dates and Activities Calendar.

What is on the 2024 primary or general election ballot?

Federal Offices

- U.S. Senate
- Representatives in Congress

Multi-County and District Offices

- State Senator
- State Representative
- State Attorney
- Public Defender

County Offices

- Board of County Commissioners
- School Board (nonpartisan)
- Other constitutional offices

Judicial Retention (Nonpartisan)

- Justices, Supreme Court of Florida
- Judges, District Courts of Appeal

Circuit and County Court Judges (Nonpartisan)

Referenda

- Proposed amendments to Florida's Constitution
- County, municipal, and district referenda or other public measures

Sample Ballot

Contact the [Marion County Supervisor of Elections](#) for information on other races that may appear specifically on your ballot. Supervisors of Elections will make sample ballots available as follows:

- Each polling place will have at least two sample ballots.
- Sample ballots are regularly available on the [Marion County Supervisor of Elections](#) website.
- The county Supervisor of Elections may publish a sample ballot in a newspaper in the county before the election. Alternatively, a county may email a sample ballot if an email address and email request are on file. If neither is available, then the sample ballot will be mailed to each registered voter or household in which there is a registered voter.

How to register or update a voter registration record?

What are the requirements to register to vote?

To register and vote, you must be:

- At least 18 years of age (you can pre-register on or after your 16th birthday),
- A citizen of the United States of America, and
- A legal resident of Florida and of the county where you intend to vote.

You cannot register or vote if you are:

- Adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting, unless that right has been restored.
- A convicted felon, unless your right to vote has been restored through clemency or by completion of all terms of the sentence, as is applicable.
- Not a U.S. citizen (A legal permanent resident is not a U.S. citizen)

How can I register or update my registration?

Visit RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov to register online. The website:

- Is a secure and convenient online option to register to vote or update a voter registration record.
- Allows you to submit an application online or to use the system to enter your information into a form that you can then print, sign, date and submit to your county Supervisor of Elections
- Electronically confirms while you are online if your information has been verified and if so, also confirms that your county Supervisor of Elections has received your online application and how you may check your voter status thereafter.
- Is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Is ADA compliant and includes accessibility features for persons with disabilities.
- Is available in English and Spanish.

You can also choose to submit a voter registration application as follows:

- Through the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' Online GoRenew.com at the same time as you update information on your driver license or state identification card.
- By hand-delivering or mailing a paper application to any County Supervisor of Elections' office
- At the same time as you visit any office that issue Florida driver licenses or

Florida identification cards

- At the same time as you visit any designated voter registration agency (i.e., any office that provides public assistance or state funded programs for persons with disabilities, any armed recruitment office, any center for independent living, and any public library).

A fillable form, DS-DE 39 ([English PDF](#)/[Español PDF](#)) is also available by download from the Division's webpage on Forms. Forms are also available at any county Supervisor of Elections office, library, or any entity authorized by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to issue fishing, hunting, or trapping permits.

Key things to keep in mind are:

- If your address changes, it is best to update your record as soon as possible to minimize any issues before you vote.
- If you change your name by marriage or other legal process, you need to include your former name if you are registered under your previous name and your new Florida driver license or identification card number change so that the information on record corresponds to your new name. Name changes are allowed at the polls.
- To choose or change your party affiliation, submit an updated voter registration application online or by paper. You cannot change your party at the polling place. To be effective for a primary election, a party selection or change must be made at least 29 days before the election. Visit the Division of Elections' website for a list of currently registered [political parties](#).
- Signatures change over time. If your signature on record does not match your current signature on a ballot certificate (for a Vote-by-Mail Ballot, early voting ballot or provisional ballot), or on a candidate petition or other petition, the ballot or petition may not count. Update your signature regularly so that whenever signature verification occurs, your signature will be up to date. You must use a paper voter registration application to submit a signature update.

When can I register to vote?

You can submit an application to register or update your voter registration record any time. However, to vote in an upcoming election, the deadline to register is the 29th day before the election. A later registration deadline is available under limited circumstances for military and overseas citizens. Please visit the Division of Elections' webpage [Military and Overseas Citizens Voting](#) for more information or contact the [Marion County Supervisor of Elections](#).

Are there ID requirements for registering?

In addition to an applicant's signature, an applicant must provide their Florida identification number or a Florida identification card, or the last 4 digits of the applicant's social security number on their application for new registration or for an update. This information is used to verify identity. If the application is submitted online, additional requirements apply to ensure the identity of the applicant.

Under very specific circumstances, a person who has never been issued any of these personal identifying numbers may provide another form of identification with the application or at the latest prior to voting. Contact your Supervisor of Elections for more information about the acceptable forms of

identification and any exceptions. Contact the [Marion County Supervisor of Elections](#) for more information about the acceptable forms of identification and any exceptions.

When will I get my voter information card?

A voter information card should be sent within 1 week after your application for new registration or update is processed. A voter information card includes important information about your current registration record including your address and party affiliation. The card also includes your assigned precinct, polling place for Election Day, and district offices (local, state, and federal) for which you can vote.

Once you receive a card, make sure the information is correctly recorded. A voter information card will be issued whenever there is a change in your name, address, party, or polling location.

To replace a lost or damaged card, contact the [Marion County Supervisor of Elections](#).

Note: A voter information card is not an identification card. It cannot be used as a form of identification to vote.

Vote-by-Mail

How can I Vote-by-Mail?

A request for a Vote-by-Mail Ballot must first be made. A request can be:

- By signed writing (e.g., mail, fax, or scanned attachment to an email) to your Supervisor of Elections. If the request is online, a signature may be indicated by checking a box affirming the voter's request or accompanied by a digital or electronic signature or attaching a scanned image of an original signature with an email.
- In person at your county Supervisor of Elections' office.
- By phone to your county Supervisor of Elections' office.

At a minimum, all requests for Vote-by-Mail Ballots must include a Florida driver

license, Florida identification card, or last four digits of the voter's social security number, whichever may be verified in the supervisor's records. A request cannot be processed without the personal identifying number.

A voter can designate an immediate family member (the designee's spouse or the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, or sibling of the designee or of the designee's spouse) or the voter's legal guardian to request the ballot on the voter's behalf. The following additional information is required for the request if the request is made on behalf of the voter:

- The requestor's address
- The requestor's driver license number, state identification card, or the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number (if available)
- The requestor's relationship to the voter
- The requestor's signature (if the request is written)

Please visit the Division of Elections' [Vote-by-Mail](#) webpage for all the information that is required to submit a request.

When do I get my requested ballot?

If a request is on file by the time Vote-by-Mail Ballots are mailed for an upcoming election, you will be mailed a ballot during the designated periods for delivery. Please see key election dates on page 8 for when ballots are sent.

All other requests are filled within 2 days of the request. No ballot may be mailed out later than 8 days before an election.

You may pick up a Vote-by-Mail Ballot at any time once they become available. A designee may pick up your ballot on Election Day or up to 9 days before Election Day. A designee is limited to picking up two blank Vote-by-Mail Ballots for other voters other than themselves and members of their immediate family. A designee must have written authorization from you in the form of a completed Affidavit to Pick-up a Vote-by-Mail Ballot for a Voter ([English PDF](#)/[Español PDF](#)), present a picture I.D., and sign a declaration. If you do not have a Vote-by-Mail Ballot request already on file, your written request for a Vote-by-Mail Ballot must accompany the affidavit.

For Election Day pick-up of a Vote-by-Mail Ballot, the voter or designee must execute an Election Day Vote-by-Mail Ballot Delivery Affidavit ([English PDF](#)/[Español PDF](#)). The affidavit affirms that an emergency keeps you (the voter) from being able to vote at his or her assigned polling place.

How do I return my voted ballot?

The county Supervisor of Elections must receive your voted ballot no later than 7 p.m. (local time) on Election Day. You may return the ballot by mail or in person to the Supervisor of Elections or by dropping off at any designated secure ballot

intake station (See [Can I drop off my Vote-by-Mail Ballot at an early voting site](#)). To ensure timely return by mail, the United States Postal Service (USPS) recommends that domestic voters mail back their voted ballots at least one (1) week before Election Day deadline to account for any unforeseen events or weather issues. For absent stateside and overseas military and overseas civilians, the U.S. Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program ([FVAP](#)) recommends earlier return timelines (see timetable at the bottom of FVAP's website). For more information about election mail and the USPS, visit [election-mail](#).

The following only applies to overseas (military and civilian) voters:

- An overseas voter also has the option to return the ballot and signed Voter's Certificate by fax. The ballot and certificate must be faxed directly to the number provided by the Supervisor of Elections or to a fax number provided by FVAP. For further information, please contact your county Supervisor of Elections Office.
- An overseas voter has 10 extra days from Election Day for a Vote-by-Mail Ballot to be received by the county Supervisor of Elections. This 10-day extension only applies in presidential preference primary elections, general elections, and special elections and special primary elections. The overseas voter's ballot must be postmarked or dated by Election Day and received within 10 days of the election in order to be counted, provided the ballot is otherwise proper.
- The Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) is an emergency back-up Vote-by-Mail Ballot that can be used only by absent stateside and overseas military and overseas civilians. If it is getting close to Election Day and you still have not received your Vote-by-Mail Ballot, use the FWAB. The FWAB is available online at [fvap.gov](#) as an online assisted request or a document download. To use a FWAB in Florida, you must first be a registered voter and have already submitted a request for a regular Vote-by-Mail Ballot. The FWAB ballot can be used to vote in any federal, state, or local races. Carefully follow the instructions on the FWAB.
- If you are an overseas voter and a military or other situation will keep you from being able to get the official Vote-by-Mail Ballot during the normal delivery period, you can request a State Write-in Vote-by-Mail Ballot from your Supervisor of Elections. The State Write-in Vote-by-Mail Ballot can only be used for a general election. You must request the ballot from your Supervisor of Elections up to 3 - 6 months before the general election. The State Write-in Vote-by-Mail ballot will contain instructions on how to mark your choices.

Can I drop my voted ballot off at an early voting site?

In addition to returning a ballot by mail or in-person delivery, you can also choose to drop off a completed Vote-by-Mail Ballot at any secure ballot intake station. These stations are located at:

- The main office of the Marion County Supervisor of Elections: 981 NE 16th Street, Ocala.
- Any of Marion County's nine early voting sites.

Please visit the [Marion County Supervisor of Elections](#) website for information about the available sites, days, and hours.

A voted Vote-by-Mail Ballot cannot be dropped off at polling places on Election Day unless you are choosing to vote at the polls. If you wish to vote at the polls, bring the ballot (voted or not) with you and it will be cancelled, and you can still vote a regular ballot.

How can I track the status of my request or ballot?

You can track the status of your Vote-by-Mail Ballot through the [Marion County Supervisor of Elections](#) website. Visit [Marion Ballot Trax](#) for ballot tracking services.

County-by-county webpage links are also available on the Division of Elections' [Vote-by-Mail](#) page.

You can also subscribe for free with the U.S. Postal Service's [Informed Delivery®](#) by USPS. This free service allows you to receive daily notice with a digital preview of all the mail to be delivered. Informed Delivery notifies you what mail will be arriving that day including your Vote-by-Mail Ballot.

How do I cure a missing or mismatched signature on a Vote-by-Mail Ballot?

If you forget to sign your Vote-by-Mail Ballot certificate or your signature on the certificate does not match your signature on file, you have the right to cure this defect. Your county Supervisor of Elections will attempt to contact you with the available contact information in your record or you can contact the office.

Instructions and the Vote-by-Mail Ballot Cure Affidavit ([English PDF/Español PDF](#)) are available on the [Marion County Supervisor of Elections](#) website and the Division of Elections' [Vote-by-Mail](#) webpage. Please use and submit the required identification as listed on the form. The deadline to submit a cure affidavit is 5 PM (local time) on the second day after Election Day.

When does a ballot request expire?

A ballot request, once made, is effective for all elections held through the end of the calendar year of the next regularly scheduled general election. A voter wishing to continue to Vote-by-Mail would have to renew their request for elections thereafter.

Early voting

When and where can I vote early?

Early voting is a period before Election Day in which a voter can vote. Early voting is required in any election that contains a state or federal office race. Early voting is optional in elections not held in conjunction with a state or federal office.

Voters can vote at any designated early voting site within their county of residence when the site is open, regardless of precinct assignment. Voters who want to vote early must present a valid photo and signature identification.

Any voter in line at the time of official closing of early voting will have the opportunity to cast a ballot, just as on Election Day.

Contact the [Marion County Supervisor of Elections](#) or view the Supervisor's website to find out the specific dates, times, and locations for early voting in your county for upcoming elections.

For more information about Early Voting, visit the Division of Elections' webpage on [Early Voting and Secure Ballot Intake Stations](#).

Voting on Election Day

When and where can I vote on Election Day?

On Election Day, polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. (local time). Any voter waiting in line at 7:00 p.m. (local time) will have the opportunity to cast a ballot. You can only vote in the polling place for your address of legal residence.

To find your polling place or changes to your polling location, visit [Marion County Supervisor of Elections](#) website or the Division of Elections' [Voter Information Lookup](#). In the case of an emergency and when time does not permit to provide the notices above, the notice of the new polling place will be posted at the old polling place.

Identification to Vote

What do I need to vote?

You must show a photo and signature identification before you can vote. Any one of the following photo IDs are acceptable:

- Florida driver license,
- Florida identification card issued by the Department of Highway, Safety and Motor Vehicles,
- United States passport,
- Debit or credit card,

- Military identification,
- Student identification,
- Retirement center identification,
- Neighborhood association identification,
- Public assistance identification,
- Veteran health identification card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,
- License to carry a concealed weapon or firearm issued pursuant to section 790.06, Florida Statutes, or
- Employee identification card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the Federal Government, the state, a county, or a municipality.

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

If you do not bring proper I.D., you can still vote a provisional ballot. As long as you are eligible and voted in the proper precinct, your provisional ballot will count, provided the signature on your provisional ballot certificate matches the signature in your registration record.

Provisional Voting

When would I have to vote provisionally?

If your eligibility to vote cannot be determined at the polls, you forgot your identification card or your right to vote is challenged, you are still entitled to vote a provisional ballot. You will be given a written notice of rights that states:

- You have the right to bring further evidence (if you choose) of your eligibility to the county Supervisor of Elections up until 5 PM (local time) of the second day after Election Day.
- If you voted a provisional ballot solely because you did not bring in photo and signature identification, you do not have to bring in further evidence of eligibility, provided your eligibility is established based on prior identifying information having been provided. The local canvassing board will count your ballot if you voted in the right precinct and the signature on the provisional ballot certificate matches the signature on the voter registration record.
- If you voted a provisional ballot because your personal identifying number has not yet been verified by the time you went to vote, you can provide in person or by copy through fax, e-mail, or mail a copy of your Florida driver license/state identification card or your social security card to the county Supervisor of Elections. The deadline to provide evidence is 5 PM (local time) on the second day after Election Day.

- If your signature on the provisional ballot certificate is missing or does not match your signature on record, you have the right to cure the signature issue by submitting an affidavit to your county Supervisor of Elections. Your Supervisor will attempt to contact you with the available contact information in your record. The affidavit, form DS-DE 210 ([English PDF](#)/[Español PDF](#)) is available online on your Supervisor of Elections' website or the Division of Elections' website. You have until 5 PM (local time) on the second day after Election Day to submit the affidavit with a copy of the required identification.
- Information on how you can find out after the election if your provisional ballot was counted, and if not counted, the reason(s) why.
- If this is a primary election, you should contact the Marion County Supervisor of Elections' office immediately to confirm that you are registered, and you will be able to vote in the general election.

Voting equipment

What voting equipment is used in my county?

Each county purchases its own voting system. No voting system can be bought or used in an election unless it has first been tested and certified by the Florida Department of State.

In addition, before every election, all voting equipment must be tested to confirm that it is counting ballots correctly. These testing events (logic and accuracy tests) are publicly noticed in advance and open to the public.

Further, after every election, each county must perform a post-election audit unless there has been a manual recount conducted in that election. See section [101.591](#), Florida Statutes; Rule [1S-5.026](#), Florida Administrative Code. This testing is publicly noticed and open to the public.

All voting must be by paper ballot or by accessible equipment for use by persons with disabilities with a voter-verifiable paper output.

Instructions on how to use the voting system will be available at the polling locations during early voting and on Election Day. Contact the [Marion County Supervisor of Elections](#) for questions about the voting system and how to use it.

A listing of tested and approved voting systems used in the State can be found [here](#).

Voting assistance /accessible voting

Can I get help to vote?

If you need help voting due to blindness, disability, inability to read or write, or language assistance, you have several options:

- You can vote at the polls (early voting or Election Day) by using equipment that meets voter accessibility requirements.
- You can bring someone to assist you at the polls, except not your employer, employer's agent, your union's officer, or union agent. You can also ask for two election workers to assist you at the polling place. You will have to fill out a declaration for assistance unless you previously indicated on your voter registration application that you would need help at the polls. If someone other than election workers assist you, the person helping you will also have to fill out a declaration.
- You can vote by mail from anywhere including your home, assisted living facility, or nursing home. You can have anyone except your employer, employer's agent, your union's officer, or union agent, help you mark your choices on the ballot. However, you must sign the voter certificate yourself.
- You can have supervised voting at an assisted living facility or nursing home, if requested by your facility and made available through your county Supervisor of Elections' office.

If you need assistance in marking your ballot, please let an election worker know. If you make a mistake on a paper ballot, ask for a replacement. You may receive up to two replacements, or a total of three ballots.

Please contact the [Marion County Supervisor of Elections](#) for other options for accessible voting.

Public records

Is voter registration information public?

Florida has broad public records laws. Most of your voter registration information is available to the public including your voting history. However, the following information is exempt from public disclosure:

- Social Security number
- Driver license number
- Florida identification card number
- Location of voter's place of registration or voter registration update
- The voter registration record of pre-registered voters
- A voter's signature may be viewed but cannot be copied.

Your voter registration information can be protected from public disclosure in the following ways:

1. If you are a victim of domestic violence and stalking, you can become a participant in the Attorney General's Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) for such victims. If you are not already a participant, contact the Attorney General Office's Bureau of Advocacy and Grants Management

at 850.414.3300. Once you are a participant, you will have to register in person by visiting your county Supervisor of Elections' office and bring your ACP paperwork with you. This will allow your records to be handled in special way to protect your information from public disclosure. Do not register online or through the tax collector's office.

2. If your profession is considered, by law, to be high risk such as a judge, prosecutor, firefighter, human resource officer, etc., you can ask that your information be protected once you are registered to vote. You must first submit a written request to your county Supervisor of Elections or the Florida Division of Elections. You may use the [Public Records Exemption Request form](#). This will protect address and other identifying information from future public disclosure. Public information can find its way onto the Internet or websites by individuals or entities that obtain public records from a variety of sources including government records. We do not have control or the ability to take action with respect to that information.

Election Worker

How can I serve as an election worker?

If you are interested in serving as an election worker, contact the [Marion County Supervisor of Elections](#). You must be a registered or pre-registered voter in the county in which you want to serve. You will receive training necessary to perform your duty as an election worker before every election.

Elections Fraud

How do I report fraud?

You may report voter fraud or other violations in the following ways:

- For a violation of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, the Help America Vote Act of 2002, or an irregularity or fraud involving voter registration, voting, petitions, or removal procedures, submit a written complaint to the Florida Division of Elections, Room 316, R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050, 850-245-6200. Visit the Division of Elections' webpage for [complaint forms](#).
- Voter Fraud Hotline Number: 1.877.868.3737
- Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 a.m. (EST)
- [Florida Relay Service](#) (TDD or voice) is available to persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or speech disabled. Dial 7-1-1.
- For a violation involving campaign financing, candidates, committees, or other political activities and other activities prohibited under chapters [104](#) and [106](#), and section [105.071](#), Florida Statutes, submit a sworn written

complaint to the Florida Elections Commission, Suite 224, Collins Building, 107 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050, 850-922-4539. Note: The Florida Elections Commission is an independent entity from the Department of State, Division of Elections.

- All other potential violations should be reported to Office of Elections Crimes and Security at the Florida Department of State and/or the local state attorney.

Voter assistance

What is the contact information for voter assistance with registration or voting?

Voter Assistance Hotline Phone Number 1.866.308.6739

- Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (EST) with extended hours during statewide elections.
- [Florida Relay Service](#) (TDD or voice) is available to persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or speech disabled. Dial 7-1-1.

Email:

- BVRShelp@dos.myflorida.com (voting and voter registration inquiries)
- OVRhelp@dos.myflorida.com (online registration)
- DivElections@dos.myflorida.com (all other inquiries)

Counties also have their own voter assistance hotline. For questions directly related to the election process in your county, contact the [Marion County Supervisor of Elections](#).



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