



# 10 THINGS ALL FLORIDA VOTERS SHOULD KNOW FOR THE 2016 ELECTION

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## REGISTERING TO VOTE

### How to Register to Vote

With few exceptions, U.S. citizens over 18 who are Florida residents and do not have a felony conviction are eligible to vote in Florida. Florida voter registration forms are available (in English and Spanish) at <http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/voter-registration/>

### Voter Registration Application Deadlines

The last day to register for the state Primary Election is **August 1, 2016**.

The last day to register for the General Election is **October 11, 2016**.

**All voter registration applications must be received by your County Supervisor of Elections by these dates.**

### Updating Your Voter Registration

If you have already registered to vote in Florida, but need to change your name, address or party affiliation, update your signature, or request a replacement voter information card, you can do so by giving signed, written notice your County Supervisor of Elections or calling your County Supervisor of Elections' office. Supervisor of Elections contact information can be found at <http://dos.elections.myflorida.com/supervisors/>

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## WHEN TO VOTE

The General Election will be held on **November 8, 2016**. The polls are open on Election Day from **7 AM to 7 PM**. Any voters waiting in line at 7 PM have a right to cast a ballot.

Early voting takes place between **October 29 and November 5, 2016**. County Supervisors of Elections must designate early voting sites no later than 30 days before an election. Each County Supervisor of Elections may offer additional days of early voting at their discretion. Be sure to contact your County Supervisor of Elections' office or check your Supervisor of Elections' website for up-to-date information about early voting days, hours, and locations.

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## WHERE TO VOTE

### Early Voting Site vs. Election Day Voting Site

Remember, your Election Day voting site may not be the same as your early voting site. Be sure to check your voter information card for your Election Day voting location and address. If you did not receive a voter information card, or if you have questions, contact your County Supervisor of Elections' office.

You can also check your polling place online at <http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/check-your-voter-status-and-polling-place/> If you mistakenly go to the wrong precinct, a poll worker must identify your correct precinct and direct you to that precinct.

### **If You Recently Moved, You Must Vote In Your New Precinct**

If you recently moved, you must vote in the precinct that serves your new address. Any ballots cast in the wrong precinct may not be counted. Visit the link above to locate your correct polling place. If your county uses an Electronic Poll Register, you can update your address and vote a regular ballot at your current polling place on Election Day.

If your county does not use an Electronic Poll Register, you can step outside the polling place, call the County Supervisor of Elections' office, and initiate an address change. After the address change is complete, you should re-enter the polling place and continue the voter verification process. Be sure to vote a regular ballot.

### **If You Are Unable To Vote In-Person, You May Vote-By-Mail**

Any registered voter may request a vote-by-mail (i.e. absentee) ballot from his or her County Supervisor of Elections' office. The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot for the General Election is **November 2, 2016**. In you are within the U.S., your completed a vote-by-mail ballot must be received by your County Supervisor of Elections by the date of the election. If you are outside the U.S., your completed a vote-by-mail ballot must be postmarked by the date of the election.

Be sure to sign your completed vote-by-mail ballot. Unsigned ballots will not be counted. If you forget to sign your completed vote-by-mail ballot, you may "cure" the unsigned ballot no later than 5 PM the day before the election.

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## **FLORIDA IS A CLOSED PRIMARY STATE**

Florida is a closed primary state. Only voters who are a registered member of a political party can vote in a primary election, with few exceptions. In contrast, during the general election, all registered voters receive the same ballot and may vote for any candidate or question on the ballot.

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## **MANY FORMS OF PHOTO IDENTIFICATION ARE ACCEPTABLE**

To vote, you must show a valid photo identification containing a picture and signature. Acceptable forms of identification include: (1) Florida driver's license; (2) Florida ID card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; (3) U.S. passport; (4) debit or credit card; (5) military ID; (6) student ID; (7) retirement center ID; (8) neighborhood association ID; (9) public assistance ID; (10) veteran health ID card issued by the U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs; (11) a concealed weapon or firearm license; or (12) employee ID issued by the federal, state, county, or a municipality.

If your photo identification does not include a signature, you must produce additional identification from the list above that bears your signature. If the signature on your photo identification does not match the signature on the voting precinct register, a poll worker will instruct you to complete an affidavit affirming your identity and qualification to vote in the county. Once you complete the affidavit, the poll worker should give you a regular ballot.

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### **IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE VOTING, YOU HAVE RIGHTS**

#### **You Have The Right To An Assistor Of Your Choice**

You have the right to assistance in voting due to blindness, disability, limited-English proficiency, or inability to read or write. You may ask poll workers for assistance. You also have the right to an assistor of your choice. However, your assistor may not be your employer or a union representative.

#### **You Have The Right To Voting Materials In A Language Other Than English**

Several counties in Florida are required by the Voting Rights Act to provide notices, forms, instructions, and all other materials relating to voting, including ballots, in Spanish and/or Creole. In addition, the Voting Rights Act specifically states that the rights of Puerto Rican voters cannot be abridged on the ground that they cannot read or understand a ballot written in English. If your county does not have bilingual materials, ask for language assistance.

#### **You Have The Right To A Polling Place That Is Accessible to Persons With Disabilities**

Under the Help America Vote Act, each polling place is required to have at least one voting machine that is accessible to voters with disabilities, including voters with visual disabilities. Each polling place is also required to have: (1) accessible parking spaces; (2) adequate signs indicating accessible paths of travel to the polling place; (3) level, stable, and slip-resistant surfaces; (4) an unobstructed path to the polling place and an unobstructed area for voting; and (5) sufficient lighting along the accessible path of travel and inside the polling place.

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### **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO UP TO TWO REPLACEMENT BALLOTS IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE IN COMPLETING YOUR BALLOT**

If you make a mistake on your ballot, you may receive up to two replacement ballots. This means you have up to three chances to complete your ballot correctly.

**PROBLEMS AT THE POLLS? CALL THE ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINE:**

**1-866-OUR-VOTE**

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## **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE EVEN IF YOUR NAME IS NOT FOUND ON THE VOTER ROLL**

If your name is not found on the precinct register, make sure the poll worker has carefully and thoroughly checked to verify the spelling of your name. If, after a thorough check of the precinct register, your name is still not located, the poll worker should direct you to the “help desk” at the precinct or call the Supervisor of Elections office to locate your name on the precinct register. Even if your name is not found on the precinct register, you still have a right to vote a provisional ballot.

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## **USE A PROVISIONAL BALLOT AS A LAST RESORT**

Voting by regular ballot is preferred. If your name is not found on the precinct register, and if a poll worker concludes that you cannot vote by regular ballot, then you should accept a provisional ballot. You have the right to present written evidence of your eligibility to vote to your County Supervisor of Elections’ office **no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday after the election.**

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## **IF YOU ARE “CHALLENGED” BY A POLL WATCHER YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE BY REGULAR BALLOT**

If your eligibility to vote is “challenged” by a poll watcher on the basis that your residence is not in the precinct, you have the right to execute a change of address and, if you are in the correct precinct, vote by regular ballot. If you are in the wrong precinct, a poll worker must identify your correct precinct and direct you to that precinct. If the challenge is based on your signature, you have a right to execute a signature affidavit, and then vote a regular ballot.

**It is illegal for a poll watcher to “challenge” you on the basis of your race.**

All challenges must be brought to your attention via poll workers and not poll watchers. Poll watchers must not interfere with the voting process. Election officials, including poll workers, are required to maintain control of the voting process and the operation of the polling place.

