

# TOP 10 THINGS FLORIDA VOTERS SHOULD KNOW 2019-2020



ADVANCEMENT  
PROJECT

*...just democracy!*



**VOTE**



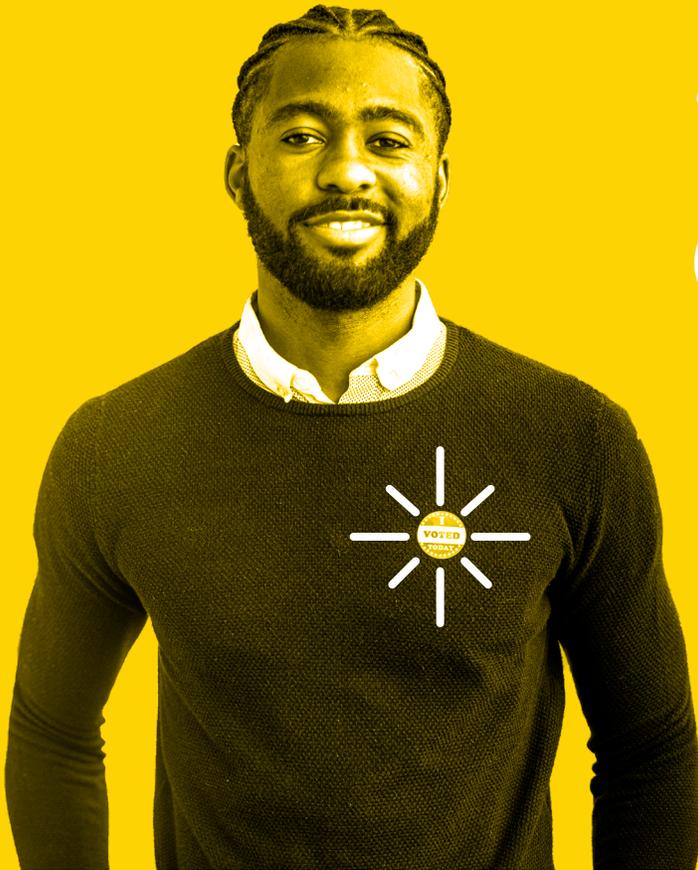
# VOTER REGISTRATION

# 1

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 29 DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION

The voter registration, or “book closing,” deadline is the 29th day before each election. The registration deadlines are:

- **February 19, 2020** - for the March 17, 2020 Presidential Primary
- **July 20, 2020** - for the Aug. 18, 2020 Presidential Primary
- **October 5, 2020** - for the Nov. 3, 2020 General Election



# 2

## ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE & RESTORATION OF RIGHTS

You can register to vote if you’re 18 years old (by Election Day), a U.S. citizen, and resident of the county where you want to register. You can pre-register at age 16. There are two main exceptions:

(1) You’ve been adjudicated mentally incompetent with respect to voting in any state; or (2) You were convicted of a felony and have not completed the terms of your sentence yet.

Returning Citizens can have their voting rights restored once they complete parole/probation and pay any restitution, costs or fees included in their sentencing document. Floridians convicted of a felony sexual offense or murder are ineligible to have their voting rights restored. Note: Floridians convicted in Miami-Dade County should visit the State Attorney Office’s website for guidance as fees and costs are not listed within sentencing documents. <http://ow.ly/VLFF50wU3x0>.

# 3

## ONLINE REGISTRATION

You can register to vote or update your registration online at: [RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov](http://RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov). You will need a Florida driver’s license or ID card issued by the Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles.



# THE VOTING PROCESS

# 4

## VOTE BY MAIL

Registered voters may request an absentee ballot (also known as vote-by-mail ballot) from their county Supervisor of Elections' office. If requesting by mail, voters must request a ballot by 5pm, 10 days before an election. Note – Supervisor of Elections offices must receive your ballot by 7pm on Election Day for it to count! Exceptions exist for overseas military and civilian voters.

If you did not send in your vote-by-mail ballot, you can bring the ballot to your poll location and surrender it, and the poll worker must give you a regular ballot. Even if you do not have your vote-by-mail ballot, if a poll worker determines that the Supervisor of Elections' office did not receive your vote-by-mail ballot, the poll worker must give you a regular ballot. Further information is available on the Department of State website, <http://ow.ly/CXKh50wU3lx>



# 5

## EARLY VOTING

Early voting hours and locations vary by county, but the early voting period is **March 7-14** for the March 17, 2020 Presidential Primary; **August 8-15** for the August 18, 2020 Primary; and **October 24-31** for the November 3, 2020 General Election.

Your early voting site may not be the same as your Election Day voting site. Contact your county Supervisor of Elections' office for early voting locations and hours.

# 6

## WHEN & WHERE TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

Polls are open on Election Day from 7am - 7pm. If you are in line by 7pm, they must let you cast a ballot.

You must vote in the precinct where you live. Be sure to check your voter information card for your Election Day voting location and address. You can also check your polling place online on the state website, <http://ow.ly/K2TM50wU3qk>. If you mistakenly go to the wrong precinct, a poll worker must identify your correct precinct and give you directions.

If you recently moved, you must vote in the precinct for your new address. 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 current 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 you are given a regular ballot.



## 7 ID NEEDED TO VOTE

To vote, you must show a valid photo ID containing a picture and signature. There are many acceptable forms of ID, including: (1) Florida driver's license; (2) Florida ID card issued by the Dept. 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 government.

If your ID does not include a signature, you must show additional ID from the list above that has your signature.

If your ID signature does not match the signature on the voting register, a worker will have you complete an affidavit affirming your identity and qualification to vote. After completing the affidavit, they should give you a regular ballot.



## 8 LANGUAGE ACCESS & THE RIGHT TO ASSISTANCE TO VOTE

You can have assistance in voting if you need help reading or casting a ballot due to limited English proficiency, disability, or inability to read or write. You may ask poll workers for help or you may bring an assistor. An assistor doesn't need to be 18, a registered voter, or a US citizen, but an assistor can't be an employer or a union representative.

Under federal law, polling places must have at least one voting machine accessible to voters with disabilities, including those with visual disabilities. Polling places must also have: (1) accessible parking spaces; (2) signs indicating accessible paths to the polling place; (3) level, stable, and slip-resistant surfaces; (4) an unobstructed path to the polling place; (5) an unobstructed area for voting; and (6) sufficient lighting along the travel path and inside the polling place.



## 9 YOU CAN STILL VOTE

even if your name is not found on the voter polls. 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 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 find your name on the register. Even if your name is not found on the precinct register, you still have a right to vote a provisional ballot.

Voting a provisional ballot is a last resort. Voting by regular ballot is always preferred. If your name is not found on the register, and a worker decides that you cannot vote by regular ballot, then you should accept a provisional ballot. You can present written evidence of your eligibility to vote to your County Supervisor of Elections' office no later than 5pm on the Thursday after the election.

## 10 IF YOU ARE "CHALLENGED"

by a poll watcher based on your residence, signature, or race, you have the right to vote by regular ballot. If a poll watcher "challenges" your eligibility to vote on the basis that your residence is not in the precinct, you can execute a change of address, and, if you are in the correct precinct, vote by regular ballot. If the challenge is based on your signature, you can execute a signature affidavit, and vote a regular ballot. **It is illegal for someone to "challenge" you on the basis of race.**

All challenges must be raised by poll workers and not poll watchers. Poll watchers must not interfere with the voting process. Election officials, including poll workers, must maintain control of the voting process and the polling place.

