

Disclaimer: This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

Note: This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter’s contact information should follow-up be necessary.

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1. Am I registered to vote?

A voter can determine whether they are registered to vote by checking the Florida Division of Elections’ website (<http://registration.elections.myflorida.com/CheckVoterStatus>). You should **not** look up a voter’s registration status on their behalf using this website due to the access restrictions the state puts on the lookup service. However, some counties (such as Miami-Dade) have independent registration lookup websites (<http://dos.elections.myflorida.com/supervisors/>), which you may be able to use on the voter’s behalf. <http://registration.elections.myflorida.com/CheckVoterStatus>).

2. Where do I vote?

A voter can determine their proper polling place by checking the Florida Division of Elections' website (<http://registration.elections.myflorida.com/CheckVoterStatus>).

3. When do the polls open/close?

The polls must be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.¹ Elections will be held on August 28, 2018 for the primary election and November 6, 2018 for the general election.² If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place is not open at 7:00 a.m., advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center. A voter in line at the polling place by 7:00 p.m. must be allowed to vote.³ If you are a hotline volunteer or a field volunteer and a polling place prohibits those who were in line before or at 7:00 p.m. from voting, advise voters to stay at the polling location and contact your hotline captain/command center.

4. When is/was the voter registration deadline?

The voter registration deadline is July 30, 2018 for the primary election and October 9, 2018 for the general.⁴ The registration deadline is 29 days before Election Day.⁵

Due to Hurricane Michael, however, the general election registration deadline has been extended in certain highly limited circumstances. Any Supervisor of Elections whose office was closed on October 9, 2018 as a result of Hurricane Michael, is authorized to accept paper voter registration applications on the next day after the office reopens.⁶

5. Can I vote without providing identification?

Yes, if the voter does not have a current and valid picture identification, but claims to be properly registered in the state and eligible to vote at the polling place, they can vote a provisional ballot.⁷ The provisional ballot will be counted if the voter was eligible and registered to vote at the precinct they voted at and the voter's signature matches the information on their registration record.⁸

But to vote a regular ballot, Florida voters are required to present one of the following current and valid **picture** identifications:

- Florida driver license;
- Florida state identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles;
- US 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 US Dept. of Veterans Affairs;

- License to carry a concealed weapon or firearm issued pursuant to s. 790.06; or
- Employee identification card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the federal government, the state, a county, or a municipality.⁹

Please note that if the current and valid picture identification does not contain the voter’s signature, the voter must present an additional form of identification with signature.¹⁰ The address on the voter’s identification does not need to match the voter’s registration address. If the address on the ID does not match the address in the records, the voter may be asked to provide additional information, but the differing address may not be used as the sole basis to confirm or challenge a voter’s legal residence address.¹¹

6. I have moved and I didn’t update my voter registration, can I vote?

The answer to this question depends on where the voter moved. Refer to the table below.

Moved within the same precinct	Moved to a different precinct but within the same county	Moved to a different county
The voter may cast a regular ballot at the appropriate polling place for that SAME precinct after updating their address. ¹²	The voter may cast a regular ballot at their NEW polling place after completing an address change verification. This may be done at the NEW polling place. ¹³	If the voter’s NEW county uses an electronic poll book, or if the voter is an active uniformed services voter (or member of the service member’s family), the voter may cast a regular ballot at their NEW polling place after completing an address change verification at the NEW polling place. In all other circumstances, the voter must vote a provisional ballot at the correct precinct in their NEW county. ¹⁴ A voter should not be directed to the polling place for their previous residence address.

If the voter legally changed their name, they can complete a change-of-name affirmation or a voter registration application, and if their registration can be verified, they will be entitled to vote a regular ballot.¹⁵

7. What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

If voting equipment is not functioning, immediately contact your hotline captain or command center who should flag equipment problems for precinct captains and notify the command center.

8. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at my precinct. Can I vote where I am?

If a voter is not found on the rolls of the polling place where the voter is attempting to vote, the precinct should call the supervisor of elections, who has access to the statewide database, to make sure the voter is registered and is in the correct precinct.

If the voter is registered and in the correct precinct, they will be able to vote a regular ballot. If the voter is in the wrong precinct, the poll worker should give the voter adequate information in

order to direct the person to the proper voting place. However, you should also provide this information to the voter.

If the poll worker says the voter is not eligible to vote at a particular precinct, but that voter believes they are eligible, that voter can cast a provisional ballot.¹⁶ However, if it is later determined that the voter was not eligible to vote and/or the voter was at the wrong precinct, the provisional ballot will not be counted.¹⁷ *It is critical that the voter cast a ballot at the precinct associated with their current address.*

9. My name isn't popping up on the list of registered voters – could it have been removed?

A voter's name can only be removed from the list of registered voters by:

- their written request;
- a felony conviction;
- adjudication as mentally incompetent with respect to voting;
- death; or
- in connection with a voter registration list maintenance program.¹⁸

Any voter whose name was removed due to one of the above ways and who subsequently becomes eligible to vote must re-register in order to have their name restored to the statewide voter registration system. If a voter's name has been removed from the rolls and the voter registration deadline has passed, offer to call the county Supervisor of Elections (SOE) with the voter in an attempt to resolve the situation if time allows. Otherwise, provide the SOE's phone number to the voter.

Note that you can take steps to help to determine why a voter's name is not popping up on the list of registered voters:

- Instruct **the voter** to check the voter's registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure they are registered to vote and at the right place. (See [Question #1.](#))
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Instruct **the voter** to check that address in the registration lookup tool. (See [Question #1](#) and [Question #6.](#))
- Has the voter changed their name recently, or could they be registered under a different name? Instruct **the voter** to check that name (and any variations of the voter's name, especially for hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool. (See [Question #1.](#))
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?

If the situation cannot be resolved, the voter may cast a provisional ballot.

10. I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

A person who has been convicted of a felony cannot register or vote in Florida unless they have had the right to vote restored.¹⁹ The caller or you may check to see if their civil rights have been restored on the website of the Office of Executive Clemency (<https://fpcweb.fcor.state.fl.us/>).

However, please note that petitions are currently being processed at a very slow rate and since 2010 have required an in-person hearing by the Clemency Board.

11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Inquire why the voter was offered a provisional ballot. A voter should be offered a provisional ballot only when:

- The voter's name doesn't appear on the voter rolls, and their eligibility to vote cannot otherwise be established;
- The voter's eligibility has been challenged by a poll watcher or other voter;
- The voter does not have the required identification with them at the poll; or
- Other similar situations in which the voter believes they are eligible to cast a ballot.²⁰

Other than for these reasons, the voter should be able to cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort.

However, if the voter needs to cast a provisional ballot, the voter should receive written instructions regarding the voter's right to provide written evidence of eligibility and regarding how to check the status of the voter's ballot on a free access system.²¹ A person casting a provisional ballot has the right to present written evidence supporting their eligibility to vote to the Supervisor of Elections by not later than 5 p.m. on the second day following the election.²² For the 2018 primary election, that is August 30, 2018, and for the 2018 general election, that is November 8, 2018.²³

12. I am a college student. Can I vote where I go to school?

Yes, college students who meet the registration requirements may register to vote.²⁴ It is generally sufficient to establish residency by moving to a school in Florida with the present intent to make the school's address your principal home.²⁵

13. I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

Yes. Each polling place must be accessible and usable to persons who are disabled. Additionally, voters with disabilities should be provided with whatever assistance is necessary to allow them to cast their ballot at their polling place.²⁶

14. I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Yes. A voter who requires assistance to vote because of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write in English, may request assistance in marking their choices on the ballot from two election officials or some other person of the elector's choice, other than the elector's employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the elector's union.²⁷

A voter who requires any form of assistance should indicate their need for assistance on their voter registration form. The voter will then be offered two poll workers to assist them in voting. A voter who has not previously indicated the need for help, can fill out a form at the polling site on Election Day. If the voter brings someone to the polling place to help them vote, the assisting

individual will also have to fill out part of the form. The voter requesting assistance, and a person providing assistance who is not an election official, will be administered oaths by the election officials.²⁸

A voter with disabilities also has the option of voting on a touch screen or other accessible ballot marking device which will allow the voter to vote without assistance.²⁹

15. I don't know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Voting information and instructions should be posted at each voting precinct.³⁰ Voters may also request further instruction for the proper use of the voting equipment from two election officers. These officers may not seek to influence or intimidate the voter in any manner, and they must leave after providing the voter with instructions in order to maintain the voter's privacy in casting their ballot.³¹

16. Can I vote by mail or vote in person before Election Day?

There are three types of voting in Florida:

- **Early Voting:** Registered voters may go in person to an early voting site and vote ahead of Election Day.³² Early voting at a minimum runs from August 18-August 25 for the 2018 primary election, and October 27-November 3 for the 2018 general election.³³ Voting must be provided for no less than 8 hours and no more than 12 hours per day at each site.³⁴ County supervisors of election may add additional days of early voting at their discretion: August 13-17 and/or August 26 for the 2018 primary election, and October 22-26 and/or November 4 for the 2018 general election.³⁵ In addition, pursuant to Executive Order No. 18-283, Supervisors of Elections in certain counties affected by Hurricane Michael have been authorized to conduct early voting starting on the 15th day before the general election (October 22, 2018) and extending to the day of the general election.³⁶ Check the voter's [Supervisor of Elections website](#) for the early voting locations and hours in their county—note that these may change for each election.
- **Vote-by-Mail (formerly called absentee voting in Florida):** Any registered voter (or immediate family member/legal guardian, if directly instructed by the voter) may request a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed to the voter.³⁷ **Requests for a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed to the voter must be received by the Supervisor of Elections no later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixth day (Wednesday) before the election.** The Supervisor of Elections must mail the requested ballots no later than the fourth day (Friday) before the election.³⁸ Vote-by-mail ballots should be completed and returned as soon as possible, as **all vote-by-mail ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections by 7:00 p.m. on election day** (with the exception of vote-by-mail ballots cast by overseas voters).³⁹ A voter may request to receive mail ballots for all elections through the end of the calendar year of the next ensuing general election, or just for a single, specified election.⁴⁰ Requests may be made in person, in writing, or by telephone (you can look up the voter's Supervisor of Elections' [phone number](#)). If a family member or guardian requests a mail ballot for the voter at the voter's instruction, they will be asked to provide the voter's name, address, date of birth, driver license number if applicable, and their relationship to the elector.⁴¹ Generally, if a domestic voter requests a ballot to an address other than the address on their voter registration, they can do so only in writing, with their signature.⁴² However, in counties covered by Executive Order No. 18-283, Supervisors of Elections

have been authorized to accept such requests telephonically.⁴³ Rather than receiving the Vote-By-Mail ballot by mail, a voter can also pick up their Vote-By-Mail ballot in-person from the Supervisor of Elections until 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.⁴⁴ The voter can designate in writing someone to pick a vote by mail ballot for them on election day or up to 5 days prior, the designee will need to show photo identification.⁴⁵ However, for a voter or their immediate family member or designee to pick up a vote by mail ballot on Election Day, they need to sign a form explaining the voter has an emergency preventing them from going to the polling place. This is called an Election Day Vote-By-Mail Ballot Delivery Affidavit.⁴⁶ (In counties covered by Executive Order No. 18-283, however, Supervisors of Elections have been authorized to deliver vote-by-mail ballots to immediate family members without requiring execution of this affidavit.)⁴⁷ For more information, see the Secretary of State's Vote by Mail webpage,

<http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/voting/vote-by-mail/>

- **Military or Overseas Vote-By-Mail Voting:** Absent uniformed service members (and their eligible dependents) and U.S. citizens living outside the U.S. may request a Vote-By-Mail ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act. Voters can get step-by-step assistance and forms at <http://www.fvap.gov/>. Military and Overseas voters can both register to vote and request a ballot using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) at <https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fpca2013.pdf>. Military and overseas voters may request a ballot by telephone, mail, email, or fax, and may choose to receive the blank ballot by mail, email, or fax.⁴⁸ Voted ballots must be returned by mail, or by fax – *fax return is only for voters who are outside of the US, not stateside.*⁴⁹ See more information at <https://www.fvap.gov/guide/chapter2/florida>. **Vote-by-mail ballots cast by uniformed and overseas voters during a general election must be postmarked or dated no later than election day and received by the Supervisor of Elections no later than ten (10) days after election day.**⁵⁰ A military or Vote-by-Mail voter who makes a timely ballot request but does not receive a ballot may use the emergency federal write in absentee ballot for any state, federal, or local election.⁵¹ This is available online at <https://www.fvap.gov/fwab-privacy-notice> or as a pdf at <https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fwab.pdf>. A military or overseas voter who submits an emergency write in ballot but later receives their official ballot in the mail may complete the official ballot and should make “every reasonable effort” to inform the supervisor of elections that they are submitting a second ballot. If the official ballot is received on time, the write-in ballot will be invalidated and the official ballot will be counted.⁵² Military and overseas voters may check the status of their ballot at <https://registration.elections.myflorida.com/CheckVoterStatus> or with their county's Supervisor of Elections.

17. What if I requested a Vote-By-Mail ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day?

A voter who has received a Vote-By-Mail ballot, but has not returned the voted ballot to the Supervisor of Elections, may vote in person during Early Voting and on Election Day. To do so, the voter must bring the vote-by-mail ballot to the polling place or early voting site where it will then be cancelled, whether it is blank or voted. The voter will then be able to vote a regular ballot at the polling place.⁵³ If the voter never received, lost or did not bring their ballot to the polling place, and it can be determined that the Supervisor of Elections did not receive their voted ballot, they will be allowed to vote a regular ballot. If it cannot be determined whether the Supervisor has received the voter's vote-by-mail ballot, or if it is confirmed that the Supervisor received the

voter's vote-by-mail ballot but the voter maintains that he or she has not returned the vote-by-mail ballot, the voter may vote a provisional ballot.⁵⁴

18. Does my state have same-day registration? If so, what is the process?

No. Florida does not allow same-day registration.

**19. What rules apply to people campaigning or "hanging around" my polling place?
Can people approach me?**

The people authorized to enter polling places in Florida include: poll workers, the supervisor of elections or their deputy, people coming to vote, people in the care of the voter or people assisting the voter, approved poll watchers, approved observers, law enforcement (only with the permission of the clerk or election board), and people participating in a simulated election for minors approved by the Supervisor of Elections.⁵⁵ No person, political committee, or other group may solicit voters within the polling place or within 100 feet of the polling place – including early voting sites and Supervisor of Elections offices where voting is happening. Soliciting includes asking for votes, contributions, or other information, distributing campaign material, asking for petition signatures, or selling an item. No photography is permitted in the polling room. It is the responsibility of election workers to enforce this, as well as the poll deputy stationed at the polling place.⁵⁶

Additionally, political parties, candidates, and ballot initiative groups may appoint poll watchers to enter the polls, one per polling site. Poll watchers are not permitted to interact with voters, and must instead direct their questions to poll clerks. The watchers must wear identification badges provided by the supervisor of elections while in the polling area.⁵⁷

20. Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?

Any registered elector or poll worker may challenge the eligibility of any person to vote in that county. The challenge must be offered in writing and the challenger must sign an oath. The clerk or inspector must immediately deliver a copy of the challenge to the person being challenged, and that person will be able to cast a provisional ballot, which will be counted in accordance with the provisional ballot statute. If the challenge is that the person's legal residence is not in that precinct, the voter can execute a change of residence form, and if, as a result of the change of address, the voter is properly registered in that precinct, they will be allowed to cast a regular ballot. If the change of residence places them in another precinct, they will be directed to that precinct. If the voter insists they are in the right precinct, they are offered a provisional ballot. A challenge may also be offered to the Supervisor of Elections up to 30 days before the election, in which case, the voter will similarly vote a provisional ballot. It is a misdemeanor offense to file a frivolous challenge to a person's right to vote.⁵⁸

A person casting a provisional ballot has the right to provide additional information supporting their eligibility to vote to the supervisor of elections by 5pm on the second day after the election.⁵⁹ In determining if the provisional ballot will be counted, the canvassing board will take into consideration the information on the voter's certificate and affirmation (submitted with the provisional ballot)– to determine if they were entitled to vote in that precinct and hadn't already voted. The board will also consider any information presented by the voter, the written evidence in the challenge, and any information presented by the Supervisor of Elections. The ballot will be counted unless the board determines by a preponderance of evidence that the voter

was ineligible.⁶⁰ The signature on the certificate and affirmation must match the signature on the voter's registration.⁶¹ A voter casting a provisional ballot will be given information about a free access system that shows (no later than 30 days after the election) if the provisional ballot was counted, and if not why.⁶²

¹ Fla. Stat. § 100.011(1) (2018).

² Florida Division of Elections, Election Dates for 2018 Primary and General Elections, <http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/election-dates/> (last visited June 20, 2018).

³ Fla. Stat. § 100.011(1).

⁴ Florida Division of Elections, *supra* note 2.

⁵ Fla. Stat. § 97.055.

⁶ Memorandum from Ken Detzner, Florida Secretary of State, to Supervisors of Elections (Oct. 8, 2018), available at <https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Directive-2018-03.pdf>.

⁷ Fla. Stat. § 101.043(2).

⁸ Fla. Stat. § 101.048(2)(a) - (b)(1) (2008); Florida Division of Elections, Election Day Voting, <http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/voting/election-day-voting/> (last visited June 20, 2018).

⁹ Fla. Stat. § 101.043(1)(a).

¹⁰ Fla. Stat. § 101.043(1)(b).

¹¹ Fla. Stat. § 101.043(1)(b),(c).

¹² Fla. Stat. § 101.045.

¹³ Fla. Stat. § 101.045(2)(a).

¹⁴ Fla. Stat. § 101.045(2)(b).

¹⁵ Fla. Stat. 101.045(c)-(e).

¹⁶ Fla. Stat. § 101.048(1).

¹⁷ Fla. Stat. § 101.048(2).

¹⁸ Fla. Stat. §§ 98.045(2)(1), 98.065, 98.075.

¹⁹ Fla. Stat. § 97.041(2)(b).

²⁰ Fla. Stat. § 101.048(1).

²¹ Fla. Stat. § 101.048(4)-(5).

²² Fla. Stat. § 101.048(1).

²³ See <http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/election-dates/>.

²⁴ Fla. Stat. § 97.041; see <http://campusvoteproject.org/florida/> from Fair Elections Center.

²⁵ Brennan Center, Student Voting Guide, Florida (<https://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/student-voting-guide-florida>).

²⁶ Fla. Stat. § 101.715.

²⁷ Fla. Stat. § 101.051(1).

²⁸ Fla. Stat. 101.051(4)-(5).

²⁹ Fla. Stat. § 101.56062.

³⁰ Fla. Stat. § 101.031(1).

³¹ Fla. Stat. § 101.031(4).

³² Fla. Stat. § 101.657.

³³ Florida Division of Elections, *supra* note 2.

³⁴ Fla. Stat. § 101.657(1)(d).

³⁵ Florida Division of Elections, *supra* note 2.

³⁶ The Executive Order applies to Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Jackson, Liberty, and Washington counties. See Office of the Governor, Executive Order No. 18-283 (Oct. 18, 2018).

³⁷ Fla. Stat. § 101.62(1)(a).

³⁸ Fla. Stat. § 101.62(2).

³⁹ Fla. Stat. § 101.65(1).

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- ⁴⁰ Fla. Stat. § 101.62(1)(a).
⁴¹ Fla. Stat. § 101.62(1)(b).
⁴² Fla. Stat. § 101.62(1)(b).
⁴³ Executive Order No. 18-283, *supra* note 36.
⁴⁴ Fla. Stat. § 101.62(4)(c)(3).
⁴⁵ Fla. Stat. 101.62(4)(c)(4).
⁴⁶ Fla. Stat. § 101.62(4)(c)(5).
⁴⁷ Executive Order No. 18-283, *supra* note 36.
⁴⁸ Fla. Stat. § 101.62(4)(c)(2).
⁴⁹ Fla. Admin. Code 1S-2.030(4)(a)-(c).
⁵⁰ Fla. Stat. § 101.6952(5).
⁵¹ Fla. Stat. § 101.6952(2)(a).
⁵² Fla. Stat. § 101.6952(3)(a)-(b).
⁵³ Fla. Stat. § 101.69.
⁵⁴ Fla. Stat. § 101.69(2)-(3).
⁵⁵ Fla. Stat. § 102.031(3)(a).
⁵⁶ Fla. Stat. § 102.031.
⁵⁷ Fla. Stat. § 101.131.
⁵⁸ Fla. Stat. § 101.111.
⁵⁹ Fla. Stat. § 101.048(1).
⁶⁰ Fla. Stat. § 101.048(2)(a).
⁶¹ Fla. Stat. § 101.048(b)(1).
⁶² Fla. Stat. § 101.048(5)-(6).