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.
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. Elections will be held on August 18, 2020 for the primary election and some municipal general elections. 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. 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 the voter registration deadline?

The voter registration deadline is July 20, 2020 for the primary election and for some municipal general elections. The registration deadline is 29 days before Election Day.

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. 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.

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 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;
- A 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.

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. 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.10

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moved within the same precinct</th>
<th>Moved to a different precinct but within the same county</th>
<th>Moved to a different county</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The voter may cast a regular ballot at the appropriate polling place for that SAME precinct after updating their address.11</td>
<td>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.12</td>
<td>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.13 A voter should not be directed to the polling place for their previous residence address.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.14

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 county Supervisor of Elections (https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/supervisors/), 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.15 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. 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.

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 (https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/supervisors/) with the voter in an attempt to resolve the situation if time allows. Otherwise, provide the county Supervisor of Election’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?**

Background:

In 2018, Florida voters overwhelmingly approved Amendment 4, which restored voting rights to over a million Florida citizens with felony convictions. In 2019, the Florida Legislature passed a law requiring citizens with felony convictions to complete all terms of their sentence, including paying off all court-imposed fines, fees, and restitution (Legal Financial Obligations, or “LFOs”), prior to having their rights restored. Civil Rights groups sued the state to block the law, and that legal battle is ongoing. While the 2019 law was ruled unconstitutional in May 2020 by a lower court, that ruling has been appealed, and until the case is resolved the law’s requirement to pay off LFOs
stands. While this situation may change before the November 3, 2020 election, our current guidance is as follows:

- Can I register to vote if I have a felony conviction?

Go through each of these questions:

1) Do you have a felony conviction for murder or felony sexual offense?
   
   If yes, then you cannot register or vote unless your rights have been restored through clemency.

2) Are you still on parole or probation?
   
   If yes, then you cannot register or vote.

3) Do you have any unpaid or outstanding fines, fees, restitution or other costs associated with your felony conviction?

   1. If you know that you DO NOT owe any fines, fees, or restitution, you should register to vote and vote.
      a. You do not need to bring proof of a completed sentence or payment with you when registering to vote – you only need to honestly affirm that, by completing your terms of sentence, your voting rights have been restored.
      b. Note that:
         i. In addition to paying off all LFOs, you must have completed all terms of prison, probation, and parole.
         ii. If you were convicted of murder or a sexual offense in Florida, your rights can only be restored by the Florida Clemency Board regardless of whether you have outstanding LFOs.
         iii. If you were convicted of any felony in ANOTHER state, you are eligible to vote if your rights were restored under that state’s laws OR Florida law.

   2. If you know that you DO owe fines, fees, or restitution, you should NOT register to vote until you have paid them off. If you are already registered to vote, you should NOT vote until you have paid them off.

   3. If you DO NOT KNOW whether you owe fines, fees, or restitution, you can request this information from the following offices:
      a. The Florida Department of Corrections;
      b. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement;
c. The clerk of the court in the jurisdiction(s) in which you were convicted, whether that is a circuit court in Florida, a court in another state, or a federal court; and/or
d. The Florida Division of Elections.
   i. You can write a letter to the Florida Division of Elections making a Request for an Advisory Opinion containing:
      1) the amount of any fines, fees, or restitution that must be paid to make them eligible to vote;
      2) an explanation of how the amount was calculated; and
      3) which entities they are responsible for providing payment to and the amount, and mail it to:
         Florida Division of Elections
         Room 316
         R. A. Gray Building
         500 South Bronough Street
         Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250
   ii. Note that the Florida Division of Elections may not respond to inquiries in a timely fashion, and the voter should not rely on their non-response as an indication that they do not have any outstanding LFOs.

⇒ Voters can also contact the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition at 877-698-6830 for more information and assistance.

● Can I vote if I have a felony conviction:

1) Go through the same process of asking each of the questions provided above for registration.

2) Beware that even if a person has successfully registered to vote, this does not answer the question of whether they may vote. Election officials are not providing much in the way of guidance and are not screening new voter registration applications for this issue.

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.
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. 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. For the 2020 presidential preference primary election and some municipal general elections, that is Thursday, March 19, 2020.

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. Students attending college may register at their campus address or choose to remain registered or register at their permanent or home address. You may only be registered and vote in one location.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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. Early voting must be provided for no less than 8 hours and no more than 12 hours per day at each site. Check the voter’s Supervisor of Elections website or Municipal Clerk 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. 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 10th day (Saturday a week) before the election. The Supervisor of Elections must mail the requested ballots no later than eighth day (the Monday a week) before the election. 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). 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. 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, and date of birth. The family member or guardian will be asked to provide their name, address, driver license number if applicable, and their relationship to the elector. 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. 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. The voter can designate in writing someone to pick up a vote by mail ballot for them on election day or up to 9 days prior, the designee will need to show photo identification. 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. 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. Voted ballots must be returned by mail, or by fax—fax return is only for voters who are outside of the US, not stateside. More information at https://www.fvap.gov/guide/chapter2/florida. Vote-by-mail ballots cast by uniformed and overseas voters during a presidential preference primary or 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.
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. This is available online at [https://www.fvap.gov/fwab-privacy-notice](https://www.fvap.gov/fwab-privacy-notice) or as a pdf at [https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fwab.pdf](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.

Military and overseas voters may check the status of their ballot at [https://registration.elections.myflorida.com/CheckVoterStatus](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. 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.

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: official poll workers, inspectors, election clerks, the supervisor of elections or their deputy, people coming to vote, people in the care of the voter (children) or people assisting the voter, approved poll watchers, approved observers, and law enforcement (only with the permission of the clerk or election board). No person, political committee, or other group may solicit voters within the polling place or within 150 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, except an elector may photograph his or her own ballot. It is the responsibility of election workers to enforce this, as well as the poll deputy stationed at the polling place.

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.

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.

A person casting a provisional ballot has the right to provide additional information supporting their eligibility to vote to the supervisor of elections by 5 p.m. on the second day after the election. 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. The signature on the certificate and affirmation must match the signature on the voter’s registration. 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.

21. Can I vote in the primary election?

Florida is a “closed” primary election state. Only voters who are registered members of political parties may vote for respective party candidates or nominees for an office in a primary election including a presidential preference primary election. Unaffiliated voters cannot participate in primary elections.

However, there are times when all registered voters can vote in a primary election, regardless of which political party they are registered or even if they are registered without a specific party affiliation: (1) 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; or (2) 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.

Voters have until 29 days before the presidential preference primary election to change their party affiliation. The deadline for registered voters to change party affiliation for the primary election is July 20, 2020.

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Florida Division of Elections, supra note 2. Note that the federal holiday on February 17, 2020, moves the deadline for voter registration for the presidential preference primary election to the next day.

Florida Stat. § 100.011(1).

Florida Stat. § 101.043(1)(a).

Florida Stat. § 101.043(1)(b).

Florida Stat. § 101.043(1)(b),(c).

Florida Stat. § 101.045.


Florida Stat. § 101.045(c)-(e).

Florida Stat. § 101.048(1).

Florida Stat. § 101.048(2).

Florida Stat. §§ 98.045(2)(1), 98.065, 98.075.

Florida Stat. § 101.048(1).

Florida Stat. § 101.048(5).

Florida Stat. § 101.048(1).

Florida Stat. § 97.041; see https://www.campusvoteproject.org/stateguides/Florida_from_Fair_Elections_Center.

Id.


Fla. Stat. § 101.051(1).

Fla. Stat § 101.051(4)-(5).


Fla. Stat. § 101.031(1).


Fla. Stat. § 101.65(1).


Fla. Stat. § 101.6952(5).


47 Fla. Stat. § 101.69(1)(a)-(c).
49 Fla. Stat. §103.031.
50 Fla. Stat § 102.031.
52 Fla. Stat. § 101.111.
56 Fla. Stat. § 101.048(5)-(6).
58 See id.
59 Florida Division of Elections, https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/voter-registration/register-to-vote-or-update-your-information/ and https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/election-dates/. Note that the federal holiday on February 17, 2020, moves the deadline to change the party affiliation for the presidential preference primary primary election to the next day.