

# from the desk of...



## Craig Latimer Supervisor of Elections



VoteHillsborough.org

## Securing the Election a statewide effort

Last month, I joined Governor Ron DeSantis, Secretary of State Laurel Lee and other Supervisors of Elections in Tallahassee for the announcement of a cooperative election security initiative ahead of the 2020 election.

If you've heard from me over the years, you know that election security has been and continues to be a priority in this office. I am pleased to see this new level of cooperation throughout the state.

While I won't share specifics (for security purposes), here is an overview of what is taking place throughout the state to protect your vote:



### Patriotism on Parade

July 4, 2019



- ★ Risk and vulnerability assessments
- ★ 24/7 monitoring of traffic in and out of our servers
- ★ "Human firewall" staff training
- ★ State IT support for counties with limited resources
- ★ Continuing dialogue with the FBI, DHS and others to share existing cyberthreats and best practices

In short, we have rigorous defenses in place, but know that there is no absolute protection. Our security measures continue to evolve, and we stand ready to detect foul play and respond quickly.

 Craig Latimer  
Supervisor of Elections



## NEW ELECTION LAWS

*Here are some highlights of legislation that has just been passed and will affect voting and elections in 2020.*



### VOTING BY MAIL

1. We will be allowed to start sending out domestic Vote By Mail ballots 40 days (instead of 35 days) before Election Day, and the last day for a voter to request a Vote By Mail ballot will be 10 days (instead of 6 days) before Election Day. This allows more time for ballots to arrive in the mail. *(But please don't wait until the last day to put your request in!)*
2. If your Vote By Mail signature doesn't match the signature we have on record, you'll now have up to two days after the election to send back an affidavit and ID to confirm it's your ballot. Our mail ballot envelopes will also include a place to put your email address and phone numbers so we have more ways to contact you about a signature issue.

***One thing that hasn't changed — Vote By Mail ballots are still due in our office no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day.***

### VOTING IN PERSON



1. Primary Elections used to take place 10 weeks before the General Election. Now, they will be held 11 weeks before the General Election, giving elections offices more time to prepare ballots for the next election.
2. The "no solicitation zone" — the area outside polling places where campaigning is not allowed to occur — has been moved from 100 to 150 feet away from the polling place or Early Voting site.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE 2020 ELECTION DATES

- ✓ **PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY**  
Registration and Party Change Deadline: February 18  
Early Voting: March 2 - 15  
Election Day: March 17
- ✓ **PRIMARY ELECTION**  
Registration and Party Change Deadline: July 20  
Early Voting: August 3 - 16  
Election Day: August 18
- ✓ **GENERAL ELECTION**  
Registration Deadline: October 5  
Early Voting: October 19 - November 1  
Election Day: November 3

## the last word

It's never too early to request a Vote By Mail ballot. Visit [VoteHillsborough.org](http://VoteHillsborough.org) to get on the list, and you can vote when it's most convenient for you!

