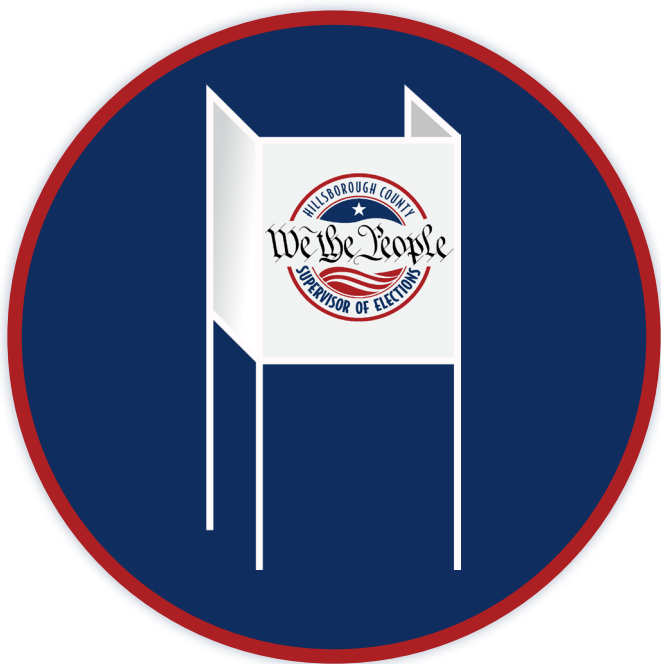


ARE YOU
READY TO VOTE?

Hillsborough County

2024

Voter Guide



VoteHillsborough.gov

Follow us on social media
@HillsboroughSOE





Craig Latimer **Supervisor of Elections**

Dear Voter,

Voting brings us together as citizens and gives us a voice. It's my honor to be your Supervisor of Elections and oversee elections in the county that's always been my home.

I follow Florida laws that ensure our elections are accessible, fair and transparent and that results are tabulated quickly and accurately. I'm immensely proud that we're the first elections office to earn Florida's prestigious Governor's Sterling Award — proof that we're doing things right.

I hope you find this Voter Guide helpful. Please visit my website, too, where you'll always find the most current information about voting and elections.

Your voice matters. That's why I'm working hard to make Hillsborough County the best place in America to vote.

Craig Latimer

Craig Latimer
Supervisor of Elections



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Up For Election

- U.S. President and Vice President
- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Representatives
- State Attorney
- State Senators and Representatives
- Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller
- Property Appraiser
- Public Defender
- Sheriff
- Supervisor of Elections
- Tax Collector
- County Commissioners
- Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen
- FL Supreme Court Justices
- Judges
- School Board Members
- Soil and Water Conservation Supervisors
- Special District Trustees and Community Development District Supervisors
- Temple Terrace Municipal Offices
- Plant City Municipal Offices

Plant City holds its election every April. Temple Terrace holds its election during the General Election.

3 WAYS TO VOTE



Vote By Mail

Mark your ballot at home, then mail it back or drop it off. We pay the return postage.

Vote By Mail ballots must be in one of our offices no later than 7 p.m. Election Day.



Early Voting

Choose the day, time and location that works best for you. Locations may vary by election.

Check our website for the most current information.



Election Day

The last day to vote. **You must vote in your assigned polling place.**

2024 Dates & Deadlines

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION

Deadline to Register/Change Party: **Feb. 20**

March 4 - 17.....Early Voting 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

March 19.....Election Day 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

PRIMARY ELECTION

Deadline to Register/Change Party: **July 22**

Aug. 5 - 18.....Early Voting 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Aug. 20.....Election Day 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline to Register: **Oct. 7**

Oct. 21 - Nov. 3.....Early Voting 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Nov. 5.....Election Day 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Early Voting dates and times subject to change.



**Once you're a registered voter in Florida,
you can update your address anytime.**

Visit VoteHillsborough.gov for information on municipal elections.

3 ELECTIONS



Florida Holds Closed Primaries

That means you must be registered with a political party to vote in that party's primary races.

★ Presidential Preference Primary Election

The Presidential Preference Primary (*PPP*) is part of the presidential nominating process for Florida's political parties, allowing voters to choose a preferred candidate for the General Election ballot. **You must be registered with a party at least 29 days before the election to vote in their PPP.**

★ Primary Election

The Primary Election in August includes both partisan and nonpartisan races, so there's a ballot for everyone.

If you're affiliated with a major political party, you'll vote to move some of your party's candidates on to the General Election, in partisan races such as Senate and County Commission. Whether you are affiliated with a party or not, everyone votes in nonpartisan races for school board and judges during the Primary.

Your ballot may also include amendments, referenda or Universal Primary Contests. Universal Primary Contests occur when all candidates in a race have the same party affiliation and the winner will be unopposed in the General Election.

★ General Election

A General Election is where the final decision on office holders is made. Voters choose among candidates with no party affiliation and candidates nominated by parties. **During the General Election, you can vote in any race, regardless of party affiliation.**

Before each election, watch for your personalized sample ballot to arrive by mail or email, or look it up at VoteHillsborough.gov.

REGISTER TO VOTE

To register and vote here, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- A resident of Hillsborough County, Florida
- At least 18 years old*

You may **pre-register on or after your 16th birthday. You may **vote** in any election held on or after your 18th birthday.*

You **cannot** register or vote if you are:

- Currently adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting
- A convicted felon whose rights have not been restored

If you're not sure whether your right to vote has been restored, you may request an advisory opinion from the FL Division of Elections at:

- dos.generalcounsel@dos.myflorida.com
- (850) 245-6536

Are you registered to vote in another state?
Make sure to cancel your previous registration.

How to Register

Online

If you have a Florida driver license or Florida ID, you can register at RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov. You can also find a link to register on our website, VoteHillsborough.gov.

On Paper

Voter registration applications can be downloaded from VoteHillsborough.gov and are available at voter registration agencies throughout the county. It only takes a few minutes to fill one out and mail or deliver it to our office, the Division of Elections or any voter registration agency.

Voter Registration Agencies

- Supervisor of Elections offices
- Driver license offices
- Public assistance offices
- Public libraries
- Offices that serve people with disabilities
- Armed forces recruitment offices
- Centers for independent living

Don't wait! If you aren't already registered, you must register at least 29 days before an election to vote in that election.

UPDATE YOUR VOTER INFORMATION

Once you've registered to vote in Florida, you don't have to register again. But you do need to keep your information up to date.

You can change or update your information any time, but a political party change for the Presidential Preference Primary or Primary Election must be made by the registration deadline for those elections.

★ Name, Signature, Political Party

To update your name, signature or political party, you must submit an updated voter registration application – online or on paper.

★ Address

To update your address, you can use a voter registration application or call or email our office.

Phone: (813) 612-4180

Email: voter@votehillsborough.gov

You'll need to provide your **Florida driver license or Florida ID card number, or the last four digits of your social security number**, whichever may be verified in your voter record.

Your signature is important.

Your handwriting may change over time, so it's important to update your signature periodically. We use the signatures on file to verify your identity on petitions, provisional ballots and Vote By Mail ballots.

You may use a paper voter registration application or an online application to update your signature. If you use the online voter registration application, the most recent signature from your Florida driver license or Florida ID card will be added to your voter record.



GET READY TO VOTE

After you register to vote or update your information, you'll receive a Voter Information Card. The card tells you your Election Day polling place and the districts you live in. This card is for information only and is not required at the polling place.

Craig Latimer
Supervisor of Elections
Our Vision: To be the best place in America to vote
GOVERNOR'S STERLING AWARD RECIPIENT

Voter Name and Address/Nombre y Dirección del Votante
Jane Doe 1234 Main St., Anywhere, FL

Party/Partido
NPA

Precinct/Precinto
965

Polling Place/Centro de Votación
Community Library of Anywhere, FL

Issue Date/Fecha de Expedición
Jul/02/2021

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento
May/02/1989

Registration Date/Fecha de Inscripción
Jul/02/2008

Registration #/Inscripción Electoral#
123456789

Voting Districts/distritos de Votación
Congress/Congreso: **15**
State Senate/Senado Estatal: **19**
State House/Cámara de Representantes Estatal: **61**
County Commission/Comisión del Condado: **3,5,6,7**
School Board/Consejo Escolar: **5,6,7**
Tampa City Council/Concejo de la Ciudad de Tampa:

VoteHillsborough.gov

Understanding Your Ballot

Some of the elected officials you vote for represent the entire county, while others represent a specific district or section of the county.

Your Primary Election ballot includes races and issues based on your party affiliation and the districts you live in.

Your General Election ballot is based only on the districts you live in.

Marking Your Ballot

- Read the voting instructions at the top of your ballot.
- Use a black pen to carefully fill in the ovals next to your choices.
- Remember that your ballot may be two-sided and have more than one page.
- If you vote for too many candidates in a race, your votes in that race will not be counted.
- It is okay to skip races.
- If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

ELECTIONS YOU CAN TRUST



In Florida, elections are conducted within a framework of laws that protect your vote. Let's walk through some of the reasons you can trust our elections.

Paper Ballots | All votes in Florida must be cast on paper ballots and retained for 22 months. *§§ 101.56075, 101.545 Fla. Stat.*

State-Certified Equipment | We are required to tabulate election results using equipment that has been rigorously tested and certified by the Florida Secretary of State. *§§ 101.5601 - 5614, Fla Stat.*

Independent Oversight | A county Canvassing Board is named for each election. The Canvassing Board holds public meetings to make key election decisions and certify election results. *§§ 102.141, 102.141(1), Fla. Stat.*

Transparency | There are opportunities to observe what we do at every stage of the election process. *§§ 102.141, 101.5612, 101.591, 102.166, 101.131, 101.572, 101.5612(2), Fla. Stat.*

Documented Processes | Security procedures are submitted to the FL Dept. of State before every election and a Conduct of Election Report is filed at the end of every election. *§§ 101.015(4)(b), 102.141(10), Fla. Stat.*

Pre-election Logic and Accuracy Testing | In a public meeting, we place pre-marked ballots in a randomly selected sample of our machines to make sure they're counting the votes accurately. *§§ 101.5612, Fla. Stat.*

Vote By Mail Safeguards | Vote By Mail ballots are only sent to registered voters who request them, and voters must provide identifying information to make the request. *§§ 101.68(1), 101.5612(2), Fla. Stat.*

Unofficial Election Night Reporting | On Election Night, unofficial results are securely transmitted from each precinct and backed up by paper results tapes and the original ballots. *§§ 102.071, 101.56075, 101.545, Fla. Stat.*

Automatic, Public Recounts | If a candidate or issue would be defeated by .5% or less, the Canvassing Board must conduct a recount – retabulating all the votes in that race – before the results can be certified. *§§ 102.141(7), 102.166, Fla. Stat.*

Post-Election Audit | After every election, we conduct a public post-election audit. In Hillsborough County, we audit 100% of our ballots by digitally scanning them through an independent system (*completely separate from the main voting system*) to verify our results. *§§ 101.591, Fla. Stat.*

Find details at:
VoteHillsborough.gov/Trust





VOTE BY MAIL

Any registered voter may vote by mail – but only by request. Receive your ballot in the mail and take your time voting. If you already enjoy voting by mail, check our website or call us to make sure you have a current request on file. ***In accordance with new Florida law, Vote By Mail requests expire after each General Election.***

We start mailing ballots to voters about a month before Election Day. After that, we fulfill requests within 48 hours of receiving them. The deadline to request that a ballot be mailed to you is 5 p.m. on the twelfth day prior to an election.

After you request your ballot, track it at **VoteHillsborough.gov**. You'll see when we send it out and when we receive it back from you.

Requesting Your Ballot

Request your ballot online at VoteHillsborough.gov, call (813) 612-4180, stop by our office, or submit a written request using the form on our website. You'll need to provide:

- Name and address
- Date of birth
- Mailing address, if different from home address
- Florida driver license or identification card number or the last four digits of social security number (*whichever may be verified in your voter record*)
- Signature (*for written requests*)

Your request must be in writing if you want your ballot to go to an address that isn't already on file, unless you're an overseas or absent uniformed service voter.

Requesting Someone Else's Ballot

An immediate family member or legal guardian may request a ballot for someone else. In addition to the voter information above, the requester must also provide the requester's:

- Name and address
- Driver license number, identification card number or last four digits of social security number (*if available*)
- Relationship to the voter
- Signature (*for written requests*)

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- You may cancel your request at any time.
- If you make a mistake on your Vote By Mail ballot, contact our office and request a replacement ballot.

★ Returning Your Ballot

Your Vote By Mail ballot arrives with instructions, a ballot, a secrecy sleeve, an 'I Voted' sticker and a postage-paid return envelope.

After you've filled out your ballot, follow these simple steps:



Put your marked ballot in the secrecy sleeve.



Put the secrecy sleeve in the return envelope.



Seal, sign and date the back of the return envelope.



Mail your ballot back or drop it off at a secure ballot intake station at any of our offices or Early Voting sites (*when they're open*). We've pre-paid the postage.

You may **not** drop off your mail ballot at a polling place on Election Day. If you prefer to vote in person, poll workers will cancel your mail ballot and give you an Election Day ballot.

Your mail ballot MUST be in our office (not postmarked) no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.

★ What Happens Next?

1. We verify your signature and update your voter record to show that you have voted.
2. We securely store your ballot until it's ready to be counted.
3. We separate the envelope from the secrecy sleeve that contains your ballot and then separate the ballot from the secrecy sleeve. That way, your ballot remains secret.
4. We scan your ballot.
5. We report unofficial results on Election Night. (*Mail ballots and Early Voting ballots are the first reported.*)
6. We securely store ballots for audits and recounts.



VOTE IN PERSON

★ Early Voting

For our 2024 countywide elections, we're offering voters 14 days of in-person Early Voting — the maximum number of Early Voting days allowed by Florida law. During Early Voting, we set up 27 different voting sites throughout the county and you can vote in any one you choose.

Before you head out, we recommend you visit our website to check the wait times at each voting site. When you arrive at the voting location, we'll print your ballot for you.

When Can You Vote Early?

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION

March 4 - 17
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

PRIMARY ELECTION

August 5 - 18
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

GENERAL ELECTION

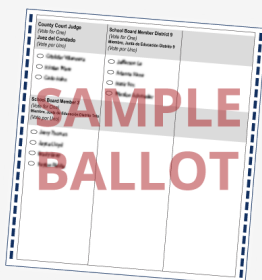
October 21 - November 3
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Early Voting dates, times and locations are subject to change.*



Watch For Your Sample Ballot

We mail or email personalized sample ballots before each election. Make your voting decisions in advance, and bring it for reference when you're ready to vote.



Read pages 14 - 15 of this guide for more on what to bring and what to expect when voting in person.

★ Election Day

Election Day is your *last* chance to vote.

During countywide elections, we set up 250 polling places for Election Day voters, but you can **only** vote in the **one** polling place that is assigned to your precinct. Your ballot will be waiting for you at that polling place.

When Can You Vote on Election Day?

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION

March 19

PRIMARY ELECTION

August 20

GENERAL ELECTION

November 5

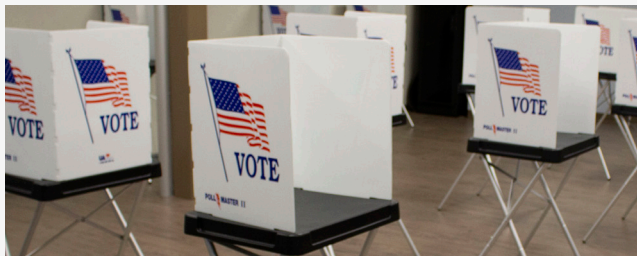


*Polls are open from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
If you are in line at 7 p.m., you may vote.*

★ Know Your Polling Place

Finding your assigned polling place is simple, and it's important to get it right:

- 1 Check VoteHillsborough.gov. The website always has the most current information.
OR
- 2 Look at your Voter Information Card. We send new cards out whenever your precinct or polling place changes.
OR
- 3 Call (813) 612-4180 and ask us.



It's the law! If you vote in the wrong polling place on Election Day, your ballot will not be counted.

★ How to Vote, Step By Step

1. **Bring current, valid identification with your photo and signature. Pictures of your ID are not acceptable.** You may present one or two forms of ID. *If you forget your ID, ask a poll worker for a provisional ballot. (see page 15)* →



Acceptable Photo ID for Florida Voters

- Florida Driver License
- Florida ID Card (issued by the DHSMV)
- U.S. Passport
- Debit or Credit Card
- Military ID
- Student ID
- Retirement Center ID
- Neighborhood Association ID
- Public Assistance ID
- Veteran Health ID (issued by VA)
- Concealed Weapon License (issued pursuant to F.S. 790.06)
- Government Employee ID

2. **Bring your sample ballot for reference, if you'd like.** You cannot use a Vote By Mail ballot for reference in the polling place.
3. **Sign in with a poll worker.**
4. **Receive your paper ballot and a privacy folder.**
5. **Go to the voting booth and mark your ballot.**
6. **Review your ballot.** If you made a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Otherwise, bring your ballot to the scanning machine.
7. **Insert your ballot into the optical scanner, one page at a time.** A poll worker will be standing by the machine to answer any questions you have.
8. **Once your ballot has been accepted by the scanner, your votes have been cast and no changes can be made.**

Did you know?

After you vote, your voter record will be updated to show that you voted, but there is no way for anyone to see *who you voted for*. Every ballot is anonymous, with no name or number attached to it.

What is a Provisional Ballot?



If you don't bring ID or if there is any question about your eligibility to vote, you may vote a provisional ballot.

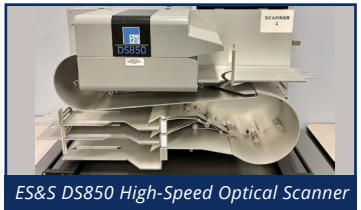
You'll mark your ballot just as you would normally, but instead of putting it through the scanner at the voting site, your voted ballot will go into a "provisional envelope" and be delivered to our office. If your eligibility to vote can be verified, the ballot will be counted. You'll be able to check the status of your provisional ballot on our website.

★ Equipment

Our optical scan voting equipment is rigorously tested and certified by Florida's Secretary of State and publicly tested before every election.

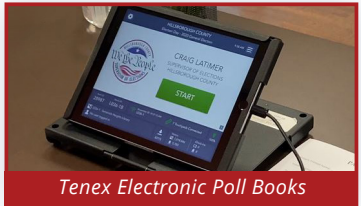


ES&S DS200 Optical Scanner



ES&S DS850 High-Speed Optical Scanner

Electronic Poll Books are used to check voters in and record voter turnout.



Tenex Electronic Poll Books

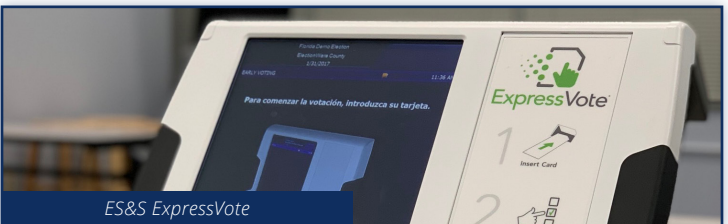


Clear Ballot VerifyNow Audit System

We use a completely separate system to conduct a post-election audit after every election.

★ Accessible Voting

Every voting location has ADA-compliant ballot marking devices that allow voters with disabilities to mark their ballot independently. The ballot is then printed and inserted into an optical scanner.



ES&S ExpressVote



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What voting equipment is used?

ES&S DS200 optical scanners and ExpressVote ballot marking devices are at all Early Voting and Election Day sites. High-speed, central count scanners are used to tabulate Vote By Mail ballots. All voters use paper ballots to vote.

Does it matter how I insert my ballot in the scanner?

No. You can place either end into the scanner with either side up.

Do I have to vote in all the races?

No. The ballot scanner will count your votes in all of the races that you marked.

What if I vote for too many candidates in a race?

If you're voting in person, the ballot scanner will alert you that you have "overvoted" and allow you to request a new ballot or cast the ballot anyway. If you cast a ballot with an overvote (*in person or by mail*), all races except the overvoted race will be counted.

What if I do not vote in ANY races?

The scanner will alert you that the ballot is blank. You can choose to cast the blank ballot or get assistance from a poll worker.

What if I make a mistake on my ballot?

If you're voting by mail, call our office and let us know you need a new ballot. If you're voting in person, tell a poll worker. You can receive up to two replacement ballots if you make a mistake prior to the ballot being cast. The ballot(s) with mistakes will be sealed inside a "spoiled ballot" envelope. If you make a mistake on your third ballot, the ballot cannot be corrected.

Can I change my ballot once it has been cast?

No. Once your ballot has been scanned and accepted by the optical scanner or your mail ballot has been received by our office, your ballot cannot be retrieved or changed. You may only **cast** one ballot.

Can I write in a candidate?

We can only count votes for candidates who have submitted qualifying paperwork before the election. In races with qualified write-in candidates, your ballot will include a blank space with an oval next to it. If you fill in the oval and write in the name of a qualified write-in candidate, that vote will be counted.

If I receive a Vote By Mail ballot, can I change my mind and vote in person?

Yes. If our office has not received your voted Vote By Mail ballot, you may vote in person and your mail ballot will be canceled. You will not be allowed to take your mail ballot to the privacy booth for reference.

What if the power goes out or there are technical problems at a voting site?

We have backup equipment, generators, internal batteries, printed check-in registers and an auxiliary ballot box to keep everything going with minimal interruption. If a ballot scanner stops working, you can wait for a replacement scanner to cast your ballot, or put your ballot in the auxiliary ballot box and it will be scanned after the polls close.

What happens to my ballot after I vote?

Paper ballots are secured and available for recounts or audits. We retain ballots for 22 months.

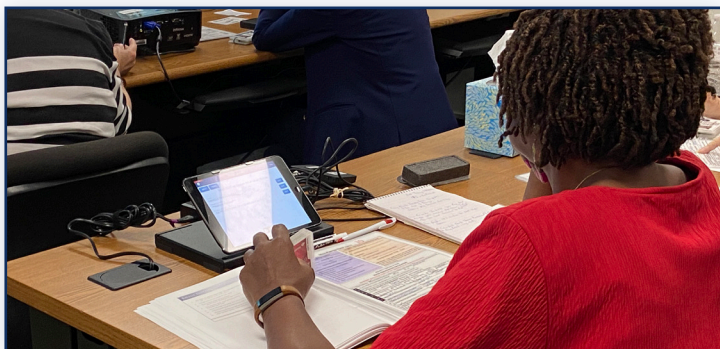
How do I know my ballot is counted?

If you vote by mail, you can track your ballot on our website to see when your voted ballot was received and counted. When you vote in person, the screen on the scanner indicates that your ballot has been accepted and counted.

What checks and balances ensure an accurate vote count?

To make sure every ballot is *counted*, we have systematic, redundant procedures in place to track how many ballots are issued, returned and counted. To make sure every ballot is *counted accurately*, our ballot scanners are tested repeatedly and publicly before every election. Afterwards, we run a post-election audit using a separate system to retabulate the ballots and confirm the accuracy of our results. Finally, to ensure *accountability*, election results and voter history become public record.

BE A POLL WORKER



You can make a difference in our community by joining our team of poll workers. It takes about 2,000 poll workers to staff our polling places on Election Day. Our poll workers are engaged citizens from all walks of life who are committed to making Hillsborough County the best place in America to vote.

All poll workers are trained for their jobs, and by law, poll workers in Florida are paid for their work on Election Day.

**Interested in applying to be a poll worker?
Visit VoteHillsborough.gov.**

Learn More About Us

Voters have questions.

What happens to my ballot after I mail it in? Why do you use machines to tabulate votes? Will my ballot still count if I don't vote in all the races?

We have answers.

Get to know us, take a deep dive into election management and learn how to be #VoteReady by watching our VoteHillsborough Video Series.



Tune in here:

VoteHillsborough.gov/VHVideoSeries



VOTER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

DS-DE 20/21 (§§ 101.031(2), Fla. Stat.)

Each registered voter in Florida has the right to:

- ✓ Vote and have his or her vote accurately counted.
- ✓ Cast a vote if he or she is in line at the official closing of the polls.
- ✓ Ask for and receive assistance in voting.
- ✓ Receive up to two replacement ballots if he or she makes a mistake prior to the ballot being cast.
- ✓ An explanation if his or her registration or identity is in question.
- ✓ If his or her registration or identity is in question, cast a provisional ballot.
- ✓ Written instructions to use when voting and, upon request, oral instructions in voting from elections officers.
- ✓ Vote free from coercion or intimidation by elections officers or any other person.
- ✓ Vote on a voting system that is in working condition and that will allow votes to be accurately cast.

Each registered voter in Florida should:

- ✓ Familiarize himself or herself with the candidates and issues.
- ✓ Maintain a current address with the office of the Supervisor of Elections.
- ✓ Know the location of his or her polling place and its hours of operation.
- ✓ Bring proper identification to the polling station.
- ✓ Familiarize himself or herself with the operation of the voting equipment in his or her precinct.
- ✓ Treat precinct workers with courtesy.
- ✓ Respect the privacy of other voters.
- ✓ Report any problems or violations of election laws to the Supervisor of Elections.
- ✓ Ask questions, if needed.
- ✓ Make sure that his or her completed ballot is correct before leaving the polling station.

Failure to perform any of these responsibilities does not prohibit a voter from voting.



Craig Latimer Supervisor of Elections

Our Vision: To be the best place in America to vote

GOVERNOR'S STERLING AWARD RECIPIENT



VoteHillsborough.gov
voter@votehillsborough.gov

Phone (813) 744-5900

Fax (813) 744-5843

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICES

Fred B. Karl County Center
601 E. Kennedy Blvd, 16th floor
Tampa, Florida 33602

Robert L. Gilder Elections Service Center
2514 N. Falkenburg Rd.
Tampa, Florida 33619

Find other regional office addresses on our website.

OUR MISSION

To conduct open, secure, reliable and accurate elections for the citizens of Hillsborough County

OUR VOTER VALUES

- V**alue diversity
- O**perate with integrity, fairness and fiscal responsibility
- T**rust in each other
- E**arn community confidence through excellent customer service
- R**ecognize excellence, innovation and teamwork

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Voter registration applications and other written communications to or from the Supervisor of Elections are public records and available to the public and media upon request unless the information is subject to a specific statutory exemption. Email addresses are also public records. If you do not want your email address released in response to a public records request, please contact us by mail or phone, or visit us in person.