

Absentee Ballots

- ✓ An absentee ballot allows you to vote without going to your polling place. No reason is needed to use an absentee ballot
- ✓ Request an absentee ballot from your county Supervisor of Elections listed in your phone book under County Government or online at: election.dos.state.fl.us. The request may be made by phone, mail or in person.
- ✓ You may make a single request to receive absentee ballots for all elections during the calendar year; you must make a new request each year
- ✓ The Supervisor of Elections must have your correct mailing address; the post office will not forward absentee ballots
- ✓ You may authorize a member of your immediate family or legal guardian to request a ballot for you
- ✓ The Supervisor of Elections must receive a request for an absentee ballot **to be mailed to the voter** no later than 5:00 PM on the sixth day before the election
- ✓ Completed absentee ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections by 7:00 PM on Election Day.

Make your Absentee Ballot Count

- ✓ Follow the instructions included with the absentee ballot; failure to follow these instructions could result in your vote not counting
 - ✓ Provide complete and accurate responses to all required information
 - ✓ Vote for only one candidate or issue when so instructed; if you vote for more than one, your vote for that race will not count
- Completely and accurately fill out the Voter's Certificate and sign your name in the space provided. Your vote will not count if you do not sign your name
- ✓ Make sure there is sufficient postage if you return your ballot by mail
 - ✓ Be wary of strangers offering to deliver your ballot
 - ✓ If you change your mind before voting your absentee ballot, you may still vote at the polls; take your absentee ballot with you. If you have thrown it away or lost it, go to the polls and explain it to the poll worker.

Special Note for Overseas Voters

Overseas voters may obtain absentee voting information:

- ✓ By contacting their local Supervisor of Elections
- ✓ From the Federal Voting Assistance Program, Office of the Secretary of Defense, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, D.C.20301-1155, fvap.gov or toll free 800 438-8683
- ✓ And the Overseas Vote Foundation, www.overseasvote.org
- ✓ Request and return your absentee ballot early to ensure that it will be received in time to be counted

Absentee ballots have a paper trail; voting done on touch screen machines does not have a paper trail.

If you have any problems or questions contact any of the government offices or organizations listed below.

- **Supervisor of Elections Office** listed in your phone book under County Government or online at: election.dos.state.fl.us
- **Florida Voter Assistance Hotline:** Toll Free 1-866-308-6739; TTY Toll Free 1-800-955-8771 (for hearing impaired); Voter Fraud Hotline Toll Free 1-877-888-3737
- **League of Women Voters** website at: www.LWVFla.org
- **Common Cause Florida** website at: www.commoncause.org
- **ACORN** Miami phone # (305) 644-3005 Ext 1111; website www.acorn.org
- **Project Vote** website www.projectvote.org; Email: electioncounsel1@projectvote.org
- **Florida PIRG** Tallahassee phone # (850) 224-3321 website www.floridapirg.org
- **Florida AFL/CIO** Tallahassee phone # (850) 224-6926; Email: rtemplin@flaflcio.org website www.flaficio.org

The League of Women
Voters of Florida Education Fund



WHY SHOULD I VOTE?

- To speak your mind
- To make politicians listen
- For your children
- For your community
- For yourself
- To honor history
- To control your future
- To stop something
- To start something
- To win

--Copied from TSU Website

Register and vote, but first know your candidates, study the issues and vote wisely.

Dates Registration Closes for 2006 Election

Primary Election August 7, 2006
For Election Day September 5, 2006
General Election October 10, 2006
For Election Day November 7, 2006

Made possible with the support
of the League of Women Voters
Education Fund



Before You Can Vote

To Register to Vote in Florida You Must:

- ✓ Be a U.S. citizen
- ✓ Be a Florida resident
- ✓ Be 18 years of age before Election Day
- ✓ Not be legally declared mentally incapacitated
- ✓ Have your civil rights restored if you are a convicted felon

Provide the number from your valid Florida driver's license or Florida identification card or the last four digits of your Social Security number.

How to Register

To register to vote, you must obtain, complete, sign and return a Florida Voter Registration Application. Applications must be returned to the Supervisor of Elections in the county in which you live by the 29th day before an election.

Applications are available:

- ✓ Online at election.dos.state.fl.us
- ✓ Through your local Supervisor of Elections – call or visit them in person. Their phone number and address are in your phone book under County Government or online at the above website
- ✓ Through other government offices and agencies. Call your Supervisor of Elections.

Convicted of a felony? You may be eligible for restoration of your civil rights (RCR) in Florida if you: (1) Completed all sentences and conditions of supervision and, (2) Satisfied all victim restitution requirements.

To apply for RCR, contact the Office of Executive Clemency:

- ✓ Call (850) 488-2952 or complete a request on-line at <http://fpc.state.fl.us/Clemency.htm> or submit your information by mail to Office of Executive Clemency, 2601 Blairstone Road, C-244, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2450. Include your address, daytime telephone, date of birth, and social security number. Specify whether you were convicted in Florida or another state, and if it was in a state or federal court.

- ✓ The Office of Executive Clemency (OEC) should advise when your civil rights are restored. You can then register to vote in the county where you live. Names of those released from incarceration and/or supervision are sent by the institutions/supervising authorities directly to OEC. The entire process should take less than one calendar year but this referral procedure is not completely reliable. Contact OEC to verify the status of your case about 90 days after you're released. If your civil rights should have been restored but you have not received a certificate of restoration, contact OEC.
- ✓ If you want free assistance preparing your information, call the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, which is independent of and has no affiliation with OEC. Phone.# (786) 363-2731 or toll free: 1-877-U-COUNT-2.

Casting Your Vote

NEW! You must provide **photo ID and an ID with your signature** at the polls.

This can be a single ID with both elements (such as a driver's license) or two separate pieces of ID (such as a student ID with a photo and a credit card with a signature). If you do not have any identification, you may get a special Florida ID card at the Dept. of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (your driver license office) listed in your phone book or online at: www.hsmv.state.fl.us/offices/index.html.

Voters who fail to provide proper ID will need to vote a provisional ballot.

All voters are required to vote at the correct precinct for their current residence.

- ✓ Votes cast in the incorrect precinct will not be counted
- ✓ Check the Voter Information Card sent from your county's Supervisor of Elections for the correct precinct information or call your Supervisor of Elections
- ✓ If you are told that you are at the wrong location on Election Day, get clear directions to the correct location
- ✓ If you are told that you are at the wrong location because you recently moved and failed to submit

an address change, you may submit an address change on Election Day as long as you were already registered to vote in Florida and are at your correct polling place

- ✓ Voters who move between elections must update their address on file with the Supervisor of Elections
- ✓ If you moved into Florida from another state or moved to a new county within Florida, updates must be done using an official Voter Registration Application
- ✓ If you moved within the same county, address changes can be made in a letter or by calling your local Supervisor of Elections
- ✓ Address changes for voters already registered in the state of Florida can be made until Election Day.

Provisional Ballots

- ✓ A provisional ballot allows you to vote in your precinct when your registration or identity is questioned at the polling place
- ✓ If you are not allowed to vote and are in the correct precinct, ask for a provisional ballot
- ✓ Provide complete and accurate responses to all information required by the "Provisional Voter's Certificate and Affirmation." This form must be completed prior to your receiving a provisional ballot. Omitted or inaccurate information may result in your vote not counting
- ✓ A provisional ballot cast in a precinct in which you are not registered will not be counted
- ✓ Polling places may include more than one precinct; verify with election officials that you are in the correct precinct
- ✓ If you have written evidence of your eligibility to vote, submit it to the Supervisor of Elections no later than 5:00 PM on the third day following the election. This information will be used to determine whether you meet the requirements for voting.
- ✓ If you vote using a provisional ballot, election officials must provide you with written information on how you may learn whether your vote was counted. This information must be available no later than 30 days following the election.
- ✓ Your provisional ballot will be counted if it is determined that you meet all voting requirements.