

# Orange County, Florida Voter Guide

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## You have 3 ways to vote

You decide which method best suits your busy schedule.

### 1. Vote-By-Mail

Your request for a vote-by-mail ballot must be received in the Elections Office no later than 5:00 p.m. the 10<sup>th</sup> day prior to the election. The vote-by-mail ballot packet will include instructions on how to mark your ballot, how to complete the required vote-by-mail voter certificate, and how to properly return your voted ballot to the Elections Office. The deadline to return voted vote-by-mail ballots to the Elections Office is no later than 7:00 p.m. election night for it to be counted.

Request a vote-by-mail ballot today

**By Phone:** (407) 836-2070

**By Internet:** [www.ocfelections.com](http://www.ocfelections.com)

**By Fax or Mail:** A signed request is required to have your ballot mailed to another address. Send your name, address (including mailing address), date of birth, signature, and election(s) requested to 407-254-6598 (fax), or mail to the Elections Office.

**By Designee:** Beginning 9 days prior to an election, a voter may designate a family member or friends to pick up their ballot from the Elections Office. The voter must request the ballot and name the designee in writing by using a Form DS-DE 37 (found on the Elections website). Carefully follow the instructions on this affidavit. The designee must show photo identification and may pick up ballots for no more than two non-family members.

### Signature Updates

Your vote-by-mail ballot may not count if the signature on the vote-by-mail return envelope does not match the signature on file. Signatures often change due to age, injury, or illness. Update your signature by completing a Florida Voter Registration Application form.

### Track Your Vote-By-Mail Ballot

Want to know if we received your voted vote-by-mail ballot? Visit our website and track the status!

## 2. Early Voting

If you prefer to cast your ballot in person prior to Election Day, check your sample ballot or visit our website to find an Early Voting location that is convenient for you. Early Voting begins up to 15 days prior to an election. Pay special attention to the dates and hours of operation. Please bring photo and signature identification.

## 3. On Election Day

The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. On Election Day, you are required to vote in the polling place location assigned to the precinct where you live. You are also required to bring both photo and signature identification with you.

Acceptable forms of photo identification include:

- 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
- Florida Concealed Weapons or Firearm permit
- Veteran health identification
- Government-issued employee identification (any government level)

## Political Party Affiliation

Florida is a closed primary state. If you wish to vote in a partisan primary, you must be registered with that particular party affiliation. All registered voters, regardless of party affiliation, can vote on issues and non-partisan races. You can change your party affiliation by completing a voter registration application. The deadline for changing party affiliation is 29 days prior to the election.

## Keep Your Record Current

Once registered, keep your record up-to-date:

- Address
- Name
- Party
- Signature change/update

Your residence address is used to determine the correct ballot for you in any given election. It is vital that you keep your voter registration record up-to-date. While some updates may be made by phone at (407) 836-2070, we recommend changes be made using a Florida

Voter Registration Application. This can be done online at: [www.ocfelections.com](http://www.ocfelections.com). You can also download the form from our website or find it at any public library.

## Registering After Felony Conviction

Voting rights in Florida can only be restored through clemency or by completion of all terms of a sentence, including parole and probation, depending on the type of conviction. To determine if you have completed all terms of your sentence, contact the Florida Department of Corrections, Florida Commission on Offender Review, and/or the clerk of court in the jurisdiction(s) in which you were convicted. To apply for clemency, search for grant of clemency and certificates, or for additional information, visit the Florida Commission on Offender Review website at [www.fcor.state.fl.us](http://www.fcor.state.fl.us).

## Sample Ballot

Prior to each election, you will be sent an official sample ballot that will include the name of your polling facility, the address, basic driving directions, and a map. To lessen your time in the voting booth, you can pre-mark your sample ballot and use it as a guide when you mark your official ballot. If you need assistance in reading or marking your ballot, you may bring someone with you or poll workers are available. Spanish language assistance and ADA-compliant voting equipment are available to all Early Voting location and at the polls on Election Day.

## Voting Equipment

Orange County uses paper ballots that are tabulated by digital scan voting equipment. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant voting devices are available for voters with special needs. Tell the poll worker when checking in if you wish to vote using the ADA-compliant voting device. ADA-compliant equipment has the ability to enlarge font sizes and to read the ballot aloud, if needed.

## Provisional Ballots

A voter will be issued a provisional ballot in special circumstances, such as the voter's eligibility to vote cannot be determined at that time, or the voter does not have the required picture and signature identification. Provisional ballots are not counted at the polls; they are sealed inside a certificate envelope and submitted to the canvassing board after the polls close. The canvassing board will review the information provided on the certificate envelope and determine whether the envelope may be opened and the ballot counted. Those vote totals are included in the election results.

## How To Mark Your Ballot

Make your selection(s) by completely filling in the oval to the left of your selection with a black pen. When voting for write-in candidates, fill in the oval next to the words "Write-In" and print the candidate's name on the line.

**IMPORTANT:** Always review your ballot before placing it in the tabulator or the return certificate envelope, if using a vote-by-mail ballot. Once your ballot is accepted into the

tabulator, or mailed in the case of a vote-by-mail ballot, the law states you have voted and cannot be issued another ballot in that election. Florida law allows you up to three attempts to mark your ballot correctly. Ask for a replacement ballot if you make a mistake when marking your ballot.

## Voter's Bill of Rights

Each registered voter in this state has the right to:

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

## Voter Responsibilities

Each registered voter in this state should:

1. Familiarize himself or herself with the candidates and issues.
2. Maintain a current address with the office of the supervisor of elections.
3. Know the location of his or her polling place and its hours of operation.
4. Bring proper identification to the polling station.
5. Familiarize himself or herself with the operation of the voting equipment in his or her precinct.
6. Treat precinct workers with courtesy.
7. Respect the privacy of other voters.
8. Report any problems or violations of election laws to the supervisor of elections.
9. Ask questions, if needed.
10. Make sure that his or her completed ballot is correct before leaving the polling station.

## Voter Registration Requirements

- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Must be 18 years old (may pre-register at 16)
- Must be a Florida resident
- Must have your civil rights (if convicted of a felony or declared mentally incompetent by the courts, your voting rights must be restored before registering)

**NOTE:** Federal and state laws allow you to apply for or update an existing voter registration online at [www.ocfelections.com](http://www.ocfelections.com), if you already have a state-issued ID.

Application forms are also available at:

- Any driver license office
- Public library
- Center for Independent Living, WIC & DCF offices
- Any elections office
- Online at [www.ocfelections.com](http://www.ocfelections.com)
- Call us and we'll mail you a copy

When completing the registration application, take special care to follow the directions and answer all required questions. Voter registration is available year-round, but in order to vote in an upcoming election, you must complete the registration process no later than 29 day prior to that election.

If you are registering to vote by mail and have never voted in Florida and haven't been issued a Florida driver license, identification card or social security number, you will be required to provide additional identification before voting the first time. Follow the instructions on the registration application form.

## Voter Information Card

Voter information cards are mailed confirming new registrations, voter updates, or changes in polling sites. While this mailer provides valuable information, it is not required that you produce it on Election Day to vote.

## Election Schedule

Visit [ocfelections.com](http://ocfelections.com) for municipal and special election schedules.

Election Date	Last Day to Register/Change Party Affiliation
August 23, 2022 – Primary Election	July 25, 2022
November 8, 2022 – General Election	October 11, 2022

## Are you interested in working on Election Day?

If you would like to work at the polls on Election Day, contact our office. You may earn \$175 to \$290 per election. You must be a registered (or pre-registered) voter in Orange County and attend a training class.

## Adopt-A-Precinct

The Adopt-A-Precinct program is a community partnership that has been very successful in Orange County. Our office developed this program to give community groups a new way to

serve while raising funds for their worthy causes. Visit our website for more information if your organization is interested in adopting a precinct for a future election.

## **Community Outreach Events**

In Orange County, our goal is to provide our community the opportunity to learn about the election process, voter registration, and a voter's rights and responsibilities. We provide a variety of education programs for our community. For more information or to request a presentation or voter registration services for an event, please call our office and ask for the Outreach Department.