

WASHINGTON COUNTY

2024

VOTER GUIDE



Are You Election Ready?

DEIDRA MALLOY PETTIS
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
WASHINGTON COUNTY
VOTEWASHINGTONFL@WCSOE.GOV

Welcome to the Washington County 2024 Voter Guide

Dear Voter,

Thank you for picking up a copy of our 2023-2024 Voter Guide. We have packed this version with great information for the voters of Washington County. If you are looking for more, we have you covered, just visit our website at www.wcsoe.gov or stop by our office. On our website or in our office, you can register to vote, request a vote by mail ballot, update your registration, update your address, or request a sample ballot.

The biggest change in election law happened at the end of 2022 when all standing requests for vote-by-mail were cancelled. Voters are now required to update their request for a vote-by-mail ballot after each General Election. If you wish to vote-by-mail in 2024, please renew your request now.

If you can't find what you're looking for in this guide, please reach out to our office. My staff and I are here to serve.

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VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS {F.S. 101.031}

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 on how to vote from election officers.
8. Vote free from coercion or intimidation by election 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 (F.S. 101.031)

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



REGISTER TO VOTE

TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, YOU MUST BE:

- A citizen of the United States
- A Florida resident and live in Washington County
- 18 years of age (may pre-register as early as 16, must be 18 to vote).

YOU LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE IF YOU WERE:

- Adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting rights. The right to vote must be restored by the court.
- Convicted of a felony. * See Restoration of Voting Rights on the next page.

HOW TO REGISTER?

ONLINE (OVR)

- Register online by visiting RegistertoVoteFlorida.gov, Florida's online voter registration system.
- OVR requires a Florida Driver's License or Florida ID card, or last four digits of Social Security number.
- You can use OVR to complete an application then print and mail.

ON PAPER

- Voter registration applications can be downloaded from www.wcsoe.gov
- Call us and we will mail an application to you.

IN PERSON

- Register in person at the Supervisor of Elections office, OMV office, public library, or at a community outreach event.

VOTER INFORMATION CARD

After you register to vote, you will be mailed a voter information card. If you update your record, you will also receive a new card.

The card lists your party affiliation, where you vote on Election Day, your county commission district, school board district, and other information.

Please review the information on your new card and if there are any questions, give us a call at 850.638.6230.

Your voter information card **CANNOT** be used as ID at the polls.

Washington County VOTER INFORMATION CARD		You are not required to present this card when you vote.		
VOTER NAME & ADDRESS/NOMBRE Y DIRECCIÓN DEL ELECTOR	VOTER DATE OF BIRTH/FECHA DE NACIMIENTO	CONGRESS/CONGRESO	SENATE/SENADO	COUNTY/CONDADO
	REGISTRATION NO./NÚM. DE REG.			
POLL LOCATION/SITIO DE VOTACIÓN	REGISTRATION DATE/FECHA REG.	HOUSE/CÁMARA	SCHOOL/ESCOLAR	CITY WARD/BARRIO DE LA CIUDAD
	PARTY/PARTIDO			

This card is for information purposes only. This card is proof of registration but is not legal verification of eligibility to vote. It is the responsibility of a voter to keep his or her eligibility status current. A voter may confirm his or her eligibility to vote with the Department of State.





Restoration of Voting Rights

If you are convicted of a felony, you will lose the right to vote in Florida. However, that right can be restored.

Automatic Restoration

Voting rights are automatically restored to most felons once they have completed all terms of their sentence. This includes parole, probation, and payment of all fines and fees. Automatic restoration does not apply to felons convicted of murder or sexual offenses.

Questions about the status of your sentencing terms?

Contact the Clerk of the Circuit Court

Web: washingtonclerk.com

Phone: 850-638-6009

Questions about how fines, fees, costs and restitution affect the restoration of your voting rights?

Contact the Division of Elections.

- Online: dos.myflorida.com/elections
- Phone: (850) 245-6290
- Email: DivElections@dos.myflorida.com

Restoration by Executive Clemency

Clemency allows felons to ask for relief from punishment and seek restoration of civil rights, which includes the right to vote. The power to grant clemency is with the Governor and the Cabinet.

Questions? Contact the Florida Commission of Offender Review

- Web: fcor.state.fl.us
- Phone: (850) 922-0000

3 Ways to Vote

VOTING IN FLORIDA

YOU HAVE THREE OPTIONS WHEN CASTING YOUR VOTE.

EARLY VOTING

Early voting dates are offered at two locations in Washington County; the Supervisor of Elections office/Ag Center and Vernon City Hall. Polls are open 8a.m.-5p.m. Early voting begins at a minimum of 10 days prior to Election Day. For current and complete information on Early Voting dates visit our website or call our office.

2024 EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

Presidential Preference Primary-March 19, 2024

Saturday, March 9 - Saturday, March 16

Daily, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

Primary Election - August 20, 2024

Monday, August 5 - Saturday, August 17

Daily, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

General Election - November 5, 2024

Monday, October 21 - Saturday, November 2

Daily, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

BY MAIL

You may request a vote-by-mail ballot by contacting our office by mail, phone, fax, e-mail, or through our website. Requests for a ballot to be mailed to you must be received by 5:00 p.m. no later than 12 days prior to Election Day. Voted ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections office no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day and may be returned by mail or hand delivery. Vote-by-Mail ballots may not be forwarded, so be sure your address is correct.

ELECTION DAY

You may vote in person at your polling location (printed on your Voter Information Card) on Election Day. Polls are open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. You are required by law to vote at the polling place assigned to your precinct of legal residence.

Vote By Mail



Any registered voter may Vote By Mail. Many find it the most convenient way for them to vote. You receive your ballot in the mail and take your time to review the ballot. In accordance with new Florida law, all requests for Vote By Mail ballots expired on December 31, 2022.

You can request a Vote By Mail ballot at www.wcsoe.gov and click on the Vote By Mail button in the center of the page and follow the prompts. Or you can call our office directly at 850-638-6230.

Requesting Your Ballot

You can find the online request form on our website at www.wcsoe.gov, call (850) 638-6230, stop by our office, or submit a written request to our email at votewashingtonfl@wcsoe.gov. You'll need to provide the following:

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Mailing Address
- Florida driver's license or identification card number OR the last four digits of your social security number
- Signature is required for written requests

Your request must be in writing if you want the ballot to be mailed to an address that is not already on file, unless you are 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. The ballot will be mailed to the voter's mailing address on file with our office. In addition to the voter information above, the requester must provide their:

- Name and address
- Driver's license or identification card number of last four digits of social security number
- Identify the relationship to the voter
- Signature (if written request)

2024 Election Schedule

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY

Election Day:

March 19th, 2024

Early Voting: March 9- March 16

Deadline for new voter
registrations or party
changes:
February 20, 2024

PRIMARY ELECTION

Election Day:

August 20, 2024

Early Voting: August 5- August 17

Deadline for new voter
registrations or party
changes:
July 22, 2024

GENERAL ELECTION

Election Day:

November 5, 2024

Early Voting: October 21- November 2

Deadline for new voter
registrations or party
changes:
October 7, 2024

FOR UPDATED ELECTION INFORMATION:

(850) 638-6230

www.wcsoe.gov

Presidential Preference Primary (PPP)

The PPP is part of the nominating process in Florida for the presidential candidate for a major political party. Voters registered with one of Florida's major political parties (as posted on the Division of Elections' website) vote their preference for which presidential candidate they would like to see representing their party on the General Election ballot in November. After the PPP, designated political party delegates from Florida formally nominate the preferred presidential candidate at the respective party's national convention based on party rules. For the 2024 Presidential Election, the Republican National Convention is held in July and the Democratic National Convention is held in August.



Primary Election

The Primary Election is held 11 weeks before the General Election. Florida is a **CLOSED PRIMARY** election state. This means that only voters who are registered with a Florida political party may vote for respective party candidates or nominees for an office in a primary election, including a presidential preference primary election. All registered voters can vote in races for nonpartisan judicial and school board offices, nonpartisan special districts and local referendum questions. Voters registered with no party affiliation (NPA) are not eligible to vote in closed party primaries.

A **Universal Primary** occurs when all candidates for a specific race are of the same political party affiliation and the winner will not face any opposition in the general election- all registered voters, no matter their party affiliation, can vote in a Universal Primary race.



General Election

A General Election is held in November on every even-numbered year. All registered voters, regardless of party affiliation or no party affiliation, may exercise their right to vote in federal and state races, judicial retention and statewide proposed constitutional amendments and revisions on the General Election ballot. That ballot may also include county and local races and local public measures.

Update your Voter Information

Once you have registered to vote in Florida, you do not have to register again. But you do need to keep your information up to date. You can change or update your voter information at any time, but a political party change before a primary election must be made by the registration deadline for that election.

NAME, SIGNATURE, POLITICAL PARTY

To update your name, signature, or political party, simply submit an updated voter registration application, online or in person.

ADDRESS

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

Phone: (850)638-6230

Email: votewashingtonfl@wcsoe.gov

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

Your signature is important

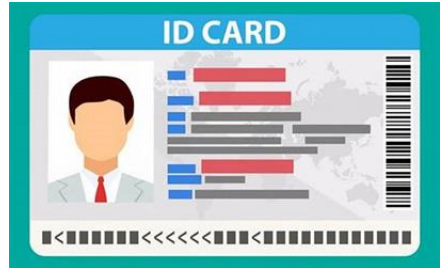
Your handwriting may change over time, so it's important to update your signature periodically. We use the signatures on file to verify your identity on petitions, provisional ballots and Vote By Mail ballots. You may use a voter registration application to update your signature.



Voter Identification at Polls

You must bring ID to vote a regular ballot at an Early Voting site or at your Election Day polling place. You can use any combination of the following IDs that show picture and signature.

- Florida Driver's License or Florida Identification Card issued by the FL DMV
- US Passport
- Debit or Credit Card
- Military ID
- Student ID
- Retirement Center ID
- Neighborhood Association ID
- Public Assistance ID
- Veteran Health ID issued by US Veteran's Affairs
- Concealed Weapon/Firearm license issued pursuant to 790.06, F.S.
- Employee ID issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the Federal Government, the State, a county or municipality.



Your Voter Information Card cannot be used as an ID to vote. If you forget to bring your ID, you can vote a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot will be forwarded to the canvassing board for review.

GET READY TO MARK YOUR BALLOT



INCORRECT



INCORRECT



CORRECT

Fill in the oval completely

OUR VOTING SYSTEM

Washington County voters use the DS200 Digital Scan Precinct Tabulator when voting in person. Each voter at the polls will receive a paper ballot inside a secrecy folder. The voter records their vote by completely filling in the oval next to the candidate or issue of his or her choice by using the pen provided in the voting booth.

After voting, the voter takes his or her ballot to the DS200 tabulator and inserts it into a slot on top of the machine. The scanning device reads the votes cast and deposits the voted ballot into a locked ballot box.

With the DS200 voting system, if you overvote a race (voting for more candidates or issues than allowed) or if you leave your ballot completely blank, it will be returned to you when you insert the ballot into the ballot box. This gives you the opportunity to correct your ballot so that you can be sure that every vote counts. If you need assistance to vote, you may request the assistance of two election officials or another person of your choice.

If you make a mistake on your ballot, you may return that ballot to the Elections Official and obtain another ballot. Florida law states that you may obtain up to two replacement ballots. If you have requested a ballot by mail and choose to vote in person, your ballot issued at the polls is considered your second ballot.

UNIVERSAL MARKING DEVICES

In 2021, in compliance with state law, Washington County upgraded the voting system to include one accessible ballot marking device, with audio capability, per precinct, to allow voters with disabilities to vote in secret and without assistance.

The ExpressVote Universal Voting System utilizes touch-screen technology that produces a paper-based record for tabulation. Headphones are available for the option of an audio ballot. A braille keypad can be used to make choices on the ballot.

The ExpressVote will not allow a voter to overvote a race and will alert the voter if a race is left blank. This equipment allows any voter with a disability to vote independently and without assistance.

OFFICES UP FOR ELECTION IN 2024

FEDERAL

President and Vice President
Representative in Congress
US Senate

STATE

State Representative, District 5

COUNTY

County Commissioners, Districts 1, 3, and 5
Clerk of Circuit Court
Property Appraiser
Sheriff
School Board Members, Districts 2 and 3
Superintendent of Schools
Supervisor of Elections
Tax Collector

14TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Public Defender
State Attorney
Circuit Judge- Groups 3,4,6,11,12,and 13

JUDICIAL RETENTION

FL Supreme Court Justices
District Court of Appeal, Judges

SPECIAL DISTRICT

Soil and Water Conservation, District 1, 2, 4, and 5.

WASHINGTON COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Federal Officials

President (4 year term)

Next Election

Joseph R. Biden Jr.(DEM)

2024

Vice President (4 year term)

Kamala Harris (DEM)

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW

Washington, D.C. 20500

(202) 456-1414 Main Line

(202) 456-1111 Comment Line

U.S. Senators (6 year term)

Rick Scott (REP)

2024

B3 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

(202) 224-5274

Marco Rubio (REP)

2028

284 Russell Senate Office Bldg

Washington, D.C. 20510

(202) 224-3041

402 South Monroe Street, Suite 2105E

Tallahassee, FL 32399

(850)599-9100

U.S. House of Representatives (2 year term)

2024

District 2

Neal Dunn (REP)

316 Cannon HOB

Washington, D. C. 20515

(202) 225-5235

840 W 11th Street, Suite 2250

Panama City, FL 32401

(850) 785-0812

State Officials

The Capitol, 400 S Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399

Governor (4 year term)

Ron Desantis (REP)

2026

(850) 488-7146

Lieutenant Governor (4 year term)

Jeanette Nunez (REP)

(850) 717-9282

Attorney General (4 year term)

2026

Ashley Moody (REP)

(850) 414-3300

Commissioner of Agriculture (4 year term)

2026

Wilton Simpson (REP)

1-800-435-7352

Chief Financial Officer (4 year term)

2026

Jimmy Patronis, Jr. (REP)

200 East Gaines Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399

1-877-693-5236

State Attorney, 14th Circuit (4 year term)

2024

Larry Basford (REP)

P.O. Box 1040

Panama City, FL 32402

(850) 482-9555

(850) 872-4473

Public Defender, 14th Circuit (4 year term)

2024

Henry Mark Sims (REP)

P.O. Box 636

Marianna, FL 32447

(850) 482-9366

State Senator, District 2 (4 year term)

2026

(Includes Bay, Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Walton, Washington,
and part of Okaloosa Counties)

Jay Trumbull (REP)

302 Senate Office Bldg

404 S Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399

(850) 487-5002

840 W. 11th Street

Panama City, FL 32401

State House, District 5 (2 year term)

2024

(Includes Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Walton, Washington)

1402 Capitol

402 S Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399

(850) 717-5005

Administration Bldg, Room 186

Chipola College

3094 Indian Circle

Marianna, FL 32446

(850) 718-0047

FAQs

1. Do I have to re-register if I haven't voted in a long time?

Answer: Failure to vote or contact our office in four years may result in being removed from the voter list. It is recommended that voters make some form of contact with the elections office at least every two years to stay on active status. To check your status, log on to www.wcsoe.gov and click on Register to Vote and follow the prompts.

2. Do I have to choose a political party when I register to vote?

Answer: No. You are not required to select a political party. If you do not select a party, you will automatically be registered as No Party Affiliation. Voters registered as No Party Affiliation or in a minor party may not vote for party candidates in a primary election, but may vote on non-partisan candidates and issues.

3. How do I change my political party?

Answer: You may submit a party change on a Florida Voter Registration Application to our office with your signature, through the FLDMV office or complete the record change through Online Voter Registration at www.registertovoteflorida.gov. Party changes will NOT be processed while the registration books are closed 29 days prior to the primary election.

4. I have moved since the last time I voted and forgot to change my address, can I go to my old polling site to vote?

Answer: No. Call our office to change your address over the phone and determine your new precinct and polling location. It is against the law to vote in a precinct in which you do not live.

5. How do I change my address?

Answer: All address changes can be made through Online Voter Registration at www.registertovoteflorida.gov or you can make the changes via phone call, email, fax or in person.

6. If I am not currently registered, what is the registration deadline for an election?

Answer: The registration deadline is 29 days prior to any election.

FAQs

7. How do voter's names get removed and or re-instated on the voter registration rolls?

Answer:

(a) If a voter moves to another county within the State of Florida and registers there, the statewide Florida Voter Registration System will notify our office of the change; that voter will be listed as "Registered Elsewhere" in our system and removed from our voter list.

(b) If we receive notification from the post office that a voter's address has changed we send out an Address Confirmation postcard to the new address for the voter to verify the change. If that, or any other piece of First-Class mail, comes back to the office as "Returned Undeliverable", we send an Address Confirmation Final Notice postcard if the Final Notice comes back as Undeliverable as well, the voter will be placed on an inactive status.

(c) If a voter dies in the State of Florida, the Department of Health notifies the Division of Elections, and they notify the county SOE where the voter was registered to vote and the voter is removed. If the voter passes away outside of the State of Florida, the family must provide a copy of the voter's death certificate to have that voter removed.

(d) Voters on the Inactive list can be re-instated by updating their voter registration, appearing to vote, or requesting a vote-by-mail ballot. However, after two general (federal) elections from the date the final notice was sent, all inactive voters who show no activity will be removed from the registration records and must register again in order to vote.

8. Does Power of Attorney apply when voting?

Answer: Power of Attorney cannot be used to vote or sign another voter's registration form per Florida Statute 709.2201(3)(c).

FAQs

9. Where can I return my voted Vote-By-Mail ballot?

Answer: Voted Washington County Vote-By-Mail ballots can be returned via secure ballot intake stations located at each Early Voting site during early voting hours (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) and at the Supervisor of Elections office located at 1424 Jackson Avenue, Ste. C, Chipley, FL.

10. How often do I have to renew my Vote-By-Mail request? Answer:

Vote-By-Mail requests now expire on December 31st following each general election.

11. Can I turn in my vote-by-mail ballot at my polling place on Election Day?

Answer: No. Your voted vote-by-mail ballot must be turned into the elections office at 1424 Jackson Avenue, Ste. C, Chipley, FL 32428. However, if you change your mind after you have requested and received a vote-by-mail ballot, you may surrender it at your polling site and vote in-person. If you have not received a Vote-By-Mail ballot, but have requested one and then decide you want to vote in person, please advise the Precinct Clerk that is what you would like to do before check-in. After confirming with the Elections office that your vote-by-mail ballot has not been received, your Vote-By-Mail ballot will be cancelled and you will be allowed to vote in person.

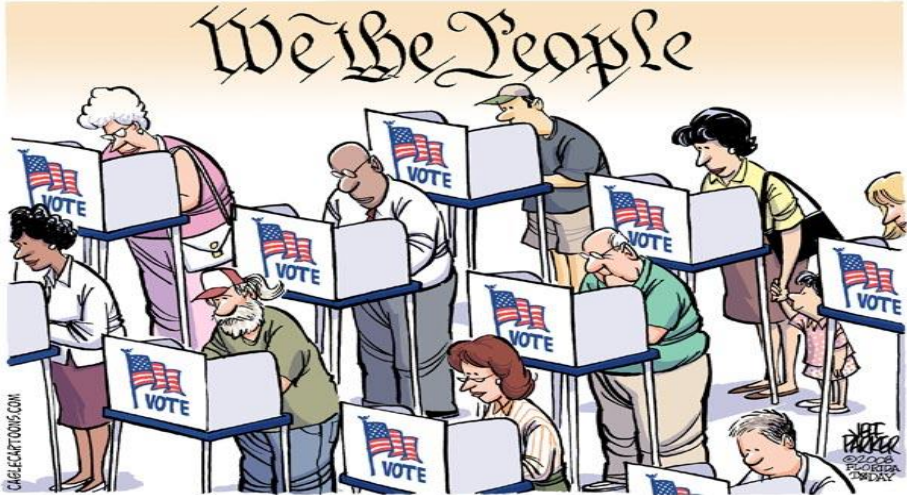
12. What happens if I forget to bring ID to the polls?

Answer: If you cannot present a photo and signature ID, the law requires you to vote a provisional ballot. The ballot will be referred to the canvassing board for further processing.

13. Can I bring my children with me to vote?

Answer: Yes, but we do ask that they behave appropriately and remain quiet while inside the polling location as to not disturb other voters. Exposing children to voting at an early age is highly encouraged!

Become an Election Worker



Election Workers are needed

You can make a difference in your community by joining our team of election workers. It takes over 60 election workers to staff our polling places on Election Day and during Early Voting. Election Workers are paid for their work and are a necessary and valued component in election administration.

Requirements

- You must be a registered voter in Washington County.
- You must be able to read, write, and speak English.
- You cannot be a candidate or a close relative of a candidate on the ballot.
- Additional skill sought: bilingual in English and Spanish

Election Worker Benefits

- Engagement with your fellow citizens
- Participation in the democratic process
- Satisfaction for serving others
- Payment for your services
- Learning about the election process
- Having fun!