

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do the courts get prospective jurors' names from voter registration rolls?

- ★ No. Names for jurors come from the driver's license offices. The only exception is Federal Court.

Must I choose a party when I register to vote?

- ★ No, it's not a requirement. Voters registered as "no party affiliation" (NPA) may not vote for party candidates in a primary election but may vote for non-partisan races (like school board and judicial) and referenda. The exception is when all candidates in a race are the same party and the winner will be determined in the primary election— then all voters may vote in that race, called a **Universal Primary Contest**. For general elections, all voters receive the same ballot and may vote for any candidate or question on the ballot for their district.

I'm registered as NPA. Why can't I vote for anybody I want in a primary election?

- ★ Florida is a closed primary state. That means that the primary elections are "nominating" elections for the **political parties**. In primary elections, voters registered NPA can **only** vote the nonpartisan races, such as school board and judicial, and for referenda and Universal Primary Contests. Call our office for more information.

I have just moved. Is there anything I need to do about my voter registration?

- ★ Yes, your voter registration should always reflect your current residential address. If you move after you have registered to vote, please notify us. See "Changing Your Record" in this guide for more information.

There's a polling place closer to my home than the one I'm assigned to. Why can't I vote in the one closer to my home?

- ★ In Florida, each voter must be registered **AND** vote in the precinct of his or her residence. A post office box or business address **cannot** be used as a substitute for your true residential address for voting or for signing petitions for candidates or issues.

More questions?

- ★ Give us a call at (850) 674-8568, or visit our office or website (votecalhoun.com).

WWW.VOTECALHOUN.COM

Many activities relating to your voter registration and elections that used to require a trip or phone call to the Supervisor of Elections Office may now be conveniently accomplished through our website. At votecalhoun.com, you may:



- ★ Complete & print a Voter Registration Application
- ★ Check your personal voter registration status
- ★ Change your address
- ★ Find your polling place, including directions, a map & a photo
- ★ Request & track your vote-by-mail ballot
- ★ Get election results, current & past
- ★ View a candidate list, sample ballots & candidate biographies & financial reports (when available)
- ★ See current deadlines & election dates
- ★ Get contact info for elected officials for Calhoun County - local, state & national
- ★ View archive lists of elected officials, & more!

OFFICES TO BE FILLED IN 2018

Federal Offices:

United States Senator
Representative in Congress

State Offices:

Governor and Lieutenant Governor
Attorney General
Chief Financial Officer
Commissioner Of Agriculture

Multicounty & District Offices:

State Representative, District 7
Circuit Court Judge, 14th Judicial Circuit (nonpartisan)

County Offices:

Board of County Commissioners, Districts 2 & 4
School Board (nonpartisan), Districts 2, 3 & 5

Judicial Retention (nonpartisan):

Justice of the Supreme Court (whose terms expire 1/19)
Judge, District Court of Appeal (whose terms expire 1/19)



VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

(Section 101.031, Florida Statutes)

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

(Section 101.031, Florida Statutes)

Each registered voter in this state should:

1. Familiarize himself or herself with the candidates and issues.
2. Maintain with the office of the supervisor of elections a current address.
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.

CALHOUN COUNTY, FLORIDA 2017-18

VOTER GUIDE

2017 ELECTION DATES

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

City of Blountstown

August 29, 2017

Registration deadline is:
July 31, 2017

VOTECALHOUN.COM

Sharon Chason: Supervisor of Elections
Sharon Guilford: Assistant Supervisor

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

20859 Central Avenue East, Room 117
Blountstown, Florida 32424
Phone (850) 674-8568
Fax (850) 674-2449
Email soecalco@fairpoint.net

Located on the first floor of the
Calhoun County Courthouse

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday

REGISTERING TO VOTE

Registration forms are available in our office, driver's license offices, public libraries or public assistance agencies, or a printable version is available on our website. Complete the form in accordance with the instructions provided and mail or bring it to our office. If you need assistance, we're just a phone call away: (850) 674-8568.

To register and vote in Florida, you must:

- ★ Be a U.S. Citizen and a legal resident of Florida and of the county where you intend to vote.
- ★ Be 18 years old. (May pre-register at 16)
- ★ Not be adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting unless that right has been restored.
- ★ Not be a convicted felon unless you have had your civil rights restored.

IN FLORIDA, VOTER REGISTRATION BOOKS CLOSE 29 DAYS BEFORE EACH ELECTION.

During the 29-day period, no new voter registrations can be processed. Political party changes cannot be made during the 29-day period when the books are closed before primary elections. Voter registration books reopen the day after the election.



PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Florida is a closed primary state. That means that only voters who are registered members of political parties may vote for their respective party's candidates in a primary election. Voters without party affiliation are not eligible to vote for party candidates in a primary election. However, if all candidates have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the general election, all qualified voters, regardless of party affiliation, may vote in the primary election for that office. This is known as a Universal Primary Contest.

Nonpartisan judicial and school board offices, nonpartisan special districts and local referendum questions are included in some primary elections. All registered voters, including those without party affiliation, are entitled to receive and vote these ballots for their respective districts.

KEEP YOUR RECORD CURRENT

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

- ★ Address
- ★ Name
- ★ Party
- ★ Signature Change / Update



Since your residential 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, we recommend changes be made using a Florida Voter Registration Application form that can be found online at www.votecalhoun.com or at any public library or public assistance agency. If you prefer, call us at 850-674-8568 and we will assist you in updating your record. Signatures on your registration record are used to verify signatures on petitions and on the envelopes of provisional and vote-by-mail ballots. If your signatures do not match, your petition or ballot will not count.

RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS

If you have been convicted of a felony you may not register to vote until your voting rights are restored. You may research your status and apply for Restoration of Civil Rights through the Florida Office of Executive Clemency.

Website: <https://www.fcor.state.fl.us/restoration.shtml>

Phone: 1-800-435-8286 or 850-488-2952

Fax: 850-488-0695

Email: clemencyweb@fpc.state.fl.us

Mail: 4070 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399

EARLY VOTING

Early voting starts in our office on the first floor of the Calhoun County Courthouse 15 days before each election, ending on the Saturday before the election. Due to changes to Florida's election laws, early voting dates and hours may vary by county. Calhoun County's schedule will be advertised before early voting begins.

Early voters must provide photo and signature identification or be entitled to vote a provisional ballot.

VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS

All qualified voters are permitted to vote-by-mail under Florida law. Unless it's an emergency, it's best not to wait until the last minute to request a vote-by-mail ballot.

By Florida law, only you or your **immediate** family members may **request** a vote-by-mail ballot for you. If you need someone to pick up a vote-by-mail ballot for you, the law is very specific regarding written permission, affidavits, and dates that pickup is allowed. Please call our office or visit our website for this information.

If you are an **absent uniformed services voter, overseas uniformed services voter or overseas voter**, visit our website or contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program for information on registering and voting absentee. The FVAP's toll-free hotline is 1-800-438-8683, and their website is www.fvap.gov

ON ELECTION DAY

You may vote in person at your polling location (printed on your Voter Information Card) on Election Day. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Unless extended by an Executive Order of the Governor of Florida.) You must vote in the precinct of your legal residence.

ACCESSIBLE VOTING EQUIPMENT FOR DISABLED

VOTERS: In addition to the Accu-Vote optical-scan machine, all of our polling places are equipped with accessible voting systems for persons with disabilities to enable them to vote without assistance. Persons with disabilities or those who cannot read or write and desire help may designate someone of his or her own choice, other than an employer or an officer or agent of his or her union, to provide such assistance. Poll workers may also provide assistance.

WHEN YOU GO TO VOTE: You must show a photo and signature ID (see "Identification Requirements" in this guide). When you arrive to vote, once your identity has been established, you will be asked to sign the precinct register and then you will be allowed to vote. If you need assistance, please inform the poll worker. If you make a mistake when voting on a paper ballot, ask for a replacement. You may receive up to two replacements (or a total of three ballots.)

HOW TO VOTE

Marking your ballot is easy. Just fill in the oval next to the candidate of your choice.



After marking your ballot, feed it into the Accu-Vote optical-scan machine. It's that simple!



IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

To vote in Florida you must present both signature and photo identification, such as a Florida driver's license, or two separate forms of identification. For example, you may have a student ID with your photograph on it but not your signature. You would then need to present a second form of identification with your signature on it.



Acceptable forms of photo identification include:

- ★ Florida driver's license
- ★ Florida ID issued by Dept. of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles
- ★ Neighborhood association ID
- ★ Retirement center ID
- ★ Public assistance ID
- ★ Debit or credit card
- ★ U.S. passport
- ★ Student ID
- ★ Military ID
- ★ Veteran Health ID
- ★ Concealed weapons permit

If your eligibility to vote cannot be determined or you do not have the proper ID, you will be entitled to vote a provisional ballot. You'll be given written notice of your rights regarding the provisional ballot at that time. For more information on provisional ballots, contact our office or visit votecalhoun.com.