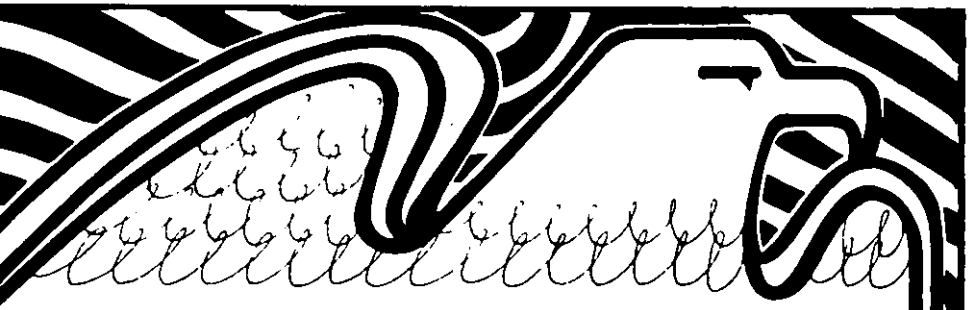


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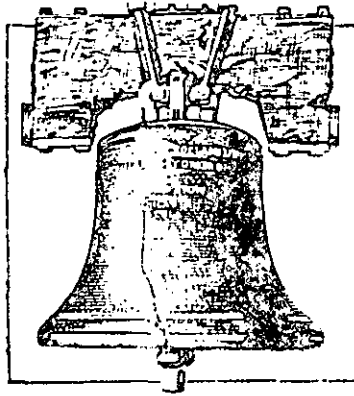
1980 FLORIDA Voter's Guide



1980 FLORIDA VOTER'S GUIDE

Distributed by
Division of Elections
Florida Department of State
Tallahassee, Florida 32301





THE SECRET BALLOT: A RIGHT & RESPONSIBILITY

The secret ballot is the keystone of our system of self-determination. It is the foundation of our liberty and its strength is magnified through use.

The exercise of the secret ballot is more than an inherent right, it is a responsibility. A ballot not cast is in fact a vote against the form of government that permits it.

The greatest threat to our way of life is posed by extreme apathy; by citizens who do not care enough to cast their ballots.

**VOTE AND THE CHOICE IS YOURS.
DON'T VOTE, AND THE CHOICE IS THEIRS.
REGISTER, OR YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.**

OFFICES TO BE FILLED BY ELECTION IN 1980

United States Senator (One)

Representatives in Congress (One for each Congressional District)

State Senators (Odd numbered Districts)

House of Representatives of the Florida Legislature (All Districts)

State Attorney—All except 20th Circuit

Public Defender—All except 20th Circuit

County Offices vary from County to County, however, most will elect:

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Sheriff

Property Appraiser

Tax Collector

District Superintendent of Schools

Supervisor of Elections

3 Members of the Board of County Commissioners

2 Members of the District School Board

Information listing offices for a particular County can be obtained from your local Supervisor of Elections.

NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL OFFICERS

FOR RETENTION

5 Justices of the Supreme Court

Judges, District Courts of Appeal (Only those whose terms will expire in January 1981)

CIRCUIT JUDGES (Only those whose terms will expire in January 1981)

COUNTY COURT JUDGES (Only those whose terms will expire in January 1981)

ELECTION DATES — 1980

- Presidential Preference Primary.....March 11, 1980**
First Primary.....September 9, 1980
(includes Judicial Offices)
- Second Primary.....October 7, 1980**
General Election.....November 4, 1980
(includes Judicial Offices)

DATES FOR CANDIDATES TO QUALIFY

Candidates for member of the State or County Executive Committees qualify with the Supervisor of Elections between noon, January 8 and noon, January 22. These candidates will be elected at the Presidential Preference Primary.

Candidates for the Offices of United States Senator, Representatives in Congress, State Senators, Members of the Florida House of Representatives, State Attorney, Public Defender, and Nonpartisan Judicial Officers are required to qualify with the Secretary of State at any time after noon, July 8 but not later than noon, July 22.

Candidates for County Offices are required to qualify with the Supervisor of Elections of the County at any time after noon, July 8 but not later than noon, July 22.

NONPARTISAN ELECTION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS

“Judicial Officers” means Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the District Courts of Appeal, Judges of the Circuit Courts and County Court Judges.

These candidates qualify with the Secretary of State at the same time as candidates for other state offices. Candidates for election to Circuit Court and County Court will appear on the ballot at the first primary and general election. Candidates for retention on the Supreme Court or District Court of Appeal will appear on the ballot at the general election.

REGISTRATION BOOKS ARE PUBLIC RECORDS

Section 98.211, Florida Statutes

The Registration Books are public records and every citizen is allowed to examine them while they are in the custody of the Supervisor, but is not allowed to make copies or extracts therefrom.

The Supervisor shall furnish at cost, lists that contain only the names of registered voters, their party affiliations, addresses and precinct number. The Supervisor shall furnish these lists only to the following parties:

- 1) the courts for use in jury selection
- 2) municipalities
- 3) other governmental agencies
- 4) candidates
- 5) registered political committees
- 6) registered committees of continuous existence
- 7) political parties
- 8) incumbent officerholders to report to their constituents.

Such lists may be used solely for political purposes and not for commercial purposes.

DATES REGISTRATION BOOKS CLOSE

Sections 97.111 and 98.051, Florida Statutes

Registration books shall close on the thirtieth day before each state and local election and remain closed until after the election. When the books are closed for an election, registrations and changes in registration shall be accepted for any subsequent election. However, Section 97.111, Florida Statutes, provides that no person may change his party affiliation except following a general election and until the books are closed for the next succeeding primary election.

For the primary elections, the books shall close on the thirtieth day before the first primary and remain closed until after the second primary, during which time no registrations or party changes shall be accepted for those elections.

**Registration books will close
for the 1980 elections –**

Presidential Preference Primary..... February 9, 5:00 p.m.
Primary Elections..... August 9, 5:00 p.m.
General Election..... October 4, 5:00 p.m.

REQUIREMENTS TO REGISTER

Section 97.041, Florida Statutes

(1) Any person at least 18 years of age who is a citizen of the United States and a permanent resident of Florida and of the county in which he wishes to register, is eligible to register with the Supervisor when the registration books are open.

(2) Any person who is 17½ years of age and who is otherwise qualified may preregister for any election occurring on or after his 18th birthday when the registration books are open.



PERSONS NOT ENTITLED TO REGISTER OR VOTE

Section 97.041 (3)&(4), Florida Statutes

(3) The following persons are not entitled to register or to vote:

(a) Persons adjudicated mentally incompetent in this or any other state and who have not had their competency restored pursuant to law.

(b) Persons convicted of any felony by any court of record and whose civil rights have not been restored.

(4) Any person who is not registered shall not be entitled to vote.

REMOVAL OF NAMES FROM REGISTRATION BOOKS

Section 98.081, Florida Statutes

Under the permanent registration system, a voter who is registered with the Supervisor of Elections is qualified to vote.

In each odd-numbered year, however, the Supervisor shall conduct a purge of the registration books and will mail a notice to each voter who did not vote at least once during the past 2 years. This notice will request certain information from the voter, and it is the voter's responsibility to return the form or card to the Supervisor within 30 days. Voters who fail to return the notice shall have their names temporarily withdrawn from the registration books.

REINSTATEMENT OF REGISTRATION

(1) Section 98.081, Florida Statutes

If a voter whose name has been temporarily withdrawn from the registration records due to failure to return the purge card wishes to have his name reinstated, he must notify the Supervisor in writing that his status and qualifications to vote have not changed. The Supervisor shall then reinstate the voter's name without requiring the voter to reregister. Any elector who fails to respond to the purge notice within 3 years shall be removed from the books and shall be required to reregister to have his name restored.

(2) Section 97.064, Florida Statutes

Any person who is in the Military Service or who holds a position with the United States Government (including the spouse or dependents of such person) required to be absent from the state during the time when the registration books are open and his registration has lapsed because of his failure to return the purge card mailed to him, may have his name reinstated to the registration books by mailing a federal postcard application to the Supervisor of the county in which he is registered, provided he has retained his qualifications to vote under his last registration.

ABSENTEE REGISTRATION

Section 97.063, Florida Statutes

The following persons are entitled to register absentee if otherwise qualified —

- a. Members of the armed forces while in the active services and their spouses and dependents;
- b. Members of the merchant marine of the United States and their spouses and dependents;
- c. Citizens of the United States who are permanent residents of the state and are temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia, and their spouses and dependents when residing with or accompanying them;
- d. Citizens of the United States who are permanent residents of the state and are temporarily residing outside the state, or who are residing within the state but temporarily outside of the county of their permanent residence;
- e. Residents of the state who are physically disabled and unable to register in person; and

f. Residents of the state who are unable to register in person.

Upon receipt of the duly executed federal postcard application or other such request for an application for absentee registration by persons listed in Section 97.063, Florida Statutes, the Supervisor of Elections shall mail to the applicant an application for absentee registration if the applicant has never registered in the county or if the applicant has registered and has failed to reregister.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Section 97.021(8), Florida Statutes, defines an Absent Elector as any registered and qualified voter who:

(a) Is unable without another's assistance to attend the polls;

(b) Is an Inspector, a Poll Worker, a Deputy Voting Machine Custodian, Deputy Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections or Deputy Supervisor who is assigned to a different precinct than that in which he is registered to vote;

(c) On account of the tenets of his religion, cannot attend the polls on the day of a general, special, or primary election;

(d) Has changed his residency to another county in Florida within the time period during which the registration books are closed for the election for which the ballot is requested;

(e) Will not be in the county of his residence during the hours the polls are open for voting on the day of an election, except that any person confined in prison shall not be entitled to vote absentee or;

(f) Has changed his residency to another state and is ineligible under the laws of that state to vote in the general election, provided, that this shall pertain only to Presidential Ballots.

Section 101.62(1), Florida Statutes

An absent elector may request from the Supervisor of Elections or his deputy an absentee ballot during the 1-year period preceding an election. The supervisor may accept a request for an absentee ballot for an elector from any person designated by such elector. Such request may be made in person, by mail, or by telephone. One request shall be deemed sufficient to receive an absentee ballot for each election which is held within such 1-year period, provided the elector or his designee indicates at the time the request is made the elections for which the elector desires to receive an absentee ballot. Instructions as to how an absentee ballot shall be prepared are prescribed by law and sent to the absent elector with the ballot. The ballot must be mailed or delivered in person so that it will reach the Supervisor not later than 7 p.m. of the day of the election.

Section 101.69, Florida Statutes

An absent elector who returns to his home county on election day may return the absentee ballot to the election board in his precinct and be permitted to vote.

ELECTORS MOVING WITHIN THE STATE OR OUT OF THE STATE

Sections 97.091 & 97.102, Florida Statutes

A voter who moves his residence to a new precinct in the county may vote in the precinct to which he has moved. At the polls the voter will be required to execute an affidavit and provide proof of his new residence.

An elector who changes his residence to another county in Florida from the county in Florida in which he is registered as an elector after the books in the county to which he has changed his residence are closed for any general, primary or special election shall be permitted to vote absentee in the county of his former residence in that election for President and Vice-President, United States Senator, statewide offices and statewide issues. Such persons shall not be permitted to vote in the county of his former residence after the general election.

An elector registered in this state who moves his permanent residence to another state and who is prohibited by the laws of that state from voting for the offices of President and Vice-President of the United States shall be permitted to vote absentee in the county of his former residence for those offices.

POLL WATCHERS

Section 101.131, Florida Statutes

Each political party and each candidate may have one watcher in each polling place at any one time during an election. Each watcher must be a qualified and registered voter of the county in which he serves, and no candidate or law enforcement officer may be designated as a poll watcher. Political parties and candidates must designate in writing to the Supervisor, poll watchers for each precinct, prior to noon of the 10th day preceding an election.

WHO CAN BE A POLLWORKER?

Inspectors and clerks of elections are appointed at least 20 days prior to an election by the Supervisor of Elections. If you are a voter and want to work at the polls, you should contact your Supervisor.

VOTING AT THE POLLS

The polls shall be open at 7:00 a.m. on the day of the election and shall remain open until 7:00 p.m. of the same day.

Where voting machines are used, the elector desiring to vote is required to identify himself to the clerk and inspectors of the election by signing his signature to an identification blank. Before entering the voting machine the elector is required to deliver his identification slip to the clerk or inspector operating the machine. The elector is then admitted to the voting machine compartment where he is allowed five minutes to vote.



Where paper ballots are used, before any ballot is delivered to an elector, one of the inspectors is required to affix his initials on the line provided on each of the two stubs and the elector shall sign his name on the line on the top stub. After the inspector determines that the elector is entitled to vote, he detaches and retains the upper stub. The elector shall then go to the booth and mark his ballot. After he has marked his ballot, he shall fold it so as to leave the stub visible so that it can be detached without unfolding the ballot. The inspector compares this stub with the stub he retained and if it is the ballot he delivered to the elector, he will detach and retain the remaining stub and the elector then deposits



the folded ballot in the ballot box. The elector who may, by mistake, spoil a ballot may return it to the inspectors and obtain another.

Procedures for electronic and electromechanical systems may vary somewhat, but will be basically the same as outlined above.

ASSISTANCE IN VOTING

Sections 97.061 & 101.051, Florida Statutes.

Any voter who needs assistance in voting may have this fact recorded on his registration record or may fill out a form at the polls attesting to this fact. He is then eligible to have the assistance of two election officials or some person of his own choice who has not previously assisted more than one other person during the election. However, a blind elector may receive the assistance of any person of his choice.

PROHIBITED ACTS

1. Crossover voting in primary elections is prohibited and,
2. Distribution of literature near a polling place is prohibited.

HOW DO YOU REPORT A VIOLATION OF THE ELECTION CODE?

Violations of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, should be reported by sworn complaint to the Florida Elections Commission, c/o The Division of Elections, The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32301.

All other violations should be reported to your local State Attorney or Grand Jury.

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Division of Elections
Florida Department of State



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