

# 2009 VOTER'S GUIDE

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**Pasco County**  
**Supervisor of Elections**

## A Message From The Supervisor



I hope you will find this guide helpful whether you're a first-time voter, a new voter to the state of Florida, or a seasoned voter. It is packed full of information to help the citizens of Pasco County become effective and empowered voters. In accordance with the 2007 legislative session, Pasco County uses optical scan voting equipment with paper ballots. Please see our website, [pascovotes.com](http://pascovotes.com), for more information on the voting system, or feel free to contact me directly at [bcorley@pascovotes.com](mailto:bcorley@pascovotes.com) with any questions or concerns you might have. Pasco County voters also have the option in countywide elections to vote early beginning 15 days prior to an election, or to vote by mail. Information on these options is inside this guide. I assure you of my office's commitment to excellence in our service to the public, and under my administration, Pasco County will continue to run transparent, trouble-free and secure elections with timely and accurate results.



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## Scheduled 2009 Elections

<u>Municipal Elections</u>	<u>Book Closing Date</u>	<u>Date of Election</u>
New Port Richey	March 16, 2009	April 14, 2009
Port Richey	March 16, 2009	April 14, 2009
San Antonio	March 16, 2009	April 14, 2009
St. Leo	March 16, 2009	April 14, 2009
Zephyrhills	March 16, 2009	April 14, 2009

### What is Book Closing. . .

Book closing is 29 days before an election, and it marks the deadline for unregistered voters to file a voter registration application. It also applies to currently registered voters who wish to change their party affiliation for an upcoming election. A completed voter registration application **must** be in the Supervisor of Elections' office, or if mailed, must be postmarked by the book closing date. By law, **Florida is a closed primary state**. Voters may only vote for candidates in their party of registration. By not selecting a party when you register, your vote is limited in primaries to judges and issues. In a general election, you may vote for any candidate regardless of party.

## REGISTERING TO VOTE:

### WHO

- US Citizens
- Those 18 years of age or older
- 16 and 17 year-olds may pre-register, but will be ineligible to vote until their 18th birthday
- Legal Residents of the State of Florida

Note: Persons adjudicated mentally incapacitated or convicted felons who have not had their rights restored, are not eligible to register to vote.

### WHEN

- If a first-time Florida voter, you must be registered by book closing day, 29 days prior to each election
- The books will remain closed until after each election
- The date your application is postmarked or received in the elections' office will be your registration date

### HOW

- You must complete a voter registration application
- Applications may be hand delivered or mailed to the elections' office
- First-time Florida voters who mail their application must also include a copy of their photo identification (acceptable forms of ID are listed under Election Day)

### WHERE

- Applications are available at any of the following:  
Supervisor of Elections' Offices  
Driver License Offices  
[pascovotes.com](http://pascovotes.com)  
County Libraries  
Post Offices  
Public School Offices
- Call our office or visit our website for additional registration sites



## MAKING CHANGES

Maintaining your voter registration is your insurance of a trouble-free voting experience without delays! Your signature is required for all name, party or written address change requests. It is your authorization for us to make the change.

**Has your address changed?** It is a felony to vote in a precinct in which you do not reside. Submit a completed voter registration application and you will receive a new voter information card with your new precinct and polling place location. In-county address changes can also be made by telephone or email, but if you have moved from another county or state, you must complete a voter registration application.

**Has your name changed?** Submit a completed voter registration application and indicate name change on Line 1 of the application.

**Do you wish to change your party affiliation?** Submit a completed voter registration application by the 29-day book closing date prior to any election and indicate party change on Line 1 of the application.

**Has your signature changed?** When you return a vote by mail ballot or sign a petition, your signature is verified against the signature on file. If the signatures do not match, your vote by mail ballot may not be counted or your petition may not be accepted. Submit a completed voter registration application and indicate signature update on Line 1 of the application.

**Mail completed applications to:** Supervisor of Elections, PO Box 300, Dade City, FL 33526.



## ELECTION DAY

The polls are open from 7:00am to 7:00pm. The name and address of your polling place is on your voter information card. If you are not sure where you vote, please contact our office or visit [pascovotes.com](http://pascovotes.com).

Voters are required to present photo and signature identification (ID) at the polls. It can be one form of identification, or two separate forms of identification. Acceptable forms of identification:

- Florida Driver License
- Florida Identification Card
- Neighborhood Association ID
- Retirement Center ID
- Public Assistance ID
- US Passport
- Security Badge
- Student ID
- Debit or Credit Card

**If you do not have proper ID, you will be issued a provisional ballot, the validity of which will be determined by the Pasco County Canvassing Board.**



## EARLY VOTING

Early voting is an option for qualified voters who may vote in person at any of the four Supervisor of Elections' offices during the 15-day period prior to any county election. Additional sites at public libraries are available as well. Dates, times and locations of early voting sites are posted on our website, [pascovotes.com](http://pascovotes.com), during an election cycle. Voters are required to present photo/signature ID or another acceptable form of identification as listed above when early voting. Voters without ID are required to vote a provisional ballot.



# VOTING BY MAIL

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Voting by mail is a service offered by the Supervisor of Elections for registered voters, who for any reason, prefer to vote in the privacy of their home at their convenience. Voted ballots **MUST BE** received in the Supervisor of Elections' office by 7:00 p.m. election day. They **MAY NOT** be returned to the polling places if they are to be counted.
- The signature on your ballot will be compared to the one on file with the elections' office. If your signature has changed for any reason you **MUST** update your signature with the elections' office before the canvassing of the vote by mail ballots.

## REQUESTING A VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

- A voter may now request a ballot for all elections through two general elections, or a specific election. The request can be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or by email on our website at [pascovotes.com](http://pascovotes.com).
- The request must be received by the Supervisor of Elections' office no later than 5 p.m. on the sixth day before the election.
- Pre-requested ballots are mailed approximately 30 days prior to each election.
- Ballots are not forwardable. In order to receive your ballots, the correct address **MUST BE** on file at the elections' office.
- Only the voter, a designated family member or legal guardian can request a ballot for the voter.
- A voter requesting a ballot for him/her self must disclose: name, address, date of birth.
- The designee of a voter requesting a ballot on their behalf must disclose: voter's name, address, date of birth, designee's name, address, relationship to the voter, and their signature (written requests only). Designee must show photo and signature ID in person.

## VOTING A BALLOT

- The voter must personally vote the ballot unless assistance is required due to a disability or they are unable to read or write.
- The voter must sign the ballot or apply any mark that represents their legal signature. Signature or mark must match the one on file at the elections' office.
- Power of Attorney IS NOT authority for signing a vote by mail ballot.

## RETURNING A VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

- Ballots may be returned to the Supervisor of Elections' office by the voter either in person or by mail. Due to postal regulations, extra postage is required to return the ballot by mail.
- A designee may deliver the ballot to the Supervisor of Elections' office in the event that the voter is unable to do so.
- By law all ballots **MUST** be received in the Supervisor of Elections' office no later than 7:00 p.m. on election day. **A VOTED BALLOT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE POLLING PLACE.**
- First-time Florida voters who registered by mail and didn't provide identification at the time of registration, must return identification with the voted ballot or by 7:00 p.m. election day to the supervisor's office.

## CARRY-OUT BALLOT

- Ballots for registered voters are available at the elections' office approximately four weeks prior to the election and on election day.
- Ballots picked up by a designee on behalf of a registered voter are available five days prior to an election, with written authorization from the voter naming the designee specifically. Designee must present photo and signature ID and will be asked to complete an affidavit.
- Carry-out ballots must be returned by 7:00 p.m. to the Supervisor of Elections' Office.



## Military Information

Military personnel may apply for voter registration or request a vote by mail ballot with a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). An FPCA may be obtained from the Unit Voting Officer or is available on-line. If the FPCA is not available, phone or send a written request to the Supervisor of Elections' office. Spouses and dependents are considered to be of the same category of voter as military members and generally should follow the same rules.

Federal portions of general election and presidential preference primary ballots voted by persons outside the U.S. are counted if postmarked no later than the election day and received within 10 days of the election. Additional military election information is available from:

The Director  
 Federal Voting Assistance Program  
 Department of Defense  
 1155 Defense Pentagon  
 Washington DC 20301-1155  
 Toll Free 800-438-8683



## Sample Ballots

A sample ballot will be available 20-25 days prior to an election. Sample ballots for Municipal Elections are published in the newspapers. For county-wide elections, sample ballots are mailed to all registered voters. Precinct-specific sample ballots are available on our website for all elections. The ballot will be the same as the one you will vote on election day (based on your address) including your congressional, senate, house and special district representatives. Voters are encouraged to mark a sample ballot and take it with them to the polls.

***pascovotes.com***

Be sure to visit our website, *pascovotes.com*, for more information on:

- Office locations and hours
- Candidates
- Voter registration statistics
- Voter education
- Voting equipment information
- Government officials
- District, precinct and polling place locations

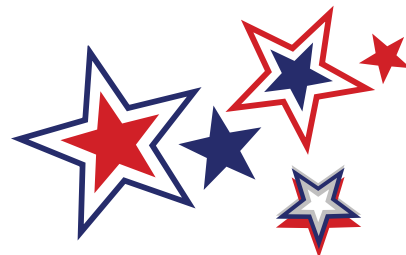


## Pollworkers and Voter Outreach Ambassadors

Qualified, committed, and well-trained workers play a key role in successful elections. There are positions for working at the polls and assisting on election day.

In addition, there are positions available throughout the year to conduct voter registration drives, voting equipment demonstrations, and voter education programs.

If you are interested in working, we encourage you to visit our website, complete an on-line application, or call 1-800-851-8754.



### Voter's Responsibilities

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.

**NOTE TO VOTER:** Failure to perform any of these responsibilities does not prohibit a voter from voting.

(Section 101.031(2), Florida Statutes)

### 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 election 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.

### The Supervisor of Elections Has Four Full-Service Offices:

#### Dade City

##### East Pasco Government Center

14236 6th Street, Suite 200  
P.O. Box 300  
Dade City, FL 33526-0300  
(352) 521-4302  
(352) 521-4319 FAX

#### Land O' Lakes

##### Central Pasco Professional Center

4111 Land O' Lakes Boulevard  
Room 105  
Land O' Lakes, FL 34639  
(813) 929-2788

#### Wesley Chapel

##### Village Market of Wesley Chapel

5325 Village Market  
Wesley Chapel, FL 33544  
(813) 929-1392

#### New Port Richey

##### West Pasco Government Center

7530 Little Road  
Suite 110  
New Port Richey, FL 34654  
(727) 847-8162

Offices are open Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

(Wesley Chapel office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with extended hours on Wednesday until 7:00 p.m.)

The Supervisor of Elections' Office is closed on legal holidays.

email: [webcomment@pascovotes.com](mailto:webcomment@pascovotes.com)