

# 2012 VOTER'S GUIDE

**Brian E. Corley**  
Supervisor of Elections



Dear Pasco County Voter,

Thank you for taking a few moments to review our voter's guide. This guide was prepared to assist you in all facets of being an engaged and informed voter. Whether you're a first-time voter, a new voter to the state of Florida, or a seasoned voter, this guide contains information to help you be prepared to exercise your precious right of freedom by voting. I would encourage all citizens to visit our website, [pascovotes.com](http://pascovotes.com), for more information on how to register, update your information, order a "vote by mail ballot," or view our voting system.

I assure you of my office's commitment to excellence in our service to the public. My staff and I bring 280 years of collective experience to the elections' process. Experience of this magnitude represents further testimony of our commitment to the citizens of Pasco County to deliver transparent, trouble-free, and secure elections.



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[pascovotes.com](http://pascovotes.com)

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## Scheduled 2012 Elections

<u>Elections</u>	<u>Book Closing Dates</u>	<u>Date of Elections</u>
Presidential Preference ***	January 3, 2012	January 31, 2012
Municipal	March 12, 2012	April 10, 2012
Primary	July 16, 2012	August 14, 2012*
General	October 8, 2012	November 6, 2012

\*Subject to change

### 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 non-partisan races (judges, school board members) and issues. In a general election, you may vote for any candidate regardless of party.

\*\*\* The Presidential Preference Primary on January 31, 2012 will be a partisan election for registered Republicans only. There are no democratic candidates, minor party candidates or amendments on the ballot for this election.

### What is a Universal Primary. . .

A Universal Primary Contest or 'UPC' means a contest in a primary election in which all candidates have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the general election. All qualified electors may vote on a UPC regardless of party affiliation.

## 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  
County Libraries  
Post Offices  
Public School Offices
- Call our office or visit our website for additional registration sites



## VOTING SYSTEM

Florida uses an optical scan paper ballot system where votes are cast by filling in ovals, similar to the lottery or standardized tests. The ballot is then read into an optical scan reader at the polling place. Mail ballots are fed through a high-speed tabulator at the Elections Service Center prior to election day. For more information visit our website.



## VOTER INFORMATION CARD

Per Florida law, Voter Information Cards are sent to all voters upon validation of their initial voter registration application, or to currently registered voters when making a name, address or party affiliation change. New information cards will be sent to all voters who are in a precinct in which there has been a change in their polling location.

Voter Information Cards are not necessary to vote. They serve as confirmation of your voter registration and provide information on your Precinct and Polling location. If you have lost your information card and would like a new one, you must complete a voter registration application.



## 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. Address changes can also be made by telephone, in writing, or e-mail, but you must provide your date of birth. If you moved from another Florida county, you must submit an updated address to Pasco County before election day, or you will be statutorily required to vote a provisional ballot.

**Has your name changed?** Submit a completed voter registration application and indicate name change on Line 1 of the application, or submit the change in writing with your signature and date of birth or voter registration number.

**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, or submit the change in writing with your signature and date of birth or voter registration number.

**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:** Honorable Brian E. Corley, Supervisor of Elections, PO Box 300, Dade City, FL 33526.



## MILITARY/OVERSEAS VOTERS

Overseas voters and military personnel and their families may apply for voter registration or request a vote by mail ballot with a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). A FPCA may be obtained from the Unit Voting Officer or is available on-line. If the FPCA is not available, contact the Supervisor of Elections' Office by e-mail, phone, or written request. Overseas persons and military personnel have the option of receiving their ballot via mail or electronically and, once issued, will be provided a free access system to track the status of their ballot and

confirm its receipt by the Supervisor of Elections' office.

Federal portions of general election ballots voted by persons outside the U.S. are counted if postmarked no later than the election day and received by the elections' office 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*



## ELECTION DAY

The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. 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).

By law, 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 Are:

- Florida Driver License
- Florida Identification Card
- Neighborhood Assoc. ID
- Retirement Center ID
- Public Assistance ID
- US Passport
- Military ID
- Student ID
- Debit or Credit Card



## EARLY VOTING

Early voting is an option for qualified voters who may vote in person at three of the Supervisor of Elections' offices during the 8-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 and signature ID or another acceptable form of identification.

***When voting on election day or when early voting, you must present proper photo and signature ID. Otherwise, you will be issued a provisional ballot, the validity of which will be determined by the Pasco County Canvassing Board.***



## VOTING BY MAIL



### REQUESTING A VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

- A voter may request a ballot for all elections through two election cycles, or a specific election. The request can be made in person, by mail, by telephone, or by e-mail 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 35 days prior to each election.
- Ballots are not forwardable. In order to receive your ballot, the correct address **MUST BE** on file at the Supervisor of Elections' office.
- Only the voter, a designated family member or legal guardian can request a ballot for the voter.
- A voter requesting a ballot must disclose their name, address, and date of birth.
- The designee of a voter requesting a ballot on the voter's 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 Supervisor of 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.
- 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 register by mail and do not 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 of Elections' office.

### CARRY-OUT BALLOT

- Ballots for registered voters are available at the Supervisor of Elections' office approximately four weeks prior to the election.
- 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 on Election Day.

## Sample Ballots

A sample ballot will be available 20-25 days prior to an election. Sample ballots for Municipal Elections are published in the newspaper. 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 sample ballot will be the same as the one you will vote on election day (based on your address) including your congressional, senate, house and local races. Voters are encouraged to mark their sample ballot and take it with them to the polls.

***pascovotes.com***

*Please visit our website 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
- Find out if you're registered to vote
- Check wait times at early voting sites
- Track your absentee ballot



## Provisional Ballots

Provisional ballots are statutorily issued at the polls under certain circumstances, and are presented to the Pasco County Canvassing Board post-election for a determination of its validity. The decision of the canvassing board is conditional based on the information you provide on your behalf, as well as the post-election research and evaluation by elections' staff. Avoid voting provisionally by keeping your registration up-to-date and taking your photo/signature ID to the polls with you.

## Pollworkers and Voter Outreach Ambassadors

Qualified, committed, and well-trained workers play a key role in successful elections. There are positions available 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.*

## 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.

*(Section 101.031(2), Florida Statutes)*

## The Supervisor of Elections Has Three 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

### New Port Richey

West Pasco Government Center  
8731 Citizens Drive  
Suite 110  
New Port Richey, FL 34654  
(727) 847-8162

Offices are open Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.  
The Supervisor of Elections' office is closed on legal holidays.

Contact us by e-mail: [webcomment@pascovotes.com](mailto:webcomment@pascovotes.com)

Website: [pascovotes.com](http://pascovotes.com)