

Voter Advocate Guide - Florida

What You Need

Basics:

In order to vote in Florida, you will need to bring ONE (1) of the following documents to your polling place:

- Florida driver's license
- Florida identification card issued by the Department of Highway, Safety and Motor Vehicles
- United States passport
- Debit or credit card
- Military ID
- Student ID
- Retirement center ID
- Neighborhood association ID
- Public assistance ID, e.g., Social Security

ID must be current and valid with your photograph and signature.

If your photo identification does not contain your signature, you will be asked to provide an additional identification that includes a signature.

If you do not have the proper identification, you will be provided with a provisional ballot. Your provisional ballot will count if the signature on the provisional ballot envelope matches the signature in your voter registration record.

Name, Address, Signature and Photo Matching

When you present your ID at the polls, the poll workers have access to voter records. Therefore, the poll worker can compare your ID information to your name, address, date of birth, etc. on record. Specifics regarding matching requirements are available starting on page 7 of the Florida Polling Place Procedures Manual:

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/rules/adopted-rules/pdf/dsde11.Polling-Place-Procedures-Manual.pdf>

Even if you have no current, valid, acceptable form of voter ID, you should not be turned away from the polls.

What you have to do:

- If you do not bring any identification with you, you will be allowed to vote with a provisional ballot.
- If the reason you voted using a provisional ballot is solely because you did not provide an acceptable photo and signature identification at the polls, you do not need to provide any further evidence of your eligibility in order for your ballot to count. The local canvassing board will simply compare your signature on the provisional ballot certificate with the signature on your voter registration record. If the signatures match, your provisional ballot will be counted.
- At the time you vote a provisional ballot, you will be given a Notice of Rights, which will include instructions on how to find out if your provisional ballot was counted, and if not, the reason(s) why. Information as to whether your provisional ballot was counted or not must be made available no later than 30 days following the election.

“Cure” Period

If you were required to vote a provisional ballot for other reasons (for example, your eligibility is challenged by another person, you are in the wrong precinct when you vote, you do not appear on the precinct register), your vote won't count unless you bring evidence to your supervisor of elections no later than 5 p.m. of the second day following the election. The local canvassing board will examine your provisional ballot certificate along with any and all other information and evidence, if available. The board must count your provisional ballot unless the board determines, based on the preponderance of the evidence, that you are not entitled to vote.

Absentee Voting

- All qualified (registered) voters are permitted to vote absentee under Florida law. A voter, or, if directly instructed by the voter, a member of the voter's immediate family or the voter's legal guardian, may request an absentee ballot directly from the Supervisor of Elections. The request must be made in person or by mail, fax, telephone, or online through the Supervisor of Elections' website: (http://election.dos.state.fl.us/SOE/supervisor_elections.asp). Here's more absentee voting information: <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voting/absentee.shtml>.

Federal Law

Federal law, the Help America Vote Act, requires ID for first-time voters (defined as: registering to vote by mail; did not vote in a previous Federal election, or never voted in your county of residence in a Federal election). Visit the VoteRiders website for more detailed identification requirements: http://www.voteriders.org/sites/default/files/VoteRiders-site-HAVA-1st-Time-Voters-03-2014_0.pdf

How To Get It

Renew a Florida Driver's License

Renew a Florida driver's license here: <https://services.flhsmv.gov/virtualoffice/Lobby.aspx>.
For more information on renewing a Florida driver's license, please visit <http://www.dmvflorida.org/renew.shtml>.

Florida Identification Card

Apply for a Florida Identification Card for the first time here: <http://www.dmv.org/fl-florida/id-cards.php#Applying-for-a-Florida-ID-Card>.

Renew a Florida Identification Card

Renew a Florida identification card here: <https://services.flhsmv.gov/virtualoffice/Lobby.aspx>.
For more information on renewing a Florida identification card, please visit <http://www.dmv.org/fl-florida/id-cards.php>.

U.S. Passport Renewal

<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports/renew.html>

Voter Registration

- In Florida, you can only vote in the precinct to which you have moved. However, if you are temporarily living outside your home county and have no permanent address in the county, you can remain registered in the county, but you will be assigned the precinct that contains the main office of the Supervisor of Elections. You will not be able to vote in municipal elections. In order to avoid delays at the polling place, you should update your address before you go to vote. If you do not update your address by the time you vote, it may affect how you vote.

- You can update your voter registration by filling out a voter registration application and submitting it to the Supervisor of Elections. The application is available here: <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/pdf/webappform.pdf>.
- You can find Florida's Voter Registration Application at <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voter-registration/voter-reg.shtml#voterApp>. The application must be mailed or hand-delivered to any Supervisor of Elections' office in the state. Find your Supervisor of Elections office here: http://election.dos.state.fl.us/SOE/supervisor_elections.asp
- In order to register to vote in Florida, you must:
 - Be a Citizen of the United States of America (a lawful permanent resident is not a U.S. citizen);
 - Be a Florida resident;
 - Be 18 years old (you may pre-register to vote if you are 16 years old, but you cannot vote until you are 18 years old).
 - Not now be adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting in Florida or any other state without having the right to vote restored;
 - Not have been convicted of a felony without your civil rights having been restored; and
 - Provide your current and valid Florida driver's license number or Florida identification card number. If you do not have a Florida driver's license number or a Florida identification card number then you must provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number. If you do not have any of these items, you must write "none" in the box or field.

Didn't find what you were looking for?

Try these Websites:

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voting/index.shtml>

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voter-registration/index.shtml>

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/gen-faq.shtml>

OR call:

Florida Division of Elections office: (850) 245-6200