

ESCAMBIA COUNTY VOTER GUIDE — 2012

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Supervisor of Elections



Registering to Vote

Registering to vote is easy. You will need your Florida Driver's License number, Florida ID number, or last four digits of your Social Security number. If you have none of these, you may be required to provide additional identification prior to voting for the first time.

To register in person, you simply complete a Florida Voter Registration Application at an authorized location, which include: any Elections Office, Public Libraries, Florida Driver's License Offices, Centers for Independent Living, WIC and Florida Department of Children and Families Offices, Armed Forces Recruitment Offices, and several other public agencies.

Voter Registration Applications are also available online at EscambiaVotes.com, at several locations throughout Escambia County, or an application can be mailed to you. These applications must be completed, signed, and returned to an Elections Office. Large print and Braille instructions are also available.

You may register to vote if:

- You are a U.S. citizen.
- You are at least 18 years of age (you may preregister at age 16).
- You are a legal resident of the Florida county in which you wish to be registered.

You CANNOT register to vote if:

- You have been convicted of a felony or adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting, and you have not had your right to vote restored.
- You are not a U.S. citizen.

Your Voter Information Card

Once registered, a Voter Information Card will be mailed to you. This card provides your precinct number and polling location as well as other district information. You are not required to present the card to vote on Election Day.

If your polling place or precinct changes, you will be mailed a new Voter Information Card with updated information on where to cast your ballot on Election Day.

Three Ways to Vote

Voting in Florida has never been easier. In most elections, you can choose one of three ways to cast your ballot:

1. Early

For most elections in Escambia County, early voting is offered to all eligible voters at several locations throughout the county. Early voting begins ten days prior to Election Day and ends three days prior. For complete information on early voting times and locations, visit EscambiaVotes.com, contact us by phone or e-mail, or refer to your sample ballot.

2. By Mail

You may request an absentee ballot by contacting our office by mail, phone, fax, e-mail, or through our website. Requests for a ballot to be mailed must be received no later than the Wednesday before a Tuesday election. Follow the instructions included to complete your ballot. Voted ballots must be received no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day and may be returned by mail or hand delivery. Absentee ballots may not be forwarded, so make sure your address is correct.

3. At Your Precinct

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. — you must vote in the precinct in which you live and are registered.

Florida Holds Closed Primaries

In Florida primary elections, you may only vote for candidates of the party in which you are registered. However, if all candidates for an office are from the same party, and will not face opposition in the general election, then all qualified voters may cast a ballot in the primary, regardless of party affiliation. This is known as a Universal Primary Contest.

In the general election, and in non-partisan contests, all voters may cast a ballot without regard to political party.

Photo and Signature ID Requirement

If you choose to vote in person, whether by early voting or at your precinct on Election Day, you must present photo and signature identification. Acceptable forms of photo ID are: Florida Driver's License, Florida ID card issued by the Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles, U.S. Passport, Debit/Credit Card, Military ID, Student ID, Retirement Center ID, Neighborhood Association ID, and Public Assistance ID. If you fail to present proper identification at the polls, you must vote a provisional ballot.

Provisional Ballots

If you do not provide an acceptable photo and signature identification at the polls, you may vote a provisional ballot. The 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 if you are otherwise eligible to vote and cast your ballot in the proper precinct.

If a person's eligibility to vote cannot be determined, he or she will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot. A person casting a provisional ballot will be provided a written notice of rights with instructions on how to present written evidence supporting their eligibility to vote to the supervisor of elections.

Keep your Information Current

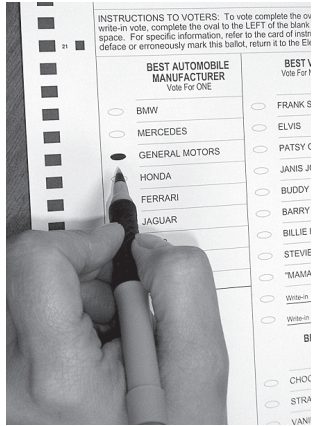
We need your help! In order to keep our voter rolls current, we ask that you keep us informed of any changes to your registration. You can simply call us with an address change, or use a signed, written notice to change your party, name, or address. You may update your signature on file with our office at any time using a voter registration application, which can be obtained from our website, our office, or any other voter registration agency. It is important to keep your signature updated, as it is used to verify absentee ballots and petitions. An outdated signature, if it differs significantly from your current signature, may result in your absentee ballot or petition not being accepted.

How to Vote

Escambia County's primary voting method is digital scanners with paper ballots.

Digital Scan with paper ballot

- To vote, simply mark your ballot by completely darkening the oval to the LEFT of your choice, as illustrated.
- For write-in candidates, if applicable, darken the oval to the LEFT of the words "Write-in," and write the qualified write-in candidate's name on the line.
- After reviewing your ballot, insert it into the digital scan tabulator.



Voters with Disabilities

Escambia County also has at least one AutoMARK available at each polling place and early voting location to assist persons with disabilities. This ballot marking device uses a digital scan ballot, and allows voters with disabilities the option of a touchscreen or an audio headset function to mark their ballot. The screen has large-print capability and adjustable screen contrast for better viewing.

- The voter inserts the digital scan ballot into the machine.
- Make your selections by touching your choice on the screen.
- Touch "back" or "next" to navigate through the ballot.
- Once you have reviewed your selections, touch the "mark ballot" button and the AutoMARK will mark the ballot and eject it.
- The ballot is then inserted into the digital scan tabulator.

Remember to bring your photo and signature ID to the polls!

Voter's Bill of Rights

Each registered voter in this state has the right to:

- Vote and have his or her vote accurately counted.
- Cast a vote if he or she is in line at the official closing of the polls in that county.
- Ask for and receive assistance in voting.
- Receive up to two replacement ballots if he or she makes a mistake prior to the ballot being cast.
- An explanation if his or her registration or identity is in question.
- If his or her registration or identity is in question, cast a provisional ballot.
- Written instructions to use when voting and, upon request, oral instructions in voting from elections officers.
- Vote free from coercion or intimidation by elections officers or any other person.
- Vote on a voting system that is in working condition and that will allow votes to be accurately cast.

Voter's Responsibilities

Each registered voter in this state should:

- Familiarize himself or herself with the candidates and issues.
- Maintain with the office of supervisor of elections a current address.
- Know the location of his or her polling place and its hours of operation.
- Bring proper identification to the polling station.
- Familiarize himself or herself with the operation of the voting equipment in his or her precinct.
- Treat precinct workers with courtesy.
- Respect the privacy of other voters.
- Report any problems or violations of election laws to the supervisor of elections.
- Ask questions, if needed.
- 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.

2012 Election Dates

Federal, State, and local elections

- PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE
PRIMARY: January 31, 2012
Registration books close January 3, 2012
Early voting: January 21 – 28, 2012
- PRIMARY ELECTION: August 14, 2012
Registration books close July 16, 2012
Early voting: August 4 – 11, 2012
- GENERAL ELECTION: November 6, 2012
Registration books close October 9, 2012
Early voting: October 27 – November 3, 2012

Note: You must be registered on or before the book closing date to be eligible to vote in an election. In primary elections, party changes must also be completed before the book closing date.

Contacting the Escambia County Supervisor of Elections

Street Address:

Corner of Palafox and Intendencia Streets
213 Palafox Place, 2nd Floor
Pensacola, Florida 32502

Phone: 850-595-3900

Toll Free: 1-877-595-VOTE

Fax: 850-595-3914

TDD: 850-595-3913

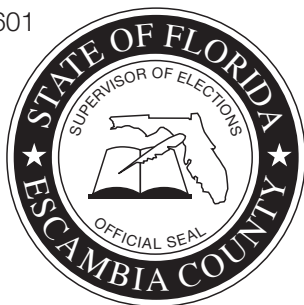
E-mail: soe@escambiavotes.com

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 12601
Pensacola, Florida 32591-2601

On the Web:

EscambiaVotes.com



OUR MISSION:

“To ensure that all qualified citizens are free to exercise their fundamental right to vote in open, impartial, and secure elections.”

