



# VOTE ALACHUA

YOUR VOTE. YOUR VOICE.



**Voter Guide**

alachua  
county





## FROM THE SUPERVISOR

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Dear Alachua County Citizen,

It is my pleasure to serve the citizens of Alachua County as your Supervisor of Elections. 2024 will offer Alachua County voters with an opportunity to vote in three countywide elections: the Presidential Preference Primary, the Statewide Primary, and the General Election. I hope this guide is useful to you as you act on your civic duty by voting in local, state and federal elections. It is my desire to streamline the voting process so that you are encouraged to participate and in turn will encourage others to do so as well.

Sincerely,

Kim A. Barton  
Alachua County  
Supervisor of Elections

# REGISTERING TO VOTE

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To register to vote in Alachua County, you must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be at least 18 years of age (may pre-register at 16)
- Be a legal resident of the county in which you seek to be registered

Anyone convicted of a felony or declared mentally incapacitated with respect to voting may register to vote **only after** their civil rights have been restored.

## WAYS TO REGISTER

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In Person



Online



By Mail

### Register in Person

You may register in person at any state agency that offers public assistance or serves people with disabilities, driver license offices, public libraries, centers for independent living, military recruitment offices, or the Supervisor of Elections Office.

**The Supervisor of Elections Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

# Register Online

Florida residents can register to vote online at [RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov](https://www.RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov). You will need a Florida Driver License or Florida ID card and the last four digits of your Social Security Number to register online.

# Register by Mail

You may register by mail using a mail-in form available at many locations in the county and on our website. Please visit our website ([VoteAlachua.gov](https://www.VoteAlachua.gov)) for a list of locations where applications may be obtained.

If you register by mail and are a first-time voter in the state — and you have not been issued a Florida driver license, Florida ID card, or Social Security number — you must return an acceptable copy of your current and valid identification in a separate envelope from your ballot if you vote by mail. There are exemptions, including if you are 65 years of age or older; have a permanent or temporary physical disability; are a member of the uniformed services on active duty or Merchant Marine, or their spouse or dependent, who is absent from the county on Election Day; or you reside overseas but are eligible to vote in Florida.

***Please note that you must be registered 29 days prior to Election Day in order to vote***

# VOTER INFORMATION CHANGES

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## Address Changes

Florida law requires that you vote in the precinct of your legal residence. If you have moved from another Florida county, you can update your address by **phone (with Florida Driver License/ID or Social Security number)**, by **mail**, by **email**, by **fax**, or by a **written** signed notice provided that the request is made directly to the Supervisor of Elections in the county of your new or existing residence. *Otherwise, you will be required to make your change of address on a Florida Voter Registration Application.*

## Party Affiliation/Name Changes & Signature Updates

You may change any of this information by completing and signing a Florida Voter Registration Application. Applications are available on the Supervisor of Elections' website (**[VoteAlachua.gov](http://VoteAlachua.gov)**). Prospective voters may also call 352-374-5252 to request a form by mail. Additionally, the necessary form can be completed in person.

It is important to have your most recent signature on file with the Supervisor of Elections, especially if you intend to vote by mail or sign petitions. The signature on your certificate or petition will be compared to your signature on file.

# Florida's Closed Primaries

Voters who want to vote in a partisan primary election contest must be a registered voter in the party for which the primary contest is being held. If a voter registers without a party, that voter would be prohibited from voting for any partisan candidates during the primaries. They would, however, be able to vote on any nonpartisan races and any issues that may be on the primary ballot.

*Party changes must be submitted no later than 29 days prior to a Primary Election*

# Florida Universal Primaries

If all candidates for an office have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the general election, all qualified electors, regardless of party affiliation, may vote in the primary election for that office. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast in the primary election shall be declared nominated to such office.



**FLORIDA IS  
A CLOSED  
PRIMARY STATE**

# EARLY VOTING AND BALLOTTRAX

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## Anyone can vote early!

Early voting begins no later than 10 days before the election, and may begin up to 15 days before an election that contains state or federal races. **Early voting locations are not open on Election Day.** **Voters must vote at their assigned polling place on Election Day.**

*Questions? Call 352-374-5252*

***A list of Early Voting Sites is available at [VoteAlachua.gov/Voter-Information/Early-Voting](http://VoteAlachua.gov/Voter-Information/Early-Voting)***

## Opt into BallotTrax

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Alachua County voters can now sign up to use BallotTrax, a secure communication system that helps voter stay up to date about elections through text and email reminders and information about their vote-by-mail ballot.

Alachua County voters can sign up for BallotTrax at any time by visiting [AlachuaTrax.com](http://AlachuaTrax.com) and entering in their contact information and their preferred notification methods.

***Visit [AlachuaTrax.com](http://AlachuaTrax.com) to learn more and sign up!***

# VOTING AT YOUR PRECINCT

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Voting should be a quick, satisfying experience if you follow a few simple steps.

First, on Election Day, you are required to vote in the precinct where you live. Your voter information card shows your precinct number and polling place location. This can also be found on our website. The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. **Early voting locations are not open on Election Day.**

If a polling place changes, voters in that precinct will be notified by mail of the change.

Be sure to bring your picture and signature ID to the polls with you. To ensure a quick process, any changes to your name, address or political party affiliation since the last election should be updated with the Supervisor of Elections prior to Election Day.

- Florida Driver License
- Florida ID Card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
- U.S. Passport
- Debit/Credit Card
- Military ID
- Student ID
- Government Employee ID
- Retirement Center ID
- Neighborhood Association ID
- Public Assistance ID (Social Security or Other Social Services)
- Veteran's Health ID Issued by the VA
- Florida Concealed Weapon License



***You may use two forms of identification to meet the picture and signature requirement (F.S. 101.043)***





# HOW TO MARK YOUR BALLOT

Alachua County uses an optical scanner to read your paper ballot. You must completely fill in the oval so that your ballot will be read correctly. Any other mark may not be read by the scanner.

**USE A PEN TO MARK YOUR BALLOT  
DO NOT USE A HIGHLIGHTER**

**MARK YOUR BALLOT CORRECTLY  
FILL IN THE OVAL NEXT TO YOUR CHOICE**

US President	Vote for ONE
 YOUR CHOICE	
 NOT your choice	

If you make a mistake, please do not erase or white it out. You may ask for another ballot. If you are voting by mail, **call our office for instructions.**

## AUDIO-ENHANCED EQUIPMENT

Audio-enhanced, accessible voting is available in each polling place and early voting site using the same ImageCast Evolution (ICE) equipment that counts all ballots. This equipment provides the opportunity for voters with low vision, voters who are blind or voters who are otherwise unable to cast a ballot without assistance to vote independently.

***To learn more about this equipment or for a demonstration, please contact our office at 352-374-5252***

# VOTE BY MAIL

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Any voter can request to vote by mail. This may be done in person, by mail, online or by phone. Voters can request vote-by-mail ballots for an entire election cycle. **Voters must make a vote-by-mail request after each election cycle. This means that voters who voted-by-mail in 2022 must make a new vote-by-mail request to receive vote-by-mail ballots for the 2024 election cycle.**

The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is 5 p.m. on the twelfth day before an election. If a voter who has requested a vote-by-mail ballot decides to vote at the polls, he or she must bring the ballot to be canceled. If the voter does not bring it, the Clerk will call the Elections Office to see if he or she has already voted. If it cannot be determined, the voter must vote a provisional ballot.

***Vote-by-mail ballots must be received by the Supervisor of Elections no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day***

# PROVISIONAL BALLOT

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If it cannot be determined that you are a registered voter, or if you do not present ID at the polls, Florida law requires that you vote a provisional ballot given to you by the precinct Clerk. The Canvassing Board will determine whether your vote will count as one from a qualified voter in Alachua County, voting in the correct precinct, who did not previously vote in the election.

All voters who vote provisional ballots will be given information at the polls on how to find out if their ballots were counted.

# MILITARY & OVERSEAS CITIZENS

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If you are a U.S. uniformed services member on active duty, a Merchant Marine member, spouse or dependent thereof, or a U.S. citizen residing outside of the U.S., you can use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to register to vote, to request a ballot (if you are already registered), or to do both at the same time.

You can get the FPCA from a Voting Assistance Officer or through the internet at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). Your request will be effective for all elections through the next General Election. If the FPCA is not available, call or send a written request by mail, fax, or email to the Elections Office and a voter registration application or ballot will be sent to you. By law, absentee ballots must be transmitted to military and overseas citizens at least 45 days before each election. You may have your ballot either faxed or emailed to you (up through Election Day), in lieu of receiving it by regular mail. If you include an email address with your absentee ballot request, you will be notified by email that your request has been received. You can track the status of your ballot on our website ([VoteAlachua.gov](http://VoteAlachua.gov)). Return your ballot to the Elections Office so that it is received no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day. Overseas ballots for Presidential Preference Primary and General elections have until the tenth day following the election to arrive, as long as the ballot's return envelope is postmarked by Election Day. All voters can return their ballot by mail. Only overseas voters may return their ballot by fax. If you have not received your ballot three weeks before an election, contact our office.

# FEDERAL WRITE-IN BALLOT

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The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) can be used to vote in any election. You have to be a registered voter and have previously requested a regular absentee ballot.

# INACTIVE VOTER & REMOVAL

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If our office receives information from the post office or another source indicating your residence may have changed to another address in Florida, your voter registration record will be changed to reflect the new address. You will be mailed an address change notice asking that you verify or correct the new address. If that notice is returned back undeliverable, you will be sent a final notice asking that you verify or correct the new address. If you do not respond within 30 days or that notice is returned as undeliverable, your registration will become inactive. You can reactivate your status by updating your record, voting at the polls, or requesting a vote-by-mail ballot. However, if you do not do any of these things, after two general elections you will have to register again to vote.

# CHECK YOUR STATUS

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You may verify and update your registration, request a vote-by-mail ballot, track your ballot status, locate your precinct, view current early voting information and view your sample ballot online at **VoteAlachua.gov** by clicking on **My Registration Status**.

# BE AN ELECTION WORKER

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Join our special group of civic-minded citizens who are trained and ready to serve the community when elections are scheduled in Alachua County. Election workers perform a valuable service by assisting voters at the early voting sites and at the polling places on Election Day.

Election workers are paid for their service. If you are interested in becoming one of these committed individuals, call the Supervisor of Elections at 352-374-5252 or apply online at **VoteAlachua.gov**.

## ELECTION WORKERS MUST:

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be registered or pre-registered to vote in Alachua County
- Be able to speak, read, and write in English
- Have transportation to the polling place and poll worker training sessions
- Be available and physically able to work at the polling place from 5:45 a.m. until after the polls close at 7 p.m.

## OUTREACH

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The Supervisor of Elections Office organizes or attends numerous outreach events every year and offers voter education presentations and registration opportunities. If you'd like to schedule an outreach event, please contact our office at 352-374-5252.

# VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

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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 is in question
6. If his or her registration or identity is in question, the ability to cast a provisional ballot
7. Written instructions to use when voting and, upon request, oral instructions in voting from elections 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

# VOTER RESPONSIBILITIES

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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 polls
5. Be familiar with voting equipment
6. Treat Election 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 place

***Failure to perform any of these responsibilities  
DOES NOT prohibit a voter from voting***



# Vote Alachua

KIM A. BARTON  
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS



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## 2024 ELECTION DATES

**March 19, 2024**

***Presidential Preference Primary***

Last day to register to vote or change party affiliation:

**February 20, 2024**

**August 20, 2024**

**Primary Election**

Last day to register to vote or change party affiliation:

**July 22, 2024**

**November 5, 2024**

**General Election**

Last day to register to vote:

**October 7, 2024**

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### Contact Information

Josiah T. Walls Building

515 N. Main Street, Suite 300

Gainesville, FL 32601-3348

office: 352-374-5252

español: 833-875-0365

fax: 352-374-5264

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