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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2018 Primary Election Vote-by-Mail Ballots Mailed This Week

ALACHUA COUNTY, Fla. (July 26, 2018) — More than 22,000 vote-by-mail ballots for the 2018 Primary Election were mailed Tuesday.

Voters signed up to receive a vote-by-mail ballot should expect to receive their ballots no later than Wednesday, August 1. All Alachua County voters are eligible to vote in this election. The ballot a voter receives will depend on his or her political party affiliation (if any) and where he or she lives in Alachua County.

Any voter who does not receive their vote-by-mail ballot by August 1 should contact the elections office at 352-374-5252 or email Vote-by-Mail Coordinator Mike Bruckman at mbruckman@alachuacounty.us.

The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot for this election is 5 p.m. Wednesday, August 22. Vote-by-mail ballots can be requested online, in person, or by phone, fax, mail or email. Until the deadline, vote-by-mail ballot requests will be filled as they are received. **Any voter can sign up to vote by mail.**

The Supervisor of Elections must receive all vote-by-mail ballots by 7 p.m. on Election Day (Tuesday, August 28). Voters who vote by mail are encouraged to have their completed ballots mailed by Tuesday, August 21, to ensure ballots arrive by the deadline. Voters should also make sure that their voter information and signature are updated before they return their ballot if they have moved or their signature has changed.

Additionally, voters are encouraged to be mindful when filling out and mailing a vote-by-mail ballot. Advice from the Supervisor of Elections includes:

- Completely color in the oval next to your choice on your ballot
- If you make a mistake on your ballot, call the Supervisor of Elections at 352-374-5252
- Be sure to sign your own mail ballot certificate envelope
- Return your mail ballot in the official envelope provided

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Beginning with this election, return postage on all vote-by-mail ballots is prepaid.

Any voter who does not sign their ballot or whose signature on the vote-by-mail ballot certificate is not similar to the signature in their voter record will be contacted by the Supervisor of Elections and provided the opportunity to correct the certificate. Voters will have until 5 p.m. Monday, August 27, to complete an affidavit to correct a vote-by-mail ballot that does not have a signature or has a signature that is not similar to the person's voter record signature.

Starting Thursday, August 23, voters may authorize another person to pick up a vote-by-mail from the Supervisor of Elections office. A designee must have a note signed by the voter and a picture ID. They must also complete an affidavit, which is available online at <http://dos.myflorida.com/media/693274/dsde37.pdf>.

Designees may not pick up more than two mail ballots per election, excluding their own ballot and ballots for their immediate family.

Voters can drop off completed vote-by-mail ballots at the Supervisor of Elections office, located in Gainesville at 515 N. Main St., during normal business hours — 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday — or can use the white afterhours drop-box located outside of the office's main entrance. Voters have until 7 p.m. on Election Day to deliver vote-by-mail ballots to the Supervisor of Elections.

For more information, contact the Supervisor of Elections at 352-374-5252.

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