Escambia County Voter Guide 2020

David H. Stafford, Supervisor of Elections

2020 Election Dates

Federal, State, and Local Elections

Presidential Preference Primary: March 17, 2020
Registration and Party Change Deadline:
February 18, 2020

Primary: August 18, 2020
Registration and Party Change Deadline:
July 20, 2020

General: November 3, 2020
Registration Deadline: October 5, 2020

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

Contacting the Escambia County Supervisor of Elections, David H. Stafford

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On the Web: EscambiaVotes.com

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Corner of Palafox and Intendencia Streets
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Pensacola, Florida 32502

Mailing Address
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Pensacola, Florida 32591-2601

Offices to be Elected in 2020

Federal
President/Vice President
Representative in Congress, 1st District

State
State Senator, District 1
State Representative, Districts 1 and 2
State Attorney
Public Defender

Judicial
Justice of Supreme Court of Florida (retention)
Judge, 1st District Court of Appeal (retention)
Circuit Judge, Groups 8, 10, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 22

County and School Board
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
Tax Collector
Property Appraiser
Sheriff
Supervisor of Elections
County Commission, Districts 1, 3 and 5
School Board, Districts 4 and 5

Special Districts
Emerald Coast Utilities Authority,
Districts 1, 3 and 5
Santa Rosa Island Authority
Escambia Soil and Water Conservation District,
Groups 1, 3 and 5

City of Pensacola
City Council, Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7

Town of Century
Mayor
Town Council, Seats 1 and 2

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 ID prior to voting for the first time.

Full online voter registration is available at EscambiaVotes.com. Florida Driver's License or Florida ID number, and Social Security number are required.

To register in person, simply complete a Florida Voter Registration Application at an authorized voter registration agency, which includes:

- Election offices
- Public Libraries
- Florida Driver's License/Tax Collector offices
- Centers for Independent Living
- WIC and Florida Department of Children and Families offices
- Armed Forces recruitment offices
- Several other public agencies

Contact the Supervisor of Elections for a complete list of voter registration agencies and additional locations where applications are available.

Florida Voter Registration Applications are also available online at EscambiaVotes.com or by mail. Printed applications must be completed, signed, and returned to a voter registration agency.

You may register to vote if:

- You are a U.S. citizen.
- You are at least 18 years of age (you may preregister at 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, unless you have regained your right to vote.
- 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 or during early voting.

If your polling place 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. 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 a minimum of 10 days prior to Election Day. 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 a vote-by-mail ballot by contacting our office by mail, phone, fax, e-mail, or through our website. Requests for a ballot to be mailed to you must be received no later than 10 days prior to Election Day. 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. Vote-by-mail ballots may not be forwarded, so be sure your address is correct. You may track the status of your ballot at EscambiaVotes.com.

3. On Election Day

You may vote in person at your polling location (printed on your Voter Information Card and sample ballot) on Election Day. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. You must vote at the polling location assigned to your precinct of legal residence.

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:

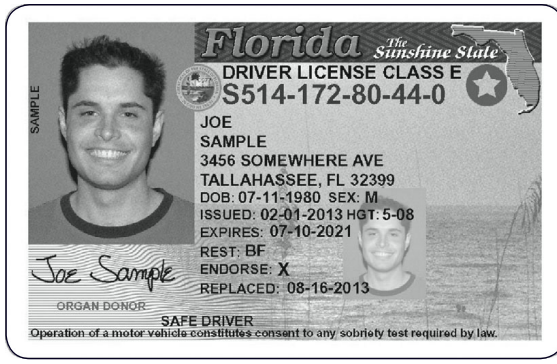
- Florida Driver's License
- Florida ID card issued by the Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles
- U.S. Passport
- Debit/Credit Card
- Military ID
- Student ID
- Retirement Center ID
- Neighborhood Association ID
- Public Assistance ID
- Concealed Weapon License
- VA Card
- Government Employee ID: Federal, State, County or City

If you fail to present proper identification at the polls, you may vote a provisional ballot.

Keep Your Information Current

We need your help! In order to maintain accurate voter rolls, we ask that you keep us informed of any changes to your registration. You can make most updates online at EscambiaVotes.com. You can simply call or e-mail us with an address change, or use a signed written notice to change your party or name.

It is important to keep your signature updated, as it is used to verify vote-by-mail ballots and petitions. An outdated signature, if it differs significantly from your current signature, may result in your vote-by-mail ballot or petition not being accepted. You may update your signature on file with our office at any time using a Florida Voter Registration Application, which can be obtained from our website, our office, or any other voter registration agency.



Remember to bring your approved Photo/Signature ID with you to vote!

Florida Holds Closed Primaries

In Florida's partisan primary elections, you may only participate in the primary 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.

Provisional Ballots

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. The canvassing board adjudicates all 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. Your provisional ballot will be counted if your signature matches, you cast your ballot in the proper precinct, and you are otherwise eligible to vote.

How to Vote

Escambia County's primary voting method is by paper ballot tabulation by a digital scanner.

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 blank line provided.
- After reviewing your ballot, insert it into the digital scan tabulator.
- If you make a mistake, simply ask for a replacement ballot.
- If you need any assistance, see an election worker.

Voters with Disabilities

Escambia County also has at least one ExpressVote available at each polling place and early voting location to assist persons with disabilities or any voter who wishes to use it. This ballot marking device allows voters the option of a touchscreen, or an audio headset with keypad to mark their ballot. The screen has large-print capability and adjustable screen contrast for better viewing.

- Insert your blank ballot into the ExpressVote.
- Mark your selections by touching your choice on the screen or keypad.
- Select "back" or "next" to navigate through the ballot.
- Review your selections, select "print card" and the ExpressVote will mark the ballot and return it to you.
- Confirm your choices on the printed ballot and insert your ballot into the digital scan tabulator.
- If you make a mistake, simply ask for a replacement ballot.
- If you need any assistance, see an election worker.

What to Expect at the Polls

- Enter polling place
- Present proper identification to the election worker
- Name is located in electronic poll book
- Photo ID is confirmed
- Voter signs the signature pad
- Signature is verified against ID provided
- Voting pass is issued
- Voter is issued a ballot and secrecy sleeve at the ballot table
- Voter takes the ballot to the privacy booth or ExpressVote
- After marking and reviewing selections, the voter takes the ballot to the tabulator
- Voter inserts the ballot in the tabulator and is offered an “I Voted” sticker
- Election workers are available to answer questions and provide assistance

Military and Overseas Voters

Active duty members of the U.S. uniformed services, merchant marine, their spouses and dependents, and U.S. citizens residing overseas are covered by the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and related state statutes. Such voters may register to vote in Florida using a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), which also serves as a vote-by-mail ballot request, or may use a Florida Voter Registration Application and indicate their status.

In addition to the traditional mail option, UOCAVA voters may have ballots faxed or delivered electronically to them. Overseas voters may return their ballots via fax, but not e-mail. Completed electronic ballots must be printed and returned by mail (or fax if overseas), as online or e-mail return of a voted ballot is not permitted in Florida. Vote-by-mail voters can track the status of their ballot at EscambiaVotes.com.

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 concern 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.

Become an Election Worker

Election workers perform many tasks in the administration of elections and should plan for a long and engaging day. These responsibilities include:

- Attending training
- Setting up equipment and supplies
- Checking in voters and issuing ballots
- Assisting voters throughout the process
- Closing the polling place and packing supplies

Benefits

- Engagement with your fellow citizens
- Participation in the democratic process
- Satisfaction from serving others
- Payment for your service
- Learn more about the election process
- Have fun!

Requirements

- You must be a registered voter in Escambia County
- You must be able to read, write, and speak English
- You can not be a candidate or a close family member of a candidate on the ballot

For more information and to download the election worker application, visit EscambiaVotes.com.

OUR MISSION:

To ensure that all qualifed citizens are free to exercise their fundmental right to vote in open, impartial, and secure elections.