



## Timeline of Important Dates for Florida's 2022 November Election

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### Voting by Mail

- **Saturday, September 24** - Counties must begin sending mail ballots to military and overseas (UOCAVA) voters with accepted applications.
- **Sunday, September 25** - Counties may begin verifying mail ballots upon receipt of the voted ballot from the voter.
- **Thursday, September 29 - Thursday, October 6** - Counties must begin sending mail ballots to voters (other than military and overseas voters) with accepted applications. After this period, counties must send a ballot to each voter with an accepted application within two business days of the receipt of the application.
- **Saturday, October 29** - Deadline for voters to request a mail ballot to be mailed to them. Applications must be *received* by the appropriate supervisor of elections by 5 p.m. to be accepted.
- **Tuesday, November 8 - Election Day** - Mail ballots must be *received* by the appropriate supervisor of elections (via mail/delivery service or in-person return to the supervisor's office or secure ballot intake station) by 7 p.m. to be eligible for counting.
- **Thursday, November 10** - Voters must file a cure affidavit to correct issues with their mail ballots by 5 p.m.<sup>1</sup>

### In-Person Voting (Early & Election Day)

- **Tuesday, October 11** - Voter registration deadline. All in-person applications must be completed and all mail applications must be *postmarked* by this date.
- **Monday, October 24** - First day that counties may begin offering in-person early voting in elections that include state or federal offices.
- **Saturday, October 29 - Saturday, November 5** - All counties must offer in-person early voting in elections that include state or federal offices on each day in this period. Voting must be available for at least 8 hours each day, but not more than 12 hour each day..

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<sup>1</sup> "Curing" is the process by which a voter: 1) receives notice from election officials of a discrepancy on the mail ballot certificate; and 2) has an opportunity to correct the issue and have the ballot counted. In Florida, a voter will be contacted by the supervisor of elections if their ballot certificate is missing their signature or the signature is deemed to not match the voter's signature on file. The voter will then have the opportunity to complete and return a cure affidavit providing sufficient information to have their vote counted.

- **Sunday, November 6** - Last day that counties may offer in-person early voting in elections that include state or federal elections.
- **Tuesday, November 8 - Election Day.**
  - **7 a.m.** - Polling locations open.
  - **7 p.m.** - Polling locations close. All voters still in line must be allowed to vote. Voters returning mail ballots to their supervisor's office or a secure ballot intake station must do so by this time.

## Counting, Canvassing, & Certification

- **Tuesday, October 4** - Counties may begin tabulating verified mail ballots at any time after completion of public testing of automatic tabulation equipment. Counties must conduct the public testing of tabulation equipment no earlier than 25 days before the beginning of early voting.
- **Tuesday, November 8 - Election Day.**
  - **Noon** - Counties must begin tabulating verified mail ballots no later than this time.
  - **After polls close** - After polls close, the precinct election board will verify the number of voted ballots, unused ballots, provisional ballots, and spoiled ballots to ensure they match the number issued by the supervisor. Any differences must be reduced to writing and reported to the county canvassing board. After results are tabulated at the precinct, they may be transmitted to the main computer system for the purpose of compilation of complete returns.
  - **30 minutes after polls close** - The canvassing board must report all early voting and tabulated vote by mail results to the Department of State within 30 minutes after polls close. The board will then update the report at least once every 45 minutes until all results are completely reported.
- **Wednesday, November 9** - All precinct returns (except for uncounted vote by mail and provisional ballots) must be delivered to the county canvassing board by 2 a.m.
- **Saturday, November 12** - County canvassing boards must submit unofficial returns to the Department of State by noon on the fourth day after Election Day (third day after Election Day for primary elections).<sup>2</sup>
- **Sunday, November 20** - The county canvass for general elections must be completed by noon on the 12th day after Election Day. For primary elections, the deadline is 5 p.m. on the 7th day after Election Day. County certification occurs immediately after completion of the county canvass.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> "Canvassing" is the process by which the appropriate authority checks the results from each voting location and ballot counting location for accuracy and compliance with statutory procedures. After these checks, the results from each location are compiled to create results for each race on the ballot. In Florida, the county canvass is conducted by the county canvassing board, which consists of a county court judge, the supervisor of elections, and the chair of the board of county commissioners. The state canvass is conducted by the Elections Canvassing Commission, which consists of the Governor and two members of the cabinet.

<sup>3</sup> "Certification" is the process by which winners in elections are officially declared following the completion of the canvass. For local races that can be determined following the county canvass, certification will occur after the county canvass. For federal, state, and multicounty races that must be determined by the state canvass, certification will generally occur immediately following the completion of the state canvass. In Florida, the bodies responsible for the canvass at the county and state level also certify the results.

- **Tuesday, November 22** - The Elections Canvassing Commission (the Governor and two members of the cabinet) meets at 9 a.m. on the 14th day after Election Day to conduct the state canvass for general elections. The Commission meets to conduct the state canvass for primary elections at 9 a.m. on the 9th day after Election Day. Immediately following the completion of the state canvass, the Commission will certify the winners of federal, state, and multicounty races based on the results of the canvass.

## Recounts & Election Contests

- **Saturday, November 12** - If unofficial returns (due 4 days after Election Day for general elections and 3 days after Election Day for primary elections) show a race is separated by .5% of all votes cast or less, the body responsible for canvassing the race will order an automatic recount of the race.<sup>4</sup>
- **Thursday, November 17** - Canvassing boards conducting automatic recounts must submit a second set of unofficial returns reflecting the results of the recount by 3 p.m. on the 9th day following a general election (3 p.m. on the 5th day following a primary).
- **Wednesday, November 30** - Deadline for losing candidates to file a complaint in circuit court contesting the results of an election certified following a county canvass.
- **Friday, December 2** - Deadline for losing candidates to file a complaint in circuit court contesting the results of an election certified following the state canvass.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Florida law does not contain a process for losing candidates to petition for a recount. If the margin in a race falls outside the automatic recount threshold, it will not be subject to recount.

<sup>5</sup> Election contests for state legislative offices are resolved by the chamber of the legislature in which the contested seat lies, which has exclusive jurisdiction over the eligibility and qualification of its members. Fla. Stat. § 102.171; Fla. Const. art. III § 2