

Florida

Registration Deadline

Forms must be received or postmarked 29 days before an election.¹

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Database Implementation Status

Florida is in the midst of converting its current structure of local voter registration systems to one uniform, top-down statewide voter registration database, in which county officials will have direct access to a centralized state database.² A contract was signed with IBM to develop this database system.³

Entering Voter Registration Information

Who inputs voter registration information? Each county’s Supervisor of Elections is responsible for reviewing and entering information from voter registration forms in her jurisdiction into the statewide system.⁴

What happens to voter registration forms submitted at state registration agencies? Forms received by most voter registration agencies are sent to the appropriate county’s Supervisor of Elections for review and entry. Forms received by the Department of State are reviewed and entered by a state election official directly into the centralized database. Forms submitted at the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (“HSMV”) are reviewed and entered into a HSMV database that automatically and electronically transmits the record to the state’s voter registration database; paper originals of forms submitted at the HSMV will be forwarded to the appropriate county’s Supervisor of Elections, and the HSMV will retain a copy of the application.⁵

How are most forms submitted? Florida reported that in 2004, 20% of forms were submitted by mail, 17% were submitted in person to election officials, 57% were submitted at the HSMV, and 7% were submitted at another voter registration agency.⁶

Voter Registration Form

The relevant portions of the voter registration form are included at the end of this section.

Processing of Forms Without Identifying Numbers

How will the state treat an application with an affirmative indication that the applicant has no valid identifying number? An applicant who checks the box indicating that she has no Florida driver’s license, Florida identification card, or SSN will be assigned a unique identifying number once the Department of State has verified that the applicant has no Florida driver’s license, Florida identification card, or SSN.⁷

How will the state treat an application without an identifying number and without an affirmative indication that the applicant has no such number? If uncorrected (see below), the applicant will not be registered.⁸

How will the state treat an application listing an identifying number that is either incomplete or illegible? If uncorrected (see below), the applicant will not be registered.⁹

Matching Against Motor Vehicle and Social Security Records

What fields from the voter registration form will the state seek to match to motor vehicle or Social Security records? Identifying number, first name, last name, date of birth, and gender (for driver's license number matches only).

How precise is the match standard? Florida will use a "substantial match" standard to match information on forms with a driver's license number: the name, date of birth, and gender will be used to generate an identifying number which compensates for typos and minor errors, in much the same way that a Florida driver's license number is generated; this generated number will be compared with existing driver's license numbers to identify potential matches. Florida will use the standard AAMVA criteria for matching information on forms with SSN digits: exact match of the SSN-4, first name, last name, month of birth, and year of birth.

How much human intervention is involved in determining whether information is matched? For matching information on forms with a driver's license number, the system will return a list of records matching a partial license number derived from the applicant's information; state election officials have the discretion to determine whether a likely match exists among the possible matches returned. For matching information on forms submitted with SSN digits, the system will be fully automated.

Description of matching process: Florida will not attempt to match the information of applicants registering through the HSMV.

For other forms listing a driver's license number, Florida will generate a test number for a would-be voter in the same way that it would generate a driver's license number for a driver: it will derive a basic set of characters from the applicant's name, date of birth, and gender such that individuals with similar names and birthdates (like "Tim Johnson" and "Tom Jensen") end up with the same basic character set.¹⁰ It will then produce a list of possible matches by returning all motor vehicle records which match either this generated test number or the license number listed on the voter registration form. A state election official will have the discretion to determine whether a likely match exists among the possible matches returned.

Information on forms listing SSN digits will be automatically checked against the SSA database through the standard AAMVA process: an entered record will be submitted to the HSMV database, which will automatically submit the appropriate fields to the SSA and return a code indicating whether the record was successfully matched or not.

What are the consequences if the state cannot find a match? The applicant’s information will be entered into the statewide voter registration database, but identified as “incomplete”; if uncorrected (see below), the applicant may vote a provisional ballot, which will count only if the voter presents, within three days of the election, “evidence to the supervisor of elections sufficient to verify the authenticity” of the identifying number.¹¹

Notice and Opportunity to Resolve Errors

Does the applicant have the opportunity to correct a missing or incomplete identifying number, without submitting a new form? No. The applicant may submit a new form with correct information by the voter registration deadline.¹²

Does the applicant have the opportunity to resolve a failed match, without submitting a new form? No. The applicant may submit a new form with verifiable information by the voter registration deadline.¹³

If information on an otherwise timely application is corrected after the voter registration deadline, is the correction timely? No.

Description of notice and correction process: Florida will notify any applicant with incomplete, illegible, or unverified identifying information of the problem by mail to the applicant’s last known address; some counties may also attempt to call the applicant to resolve the problem. The mailed notice will include a new voter registration application for the applicant to submit.

Identification Requirements at the Polls

Who must provide identification at the polls? First-time applicants who register by mail and who have not been issued a current and valid identifying number must provide identification before they vote or at the polls, unless otherwise exempt.¹⁴ Every other voter must provide identification or sign an affirmation at the polls.¹⁵

What forms of identification are accepted? A first-time applicant who registers by mail and who has not been issued a current and valid identifying number must provide specified photo ID (passport, employee photo ID badge, buyers’

Forms of ID:

1st-time voters registering by mail without identifying number:	passport employee photo ID badge buyers’ club photo ID debit/credit card with photo military photo ID student photo ID retirement center photo ID neighborhood association photo ID public assistance photo ID current utility bill w/ name, address bank statement w/ name, address government check w/ name, address paycheck w/ name, address other gov’t document w/ name, address
every other voter:	passport employee photo ID badge buyers’ club photo ID debit/credit card with photo military photo ID student photo ID retirement center photo ID neighborhood association photo ID public assistance photo ID affirmation

club photo ID, debit/credit card with photo, military photo ID, student photo ID, retirement center photo ID, neighborhood association photo ID, or public assistance photo ID; if the photo ID card does not contain the voter's signature, the voter must provide another piece of ID with her signature) or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter's name and address.¹⁶ Every other voter must provide a copy of a Florida driver's license, Florida identification card, passport, employee photo ID badge, buyers' club photo ID, debit/credit card with photo, military photo ID, student photo ID, retirement center photo ID, neighborhood association photo ID, or public assistance photo ID – or sign an affirmation. Again, if the photo ID card does not contain the voter's signature, the voter must provide another piece of ID with her signature.¹⁷

What are the consequences of failing to show identification? The voter may cast a provisional ballot. If the ballot was cast by a voter who presented a complete but unverified identifying number, the ballot will count only if the number is later verified or if the voter presents “evidence to the supervisor of elections sufficient to verify the authenticity” of the identifying number provided within three days of the election.¹⁸ If the provisional ballot was cast by a voter who was not issued such identifying number, the ballot will be counted if the county canvassing board determines that the voter was registered and entitled to vote at the appropriate precinct.¹⁹

Statutes and Regulations

FL. STAT. ANN. ch. 97 and 98, as amended by 2005 Fla. Laws ch. 2005-278, generally concern registration. FL. STAT. ANN. ch. 97.012(11), 97.105, and 98.035 direct the Secretary of State to develop and administer a statewide voter registration database. There are no applicable regulations.

End Notes

¹ FL. STAT. ch. 97.053, 97.055, *amended by* 2005 Fla. Laws ch. 2005-278.

² electionline.org, *Assorted Rolls: Statewide Voter Registration Databases Under HAVA*, June 2005, available at <http://www.electionline.org/Portals/1/EB11.FINAL1.pdf>, at 16.

³ *Id.*

⁴ FL. STAT. ch. 98.015(3), *amended by* 2005 Fla. Laws ch. 2005-278.

⁵ *Id.* ch. 97.057(4), *amended by* 2005 Fla. Laws ch. 2005-278.

⁶ Election Assistance Commission, *The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office 2003-2004*, June 30, 2005, tbl. 2, available at http://www.eac.gov/NVR_Spreadsheets/NVRA_table_2.html. Due to rounding, the percentages listed may exceed 100%.

⁷ FL. STAT. ch. 97.053(6), *amended by* 2005 Fla. Laws ch. 2005-278.

⁸ *Id.* ch. 97.053(2), *amended by* 2005 Fla. Laws ch. 2005-278.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ When Florida produces a real driver's license number, it adds unique digits to this basic set to distinguish a “Tim Johnson” from a “Tom Jensen.”

¹¹ FL. STAT. ch. 97.053(6), *amended by* 2005 Fla. Laws ch. 2005-278.

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- ¹² *Id.* ch. 97.052(6), 97.053(2), 97.073(1), *amended by* 2005 Fla. Laws ch. 2005-278.
- ¹³ *Id.* ch. 97.053(2), *amended by* 2005 Fla. Laws ch. 2005-278.
- ¹⁴ *Id.* ch. 97.0535(1), *amended by* 2005 Fla. Laws ch. 2005-278. Florida exempts applicants 65 years or older, applicants with a physical disability, members of the armed services and Merchant Marine and their spouses or dependents who will be absent from the county on Election Day, and residents of foreign countries from this identification requirement. *Id.* ch. 97.0535(4).
- ¹⁵ *Id.* ch. 101.043(1), 101.49, *amended by* 2005 Fla. Laws ch. 2005-278.
- ¹⁶ *Id.* ch. 97.0535(3), *amended by* 2005 Fla. Laws ch. 2005-278.
- ¹⁷ *Id.* ch. 97.0535(3), 101.043(1), *amended by* 2005 Fla. Laws ch. 2005-278.
- ¹⁸ *Id.* ch. 97.053(6), *amended by* 2005 Fla. Laws ch. 2005-278.
- ¹⁹ *Id.* ch. 101.048(2), *amended by* 2005 Fla. Laws ch. 2005-278.

FLORIDA VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

YOU CAN USE THIS FORM TO: REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA • CHANGE NAME OR ADDRESS • REPLACE YOUR DEFACED, LOST, OR STOLEN VOTER INFORMATION CARD • REGISTER WITH A POLITICAL PARTY OR CHANGE PARTY AFFILIATION • UPDATE YOUR SIGNATURE

To Register, You Must:

- Be a citizen of the United States of America. (BOX #2)
- Be a Florida resident. (BOX #8)
- Be 18 years old (you may pre-register if you are 17). (BOX #5)
- Not now be adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting in Florida or any other state. (BOX #4)
- Not have been convicted of a felony in Florida, or any other state, without your civil rights having been restored. (BOX #3)
- Provide your current and valid Florida driver's license number or Florida identification card number. If you do not have a current and valid Florida driver's license or Florida identification card, you must provide the last four digits of your Social Security number. If you do not have a FL DL#, FL ID card#, or SSN, write "NONE" in the box. (BOX #6)
- Complete all information in the black boxes on the application. (BOXES #2,3,4,5,6,7,8 & 16)

Deadline Information:

If this is a new registration application, the date the completed application is postmarked or hand delivered to a driver's license office, a voter registration agency, an armed forces recruitment office, the Division of Elections, or the office of any supervisor of elections in the state will be your registration date. If this is a new Florida application, you must be registered for at least 29 days before you can vote in an election. If your application is complete and you are qualified as a voter, a voter information card will be mailed to you.

Party Affiliation (BOX #12):

If you wish to register with a major political party, place an "X" in the box preceding the listed party with which you wish to affiliate. If you wish to register with a minor political party, place

an "X" in the box preceding "Other, Minor Party" and print the name of the party with which you wish to affiliate. A list of the minor political parties is on the website for the Division of Elections: <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/online/parties.shtml> If you wish to register without party affiliation, place an "X" in the box preceding "No Party Affiliation".

Florida is a closed primary state. If you wish to register to vote in a partisan primary election, you must be a registered voter in the party for which the primary is being held. All registered voters, regardless of party affiliation, can vote on issues and non-partisan candidates.

Notice:

The office at which you register, or your decision not to register, your SSN, your FL DL# and

your FL ID card# will remain confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes.

Note: If the information on this application is not true, the applicant can be convicted of a felony of the third degree and fined up to \$5,000 and/or imprisoned for up to five years.

Questions:

Contact the office of your county supervisor of elections for additional information. Contact information is on the website for the Division of Elections: <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/county/index.shtml>

Informacion en Espanol:

Sírvase llamar a la oficina del supervisor de elecciones de su condado si le interesa obtener este formulario en Español.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE APPLICATION BELOW. PLEASE PRINT USING A BLACK BALL POINT PEN.

- 1) Black boxes must be completed on the application below for registration to be valid.
- 2) Return this completed application to the office of your supervisor of elections.
- 3) If you are a first-time voter in this state applying by mail to register to vote and you have not been issued a FL DL#, FL ID#, or SSN, include a copy of your ID with the application.
- 4) Mail with first class stamp.

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FLORIDA VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

REQUIRED	1	Check boxes that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> New Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change <input type="checkbox"/> Party Change <input type="checkbox"/> Name Change <input type="checkbox"/> Card Replacement <input type="checkbox"/> Signature Update						OFFICIAL USE ONLY: DS DE 39 1/06		
	2	Are you a citizen of the United States of America? Yes? <input type="checkbox"/> No? <input type="checkbox"/> (if NO, you cannot register to vote)								
	3	<input type="checkbox"/> I affirm I am not a convicted felon, or if I am, my rights relating to voting have been restored.								
	4	<input type="checkbox"/> I affirm I have not been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting or, if I have, my competency has been restored.								
IF YOU ANSWERED NO TO QUESTION 2, OR IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO AFFIRM THE STATEMENTS IN BOXES 3 AND 4, YOU ARE INELIGIBLE TO REGISTER TO VOTE. DO NOT COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION.										
REQUIRED	5	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)		/ /						
	6	If you have a current and valid FL DL# or FL ID card#, you must provide the number in this box. If you do not have either, provide the last 4 digits of your SSN. If you have not been issued a FL DL#, FL ID card#, or SSN, write "NONE":								
	7	Last Name		Suffix (circle) Jr. Sr. II III IV		First Name		Middle Name/Initial		
	8	Address Where You Live (Legal Residence) DO NOT GIVE P.O. BOX		Apt/Lot/Unit	City		County of Legal Residence		State	Zip Code
	9	Mailing Address If Different from Above		Apt/Lot/Unit	City		Country		State	Zip Code
	10	Address Last Registered to Vote		Apt/Lot/Unit	City		County		State	Zip Code
	11	Former Name if Making Name Change					Day Phone Number			
	12	Party Affiliation (Check only one) <input type="checkbox"/> Democratic Party <input type="checkbox"/> Republican Party <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Minor Party (print party name): <input type="checkbox"/> No Party Affiliation								
	13	Race/Ethnicity (Check only one) <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Black, not Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> White, not Hispanic								
	14	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	Do you need voting assistance at the polls? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			Are you interested in being a poll worker? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			State or Country of Birth	
15	Are You: <input type="checkbox"/> Active Duty Military/Merchant Marine <input type="checkbox"/> Dependent of Active Duty Military/Merchant Marine <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Citizen Currently Residing Outside the U.S.									
16	OATH: I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Florida, that I am qualified to register as an elector under the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, and that all information provided in this application is true.				SIGNATURE: Sign or mark on line in box below. (Invalid without signature or mark of applicant.)				Date:	
				X						

SPECIAL IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

If you are registering by mail, you have never voted in Florida, and you have not been issued a Florida driver's license, Florida identification card, or Social Security number, you will be required to provide additional identification prior to voting the first time. To ensure that you will not have problems when you go to vote, you should provide a copy of the required identification listed below at the time you mail your voter registration application.

You may provide a copy of one of the following photo identifications (ID) that includes your name and picture:

- U.S. Passport • Employee Badge or ID • Buyers Club ID • Debit/Credit Card • Military ID
- Student ID • Retirement Center ID • Neighborhood Association ID • Public Assistance ID

Or, you may provide a copy of one of the following documents that contains your name and current residence address:

- Utility Bill • Bank Statement • Government Check • Paycheck • Other Government Document

Or, if you are one of the following persons, you are exempt from having to provide a copy of an ID at this time.

These exemptions are:

- Persons 65 years of age or older • Persons with a temporary or permanent physical disability
- Members of the active uniformed service or merchant marine who, by reason of such active duty, are absent from the county
 - Spouse or dependent of an active uniformed service member or merchant marine who, by reason of the active duty or service of the member, is absent from the county
 - Persons currently residing outside the U.S. who are eligible to vote in Florida

**All voters are required to provide ID containing photo and signature at the time of voting in the polling place.
Without proper identification, a voter can only vote a provisional ballot.**

DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS TO THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS.
