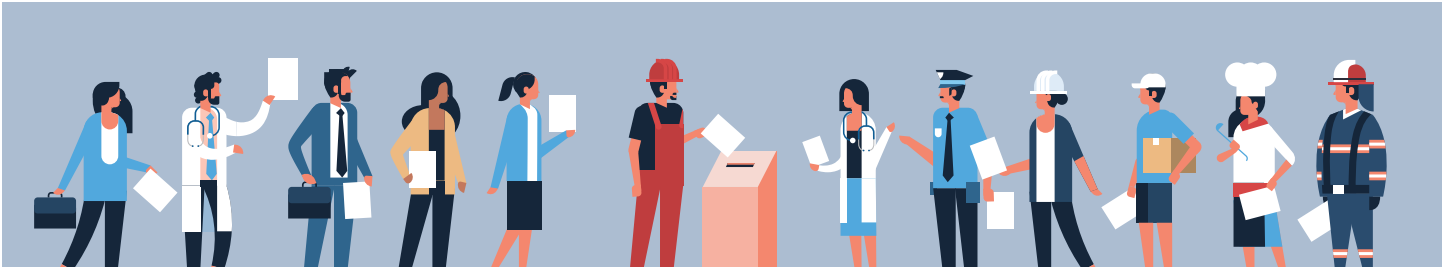


ENSURE VOTES ARE COUNTED



Florida law requires votes be counted unless canvassing boards are convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the VBM signature does not match the signature of record. Very few ballots should be rejected under this standard. Handwriting analysis is a profession, not a workshop.

Best Practices

Increase vote-by-mail participation

- » Include prepaid postage for VBM.
- » Launch a public education campaign to educate voters on VBM requirements.
- » Offer a voter assistance hotline.
- » Pick up VBM ballots at post office on election day.
- » Send reminders to those who have requested VBM ballots.
- » Offer online VBM tracking tools that incorporate text or email notifications.

Reduce unnecessary rejections

- » Incorporate computer-based signature matching software to reduce unnecessary rejections.
- » States that widely use vote-by-mail rely on computer-based signature matching and have very low reject rates.
- » Have a second review of VBM ballots that have been flagged for signature mismatch to correct false rejections.

2020 KEY DATES

PRIMARY

JULY 19

LAST DAY TO MOVE POLLING LOCATION

GENERAL

OCTOBER 4

LAST DAY TO MOVE POLLING LOCATION DAY TO REQUEST VBM BALLOT

AUGUST 20

DEADLINE TO CURE SIGNATURE MISMATCHES OR PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

GENERAL

SEPTEMBER 19

UOCAVA BALLOTS SENT

SEPTEMBER 24 – OCTOBER 1

VBM BALLOTS SENT

OCTOBER 12

VBM CANVASSING BEGINS

OCTOBER 24

LAST DAY TO REQUEST VBM BALLOT

NOVEMBER 5

DEADLINE TO CURE SIGNATURE MISMATCHES OR PROVISIONAL BALLOTS



Why?

- » Rejected VBM ballots hurt us all. Voter confidence is vital to continued civic engagement, and voters who choose to vote by mail already have less confidence that their vote counted. Having their ballot rejected confirms their fears.
- » Improves voting access for seniors, some disabled voters, and those with hectic schedules that make voting in person difficult.
 - 25% of Floridians who didn't vote cited schedule conflicts as the main reason they didn't vote in 2018.
 - 10% were out of town on election day.
- » Reduces strain on Election Day resources, resulting in shorter lines and easing stress on election officials, volunteers and voters.

But What About...



No budget for that

Similar counties are finding a way to make this work. Vote-by-mail relieves pressure on polling places on Election Day, reducing the need for additional polling locations. Have you asked the commission for more funding? What can the community do to help?



Personal Responsibility

Voting is a constitutional right, not a privilege. The State should do everything possible to make sure anyone who wants to vote, can vote, and can vote without paying the cost of missed work or additional childcare expenses.