

# EXPAND EARLY VOTING



## Best Practices

- » Ensure early voting locations are accessible to all.
  - Prioritize communities where voters are most likely to vote early, such as Black neighborhoods and business districts.
  - Use college campuses as early voting sites to promote youth participation.
- » Offer enough early voting locations to prevent long wait times and offer non-business hours.
- » Prioritize keeping early voting open through the Sunday before the election.
  - Weekend voting has the highest use per hour, with Sunday being the highest.
- » Ensure SOE staff is accessible to voters on the weekends during early voting period, either in the office or by phone.

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Early voting gives responsible Americans across the country the ability to have their voice heard, even if they can't make it to the polls on Election Day.

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## 2020 KEY DATES

### PRIMARY

#### **JULY 19**

DEADLINE FOR SOE TO DESIGNATE EARLY VOTING SITES

#### **AUGUST 3**

OPTIONAL EARLY VOTING PERIOD BEGINS

#### **AUGUST 8 - AUGUST 15**

MANDATORY EARLY VOTING PERIOD

#### **AUGUST 16**

OPTIONAL EARLY VOTING PERIOD

### GENERAL

#### **OCTOBER 4**

DEADLINE FOR SOE TO DESIGNATE EARLY VOTING SITES

#### **OCTOBER 19**

OPTIONAL EARLY VOTING PERIOD BEGINS

#### **OCTOBER 24 - OCTOBER 31**

MANDATORY EARLY VOTING PERIOD

#### **NOVEMBER 1**

OPTIONAL EARLY VOTING PERIOD



## Why?

- » Our democracy is stronger when every eligible voter can cast a vote.
- » Early voting makes voting more accessible for people for whom voting on election day is 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.
- » Early voting relieves long lines on Election Day, easing stress on election officials, volunteers and voters.
- » Reduces the need for provisional ballots as voters can vote at any early voting location.
- » Early voting is increasing in popularity

## But What About...



### Staff needs a break

Other counties and businesses have learned to stagger workers in shifts so enough are available to cover new hours.



### No budget for that

Similar counties are finding a way to make this work. Early voting 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?



### Sunday voting is anti-religious

Many churches have led the charge to increase access to the polls, organizing Souls to the Polls activities to encourage civic engagement. Jewish and Seventh-day Adventist voters celebrate the sabbath on Saturday.



### 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.