



Student Voting Guide for Florida

2014 Registration Deadlines and Election Dates

Primary Election: August 26

General Election Registration Deadline: October 6 (29 days prior to Election Day)

General Election: November 4

Voter registration forms, polling place locations, and more information can be found at <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/voting/>

Register at School or Home?

Students have a choice about where to register to vote:

School residence:

- Students have the right to register to vote in their college community if they intend this address to be a legal residence.

Home residence:

- Some students may choose to register or remain registered at their home (prior) address if they intend to return there after college. In this case, a student may need to vote by absentee ballot.
- Florida residents who move away for college can keep their Florida voting residency so long as they still consider Florida the location of their primary residence and do not register or declare residency elsewhere. These students may request to vote early by mail.

For other state's registration information visit: www.campusvoteproject.org/studentguides

The Higher Education Act requires most colleges and universities to make a good faith effort to distribute voter registration forms to every student. Does yours?

What Type of ID Do I Need to Vote?

In-person voters must always present photo and signature ID before voting. The following forms of ID are accepted if they include a photo and a signature.

- Student identification
- Florida driver's license
- Florida identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
- United States passport
- Debit or credit card
- Military identification
- Retirement center identification
- Neighborhood association identification
- Public assistance identification

If your photo ID lacks a signature, bring another ID with a signature such as a credit or debit card. Your additional signature ID does not have to have a photo.

If you lack proper ID, you can vote a provisional ballot which will be counted if your signature matches the signature on your registration form.

www.campusvoteproject.org

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Where Do I Vote?

Find your polling location online at <http://elections.myflorida.com> through Voter Information Lookup.

Voters must cast their ballots in the correct precinct. Sometimes there are multiple precincts in one polling place, so confirm your precinct ahead of time and get in the correct line!

How Can I Vote?

Early in Person

Florida requires counties to offer a minimum number of days when voters may vote early in person. Counties have some discretion to offer additional early voting dates, so contact your [County Supervisor of Elections](#) for local information, including locations. The required early voting dates are:

- Primary Election: August 16 – 23
- General Election: October 25 – November 1

Vote By Mail

Any Florida voter may request a vote by mail ballot. Contact your [County Supervisor of Elections](#) for information about applying by mail or in person. The request must be received by the 6th day before Election Day. Completed vote by mail ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

On Election Day

The polls are open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

According to the U.S. Supreme Court, students have the right to register and vote in their college towns if they meet the same requirements as everyone else. Misinformation, such as claims that registering to vote at school may jeopardize eligibility for financial aid or insurance, are sometimes used to discourage students from voting locally.

Common Questions

Will voting in Florida affect my federal financial aid?

Federal financial aid such as Pell Grants and Perkins and Stafford loans will not be affected by where you register to vote. Registering in Florida will also not affect your dependency status regarding FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Will I lose my scholarship if I register to vote in Florida?

Generally, no. If you receive scholarship money from a state, county or town, or a private entity (i.e. an entity other than the federal government) you should confirm with the entity providing the scholarship that residency in a particular place is not a requirement of the scholarship and/or that voter registration in Florida will not affect your eligibility.

Will registering to vote in Florida affect my driver's license or car registration?

Yes. Florida considers anyone who registers to vote in the state to be a resident. The law then requires you to obtain a Florida driver's license if you drive in the state and to register any car that you drive in Florida.

Will registering to vote in Florida prevent my parents from claiming me as a dependent on their taxes?

No. Students are often told that registering to vote in a different state from their parents will make them lose their dependency status. This is not true. Where you register to vote will have no effect on your parent's tax status.

Does being an in-state or out-of-state student for tuition purposes affect my right to vote?

No. You may choose to vote in your college community or back home regardless of your tuition status.

This Guide was prepared by FELN staff who are not licensed to practice law in Florida and FELN intends that the information contained herein is used only as a general guide. This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed Florida legal professional.

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