



Shirley Anderson

Hernando County Supervisor of Elections

Contact: Shirley Anderson
Address: 16264 Spring Hill Drive
Brooksville, FL 34604
Phone: 352-754-4125
Email: elections@hernandovotes.gov

February 1, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vote-by-Mail Ballots for the 2024 Presidential Preference Primary Election

The Hernando County Supervisor of Elections Office will begin sending Vote-by-Mail ballots on Friday, February 2, 2024, to all eligible military and overseas voters (60 UOCAVA Republican VBM requests). Vote-by-Mail ballots to eligible domestic voters will be mailed on Friday, February 9, 2024. 8,454 Vote-by-Mail ballots will be sent to Republican voters who have a request on file.

As a reminder, Florida is a closed primary state. In a closed primary election, a voter is limited to choosing candidates of the party they are registered with. In the upcoming March 19th election, only the Republican Party will hold a primary. Only voters who are registered members of the Republican Party may vote for respective party candidates. Since the Florida Democratic Party only provided one candidate nominee, the name will not appear on the Presidential Preference ballot.

Some party candidates for president have reportedly suspended or ended their presidential campaigns. If a candidate did not submit a formal withdrawal before December 12, 2023, in accordance with section 103.101(3), Fla. Stat., the candidate nominee's name must remain on the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) ballot for his or her respective party. A vote cast for any candidate nominee appearing on the ballot will count as a vote for that candidate.

Voters still have plenty of time to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot. New requests can be submitted through the website (www.HernandoVotes.gov) or by calling the Supervisor of Elections office at 352-754-4125. Written requests are also accepted; however, they must include the voter's date of birth, Florida driver's license number and/or last four digits of SSN, signature, and their Hernando County residence address.

Vote-by-Mail ballots are considered non-forwardable mail, so make sure your address is up to date with the Elections Office. If the ballot is to be mailed to an address other than what is on file, then we must have the voter's signature and the address of where the ballot should be sent.

A couple of things to remember about Vote-by-Mail ballots

- Deadline to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot for the March 19th Presidential Preference Primary Election is Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 5:00 PM
- Voted ballots must be received at the Elections Office by 7:00 pm on Election Day.
- Returning your ballot by mail will require USPS postage.

- Ballots may also be dropped off at any of our secure ballot intake stations (drop boxes) located at each early vote site or either of the Supervisor of Elections offices during days/hours of operation.
- Vote-by-Mail Ballots will not be accepted at any polling location on Election Day.
- If you decide to vote in person, take your Vote-by-Mail ballot with you and surrender it to the election worker who checks you in. You cannot use your Vote-by-Mail ballot as a sample. It must be surrendered at the polls during check in.
- NEW! Sign up for mail ballot status notifications through BallotTrax on HernandoVotes.gov.

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