

## What is Absentee Voting?

Absentee voting refers to voting on a ballot received by mail or picked up by or for a person who is unable or cannot go to the polls to vote during early voting or Election Day. A person does not have to be absent from his or her county of residence or have another reason to vote absentee. A request must be made to receive an absentee ballot. A request covers all elections through the end of the calendar year for the second ensuing regularly scheduled general election. Contact your [Supervisor of Elections](#) to request an absentee ballot.

## How to Request an Absentee Ballot

**You must request your absentee ballot directly from the Supervisor of Elections in one of the following ways:**

- In writing;
- Other written request (e.g., by e-mail or for military members and their family, and overseas citizens only, by federal postcard and absentee application (FPCA))
- in person;
- by telephone; or
- by mail.

The request for an absentee ballot can be made by you or if directly instructed to do so, an immediate family member or legal guardian on your behalf.

**When a request is made the following information is required:**

- the name of the voter for whom the ballot is being requested;
- the voter's address;
- the voter's date of birth; and
- the voter's signature (if the request is written).

**If a member of your immediate family or legal guardian is requesting an absentee ballot for you, the following additional information must be provided:**

- the requestor's address;
- the requestor's driver's license number (if available);
- the requestor's relationship to the voter; and
- the requestor's signature (if the request is written).

A request to receive an absentee ballot by mail must be received by the Supervisor of Elections **no later than 5 p.m. on the 6th day before the election**. Otherwise, you can obtain an absentee ballot up until and including Election Day. However, it must still be returned by no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day if the voted ballot is to count.

## Who Can Pick Up An Absentee Ballot

The voter may pick up an absentee ballot on election day or up to 5 days before an election. The voter may also designate someone else to pick up the ballot for him or her. A designee may only pick up 2 absentee ballots per election (other than his or her own ballot and ballots for members of

his or her immediate family). The designee must submit a completed [Affidavit to Pick-up an Absentee Ballot](#) for a Voter which includes the written authorization from the voter. If the voter did not already request a ballot, the Affidavit must be accompanied by a request.

## **How to Vote an Absentee Ballot**

After you mark your ballot, it must be received by the Supervisor of Elections **no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day**. Other options are available for military members and their families who are absent from their county of residence due to active duty, and for overseas civilians. Contact your county Supervisor of Elections for more information. Do not return the marked ballot to a polling place except if you decide you want or are able to vote in your precinct on election day. In that case, you must take the absentee ballot with you to the polls (whether it has been marked or not). Even if you come to the polls without your absentee ballot, you will still be able to vote a regular ballot if the supervisor of elections' office is able to confirm that it has not received your absentee ballot. However, if it is confirmed that you have already voted an absentee ballot, you cannot vote again at the polls. If you think the supervisor of elections' office is wrong about receiving your absentee ballot or if the supervisor of elections' office cannot confirm that you have already voted an absentee ballot, you will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot.

## **How to Track Your Absentee Ballot Request and Returned Ballot**

As of July 2010, any voter who has requested an absentee ballot can track online the status of his or her absentee ballot. You can either link through the Division of Elections' Voter Information Lookup at [www.elections.myflorida.com](http://www.elections.myflorida.com) or through your Elections' website.

## **How to Correct a Missing Signature on Your Absentee Ballot**

If you returned your absentee ballot to your supervisor of elections, but forgot to sign the ballot, your ballot will not count unless you complete and return the Omitted Signature Affidavit for Absentee Ballot ([DS-DE 139](#), eff 1/2014) no later than 5 pm on the day before the election. Please follow the instructions on the form carefully, as failure to follow these instructions may cause your ballot not to count.