



Quick Facts - Primary Election

What is the Primary Election?

The 2016 Primary Election is held 10 weeks before the General Election. In the Primary Election, voters registered with one of [Florida's political parties](#) express their preference for the candidates they would like to see representing their party on the General Election ballot in November. In addition, all voters, regardless of party affiliation, may vote in nonpartisan races on the ballot (such as school boards), referendums, or proposed constitutional amendments.

When is the Primary Election?

Florida's Primary Election is on August 30, 2016. The deadline for voters to register to vote or update their party affiliation for the Primary Election is August 1, 2016. Eligible voters can vote-by-mail (absentee), vote during early voting, or vote at the polls on Election Day.

Who can vote in the Primary Election?

Florida is a closed primary state. Only voters who are registered members of political parties may vote for respective party candidates for an office in a primary election.

However, there are times when all registered voters can vote in a primary election, regardless of which political party they are registered with or even if they are registered without party affiliation:

1. If all the candidates for an office have the same party affiliation and the winner of the primary election will not face any opposition in the general election, then all registered voters can vote for any of the candidates for that office in the primary election.
2. If races for nonpartisan (i.e., free from party affiliation) judicial and school board offices, nonpartisan special districts or referendum questions are on the primary election ballot, then all registered voters, including those without party affiliation are entitled to vote those races on the ballot.
3. The 2016 primary ballot will include a proposed constitutional amendment that all voters can vote on. Further information can be found using the links located below.

What Candidates and Races will be on my Primary Ballot?

Contact your county Supervisor of Elections office to obtain a sample ballot that lists the candidates and races on which you can vote.

For details regarding the proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot, please see the Proposed Constitutional Amendment Booklet:

- [English - PDF](#)
- [Español - PDF](#)

Resources

- [Check your voter registration status and find your polling place](#)
- [Contact your county Supervisor of Elections](#)
- [Constitutional Amendments](#)
- [Early Voting – How to cast a ballot at an early voting location before election day](#)
- [Election Day Voting – Information on how to vote at polls on election day](#)
- [Register to vote or update your voter registration information](#)
- [Vote-by-Mail \(formerly Absentee Voting\) – How to request and return a vote-by-mail ballot](#)