

2018

VOTER GUIDE



Gadsden County, Florida

Shirley Green Knight
Supervisor of Elections

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Quincy, Florida 32353

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www.gadsdensoe.com

2018 Election Dates

Primary Election
August 28, 2018

Deadline to Register
July 30, 2018

Early Voting Dates
August 13 – August 25, 2018

General Election
November 6, 2018

Deadline to Register
October 9, 2018

Early Voting Dates
October 22 – November 3, 2018

Polls will open on Election Day
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Offices to Be Filled in 2018

Federal Offices

United States Senator 2nd Congressional District
U.S. Representative 5th Congressional District

State Offices

Governor/Lt. Governor
Attorney General
Chief Financial Officer
Commissioner of Agriculture

Multicounty and District Offices

State Representative District 8

County Offices

Board of County Commissioner (District 2 & 4)
School Board Member (District 2, 3 & 4)
Soil & Water Conservation (Seats 2 & 4)

Non-Partisan

Justices of the Supreme Court
Judges, District Courts of Appeal
Circuit Judges

Municipal Offices

City & Town Elections are held annually on the last Tuesday in April: Chattahoochee, Greensboro, Gretna, Havana, Midway, Quincy

VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To register to vote you must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be a Florida resident
- Be 18 years old (you may pre-register at 16)

Persons not entitled to Register or Vote:

- Persons who have been found by a court in this or another state to be mentally incapacitated with respect to voting and who have not had their right to vote restored.
- Persons who have been convicted of any felony in any court and who have not had their right to vote restored.
- Any person who is not a citizen of the United States of America.
- A person who is not registered to vote may not vote.

Three Ways to Register:

To register to vote, change your address, update your name or signature, you must fill out a Florida voter registration application.

You can register:

1. Online at www.gadsdensoe.com
2. In Person
 - At the Supervisor of Elections Office
 - Public Library
 - DHSMV/Tax Collector
 - Office of Public Assistance
 - Offices that serve persons with disabilities
 - Armed Forces Recruitment Offices
3. By Mail
 - You can call our office at 850-627-9910 to have a Florida voter registration form mailed to you.
 - You can also download an application from our website, complete it and mail it to PO Box 186, Quincy, FL 32353.

Three Ways to Vote

1 Vote by Mail (Absentee)

Absentee ballots may be requested in person, by mail, telephone (850-627-9910), online at www.gadsdensoe.com or email at info@gadsdensoe.com. The deadline to request a ballot to be mailed to you is always 6 days before an election.

2 Early Voting

Early Voting is available for all voters in Gadsden County before each Primary and General Election.

Valid ID containing your photo and signature are required to vote.

EARLY VOTE LOCATIONS

Supervisor of Elections Office
16 S. Madison Street
Quincy, FL

Havana Library
203 E. 5th Avenue
Havana, FL

Midway Fire Department
60 MLK Blvd.
Midway, FL

Chattahoochee Library
300 Maple Street
Chattahoochee, FL

***Voters Can Vote At Either Early Vote Location**

3 Election Day

Primary Election – August 28, 2018

General Election – November 6, 2018

Securing Elections in Gadsden County

Security is very important in the election process. Gadsden County has made many upgrades to ensure that we are secured.

Some of our upgrades:

- We are in the process of purchasing an Albert server. The ALBERT server will monitor our network 24/7 to report any suspicious activity. This will be completely installed by July 1, 2018.
- We are running a highly rated antivirus software package, malware software package and we ensure that all of our desktops and servers are patched and up-to-date.
- We have joined Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) and Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC) and subscribed to their newsletters.
- We utilize an industry leading firewall solution that is updated, contains a list of blocked IPs and includes reporting tools to identify network security threats, issues and trends.
- Policies are in place for user passwords and use and security of office equipment.
- Cybersecurity software is in place to provide on-going cybersecurity and phishing education for both fulltime and temporary employees who are on the front line of cybersecurity.

Acceptable ID at The Polls

When voting Early or on Election Day at the Polls, you will be asked to show a photo and signature identification. Acceptable forms of 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
- Student identification
- Retirement center identification
- Neighborhood association identification
- Public assistance identification
- Veteran health identification card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
- License to carry a concealed weapon or firearm issued pursuant to s. 790.06
- Employee identification card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the Federal Government, the state, a county, or a municipality.

Provisional Ballots

If your eligibility to vote cannot be determined, or you do not have the proper identification, you will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot. A person casting a provisional ballot has the right to present written evidence supporting his or her eligibility to vote to the Supervisor of Elections by no later than 5:00 p.m. on the second day following the election. If you voted a provisional ballot because you did not bring photo and signature identification to the polls, you do not have to present further evidence of eligibility. The local canvassing board will simply compare your signature on the provisional ballot certificate with your signature on the voter registration record. If the signatures match, your provisional ballot will count (provided you were in the proper precinct).

Voting Machines in Gadsden County

Optical Scan

DS-200 voting machine scans paper ballots.

- You must completely fill in the ovals next to a candidate name.
- You must use the pen that is provided or a blue or black pen.
- You cannot erase on your ballot. If you make a mistake when voting an absentee ballot, call the Supervisor of Elections office to request another ballot. If voting at the polls ask your clerk for a replacement ballot. A voter is allowed up to two replacement ballots.
- Only fill in the oval for one candidate for each race, unless you are instructed to do otherwise. If you over-vote, the machine will return your ballot.
- Before you cast your ballot, be sure your ballot reflects your choices.
- Once your vote is cast, you cannot receive another ballot in that election.

AutoMark VAT

- For Disabled Voters Only
- Voter will be issued an optical scan paper ballot
- Voter will insert their ballot into the AutoMark machine
- Voter will make their selection by touching the screen
- Voter cannot over-vote
- Voter can review their ballot
- Voter insert their ballot into the Optical Scan voting machine

Book Closing Dates

The Book Closing Date is the statewide deadline to register to vote, or change your political party for any election if you are already registered. For first time voters in Florida, a completed voter registration form must be in the Supervisor of Elections' office, or postmarked, by the book closing date. If you have relocated to a new address within Florida, register that address with the Supervisor of Elections' office as soon as possible.

Closed Primaries

Florida is a closed primary state. In a primary election, voters may only vote for candidates in their party of registration. If you do not select a party when you register to vote, your vote is limited in the primaries to only judges and non-partisan issues. In the General Election, party affiliation is not an issue. You may vote for any candidate, regardless of party preference.

Universal Primaries

A Universal Primary Contest means a contest in a primary election in which all candidates have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the General Election. All qualified electors may vote on a Universal Primary Contest regardless of party affiliation.

VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

Each registered voter in this state has the right to:

1. Vote and have his or her vote accurately counted.
2. Cast a vote if he or she is in line at the official closing of the polls in that county.
3. Ask for and receive assistance in voting.
4. Receive up to two replacement ballots if he or she makes a mistake prior to the ballot being cast.
5. An explanation if his or her registration or identity is in question.
6. If his or her registration or identity is in question, cast a provisional ballot.
7. Written instructions to use when voting, and, upon request, oral instructions in voting from elections officers.
8. Vote free from coercion or intimidation by elections officers or any other person.
9. Vote on a voting system that is in working condition and that will allow votes to be accurately cast.

VOTER RESPONSIBILITIES

Each registered voter in this state should:

1. Familiarize himself or herself with the candidates and issues.
2. Maintain with the office of the Supervisor of Elections a current address.
3. Know the location of his or her polling place and its hours of operation.
4. Bring proper identification to the polling station.
5. Familiarize himself or herself with the operation of the voting equipment in his or her precinct.
6. Treat precinct workers with courtesy.
7. Respect the privacy of other voters.
8. Report any problems or violations of election laws to the Supervisor of Elections.
9. Ask questions, if needed.
10. Make sure that his or her completed ballot is correct before leaving the polling station.

Restoration of Civil Rights

Under the Florida Constitution, a convicted felon **cannot vote, serve on a jury, or hold public office** until their civil rights have been restored. If you have been convicted of a felony and wish to have your civil rights restored, you must submit an application to the Office of Executive Clemency.

Clemency applications are available at our office for pick up or you can call us at 850-627-9910 and request it to be mailed to you. You can also print an application from our website at www.gadsdensoe.com. Contact the Office of Clemency for more information.

The Office of Executive Clemency

Florida Commission on Offender Review
4070 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2450

Toll Free: 1-800-435-8286

Phone: (850) 488-2952

Fax: (850) 488-0695

Email: ClemencyWeb@fcor.state.fl.us

To find out if your rights have been restored you can visit <https://fpcweb.fcor.state.fl.us> or call one the phone numbers above.

You will need the following information:

- First Name
- Last Name
- Date of Birth or Department of Corrections ID Number

Constitutional Amendments 2018
(Will Appear on the General Election Ballot)

Constitutional Amendment 1
Article VII, Section 6
Article XII, Section 37

Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption - Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the homestead exemption by exempting the assessed valuation of homestead property greater than \$100,000 and up to \$125,000 for all levies other than school district levies. The amendment shall take effect January 1, 2019.

Constitutional Amendment 2
Article XII, Section 27

Limitations on Property Tax Assessments - Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to permanently retain provisions currently in effect, which limit property tax assessment increases on specified nonhomestead real property, except for school district taxes, to 10 percent each year. If approved, the amendment removes the scheduled repeal of such provisions in 2019 and shall take effect January 1, 2019.

Constitutional Amendment 3
Article X, Section 29

Voter Control of Gambling in Florida - This amendment ensures that Florida voters shall have the exclusive right to decide whether to authorize casino gambling by requiring that in order for casino gambling to be authorized under Florida law, it must be approved by Florida voters pursuant to Article XI, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution. Affects articles X and XI. Defines casino gambling and clarifies that this amendment does not conflict with federal law regarding state/tribal compacts. The amendment's impact on state and local government revenues and costs, if any, cannot be determined at this time because of its unknown effect on gambling operations that have not been approved by voters through a constitutional amendment proposed by a citizens' initiative petition process.

Constitutional Amendment 4
Article VI, Section 4

Voting Restoration Amendment - This amendment restores the voting rights of Floridians with felony convictions after they complete all terms of their sentence including parole or probation. The amendment would not apply to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses, who would continue to be permanently barred from voting unless the Governor and Cabinet vote to restore their voting rights on a case by case basis. The precise effect of this amendment on state and local government costs cannot be determined, but the operation of current voter registration laws, combined with an increased number of felons registering to vote, will produce higher overall costs relative to the processes in place today. The impact, if any, on state and local government revenues cannot be determined. The fiscal impact of any future legislation that implements a different process cannot be reasonably determined.

Constitutional Amendments 2018
(Will Appear on the General Election Ballot)

Constitutional Amendment 5
Article VII, Section 19

Supermajority Vote Required to Impose, Authorize, or Raise State Taxes or Fees Prohibits the legislature from imposing, authorizing, or raising a state tax or fee except through legislation approved by a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislature in a bill containing no other subject. This proposal does not authorize a state tax or fee otherwise prohibited by the Constitution and does not apply to fees or taxes imposed or authorized to be imposed by a county, municipality, school board, or special district.

Constitutional Revision 6
Article I, Section 16
Article V, Sections 8 and 21
Article XII, New Section

Rights of Crime Victims; Judges - Creates constitutional rights for victims of crime; requires courts to facilitate victims' rights; authorizes victims to enforce their rights throughout criminal and juvenile justice processes. Requires judges and hearing officers to independently interpret statutes and rules rather than deferring to government agency's interpretation. Raises mandatory retirement age of state justices and judges from seventy to seventy-five years; deletes authorization to complete judicial term if one-half of term has been served by retirement age.

Constitutional Revision 7
Article IX, Sections 7 and 8
Article X, New Section

First Responder and Military Member Survivor Benefits; Public Colleges and Universities - Grants mandatory payment of death benefits and waiver of certain educational expenses to qualifying survivors of certain first responders and military members who die performing official duties. Requires supermajority votes by university trustees and state university system board of governors to raise or impose all legislatively authorized fees if law requires approval by those bodies. Establishes existing state college system as constitutional entity; provides governance structure.

Constitutional Revision 8
Article IX, Section 4, New Section
Article XII, New Section

School Board Term Limits and Duties; Public Schools - Creates a term limit of eight consecutive years for school board members and requires the legislature to provide for the promotion of civic literacy in public schools. Currently, district school boards have a constitutional duty to operate, control, and supervise all public schools. The amendment maintains a school board's duties to public schools it establishes, but permits the state to operate, control, and supervise public schools not established by the school board.

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Constitutional Amendments 2018
 (Will Appear on the General Election Ballot)

Constitutional Revision 9
Article II, Section 7
Article X, Section 20

Prohibits Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling; Prohibits Vaping in Enclosed Indoor Workplaces - Prohibits drilling for the exploration or extraction of oil and natural gas beneath all state-owned waters between the mean high water line and the state’s outermost territorial boundaries. Adds use of vapor-generating electronic devices to current prohibition of tobacco smoking in enclosed indoor workplaces with exceptions; permits more restrictive local vapor ordinances.

Constitutional Revision 10
Article III, Section 3
Article IV, Sections 4 and 11
Article VIII, Sections 1 and 6

State and Local Government Structure and Operation - Requires legislature to retain department of veterans’ affairs. Ensures election of sheriffs, property appraisers, supervisors of elections, tax collectors, and clerks of court in all counties; removes county charters’ ability to abolish, change term, transfer duties, or eliminate election of these offices. Changes annual legislative session commencement date in even- numbered years from March to January; removes legislature’s authorization to fix another date. Creates office of domestic security and counterterrorism within department of law enforcement.

Constitutional Revision 11
Article I, Section 2
Article X, Sections 9 and 19

Property Rights; Removal of Obsolete Provision; Criminal Statutes - Removes discriminatory language related to real property rights. Removes obsolete language repealed by voters. Deletes provision that amendment of a criminal statute will not affect prosecution or penalties for a crime committed before the amendment; retains current provision allowing prosecution of a crime committed before the repeal of a criminal statute.

Constitutional Revision 12
Article II, Section 8
Article V, Section 13
Article XII, New Section

Lobbying and Abuse of Office by Public Officers - Expands current restrictions on lobbying for compensation by former public officers; creates restrictions on lobbying for compensation by serving public officers and former justices and judges; provides exceptions; prohibits abuse of a public position by public officers and employees to obtain a personal benefit.

Constitutional Revision 13
Article X, New Section
Article XII, New Section

Ends Dog Racing - Phases out commercial dog racing in connection with wagering by 2020. Other gaming activities are not affected.

Notes
