

FLORIDA STATUTES 101.031(2)

As we grow nearer to early voting, which begins on August 9th, there is something I would like to go over with you that I think will be helpful. Florida Statutes 101.031 is about Instructions for Electors. Part of this statute 101.031 (2) is about Voter Responsibilities and it states that each registered voter in the state should:

1. Familiarize himself or herself with the candidates and issues

This can be achieved by articles in the newspapers, radio or TV, contacting the candidates personally or attend meetings/forums where these candidates will be speaking. Political parties will have some of this information.

2. Maintain with the office of the Supervisor of Elections a current address

This will insure the voter will be in the correct precinct and receive the correct ballot. Address changes can be made in person at any Supervisor of Elections offices, by filling out an application from the website, by calling our office, or by picking up an application at any library, city hall, nursing home or business that sells firearms.

3. Know the location of his or her polling place and its hours of operation

If you are going to vote early or at your precinct on Election Day, take the time to drive by the polling place ahead of time. You can also go to our website and look it up. I always run an ad showing all the precincts and their locations before each election as well as the early voting sites and the hours of operation.

4. Bring proper identification to the polling station

Pursuant to 101.043 Florida Statutes, it requires a photo and signature identification when you go to vote or you will vote a provisional ballot. Acceptable forms of I.D. include: Florida Driver's License, Florida I.D. card issued by the Dept. of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, U.S. Passport, Debit or Credit card, Military I.D., Student I.D., Retirement Center I.D., Neighborhood Association I.D. and Public Assistance I.D. AGAIN, if you do not have the proper I.D., you will be given a provisional ballot and allowed to vote. Eligibility will be determined by the canvassing board. Remember, by not having the proper I.D., this holds the lines up while paperwork is being processed.

5. Familiarize himself or herself with the operation of the voting equipment in his or her precinct

This can be done by attending functions where the voting equipment is being demonstrated or go to the Supervisor of Elections website.

6. Treat precinct workers with courtesy

The poll workers put in a very long day. Your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated as they try to make your voting experience a good one.

7. Respect the privacy of other voters

Please be as quiet as possible as you and other voters are voting their ballot. Please turn cell phones off for the few minutes while you will be in the polling place.

8. Report any problems or violations of election laws to the Supervisor of Elections

If the clerk or deputy at a polling place cannot handle an issue that may arise, they will call the Supervisor of Elections. If you feel you need to report on an issue, please do not hesitate to contact the Supervisor of Elections.

9. Ask questions, if needed

If you need assistance with anything at all at the early voting site or your precinct, please ask one of the poll workers as they are trained to provide you with assistance and to answer questions. They cannot discuss candidates or issues.

10. Make sure that his or her completed ballot is correct before leaving the polling station

Please follow the instructions on the ballot. Read each race carefully as it may ask you to vote for more than one candidate in that race. Simply fill in the oval to vote. Please do not put an "X" in the oval, or a check mark, do not circle the oval or punch a hole in the oval. If you do this, when you insert your ballot into the voting equipment, it will not accept it as it cannot read it. If you make a mistake on your ballot you can receive up to 3 ballots by law. But remember, this will also hold up lines as paperwork has to be processed.

NOTE TO VOTER: Failure to perform any of these responsibilities does not prohibit a voter from voting.

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