

Absentee Requests and Absentee Ballots Points of Interest Sumter County Voters

1. A request for an absentee may be made by:
 - Written or telephonic request from the voter or
 - If directly instructed by the voter a member of the voter's immediate family or the voter's legal guardian
2. Immediate Family means:
 - The voter's spouse, parent, child, grandparent or sibling
3. The person making the request must give the following information
 - Voter's address
 - Voter's date of birth
 - Requester's name
 - Requester's address
 - Requester's driver's license number, if available
 - Requester's relationship to the voter
 - Requester's signature (written requests only)
4. The request must be received no later than 5 p.m. on the sixth day (Wednesday) before the election and the ballot must be mailed no later than 4 days (Friday) before the election.
5. A request for an absentee ballot is deemed sufficient to receive an absentee ballot for all elections through the end of the calendar year of the second ensuing regularly scheduled General Election; unless the voter or their designee indicates at the time the request is made the elections for which the voter desires to receive an absentee ballot. The request may be considered canceled when any First Class mail sent by the supervisor to the voter is returned as undeliverable.
6. Absentee ballots must be mailed no later than 45 days prior to each election to absent uniformed services voters; and must be mailed to all other voters who have requested between the 35th and 28th days before each election.
7. Daily absentee requests will be processed and mailed within 2 days after the initial (2) drops.
8. Voters may pick up an absentee ballot for themselves as soon as the ballots are available and must provide identification to receive the ballot. Identification must be current and valid and can be one of the following:
 - 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
9. If the picture identification does not contain the signature of the voter an additional identification that provides the signature shall be required.
10. Voter's who designate someone to pick up an absentee ballot for them must designate in writing a person to pick up the ballot; however the person picking up the ballot may not pick up more than two absentee ballots per election, other than the designee's own ballot and additional ballots may be picked up for members of the designee's immediate family.

11. Designee's shall provide the written authorization from the voter and must provide a picture identification of the designee and must complete an affidavit.
12. Designee's may begin picking up ballots for voters 5 days (Thursday) prior to each election; provided they have the authorization and provide the necessary identification and complete the affidavit.
13. Absentee ballots are not forwardable; except for absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters. If the ballot is returned as undeliverable as stated in #5 it will cancel the absentee request for future elections.
14. Voters must sign the return envelope in order for the ballot to be counted.
15. A Power of Attorney to sign for a voter cannot be used with an absentee ballot.
16. For Sumter County voters; Absentee ballots must reach the Supervisor of Elections office in Bushnell by 7 P.M. election night in order to be counted.
17. Every signature on absentee ballot envelopes are verified against the signature of the voter on file at the Supervisor of elections office. If a voters signature has changed, the voter needs to do a signature update with the Supervisor of elections office as soon as possible or at least before the canvassing board starts to canvass absentee ballots. By law the canvassing board may begin the canvassing of absentee ballots at 7 a.m. on the 15th day before the election. If the signature does not match, the ballot will not be counted. If a signature is in question, the canvassing board will determine if the signature matches or not and will decide the disposition of the ballot.

For the General Election November 6, 2012 ONLY:

The postage to return a voted absentee ballot will be .65 cents.

If you have any questions please contact the Sumter County Supervisor of Elections at 352-569-1540

**Karen S. Krauss
Sumter County
Supervisor of Elections**