

# ST. JOHNS COUNTY

## Voter's Guide

**Penny Halyburton • St Johns County Supervisor of Elections**  
4455 Avenue A #101 • St Augustine, FL 32095  
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[www.sjcvotes.us](http://www.sjcvotes.us)

### Voting Dates to Remember

<i>PRIMARY ELECTION</i>	<i>GENERAL ELECTION</i>
<p><u>Book Closing</u> July 28, 2008</p> <p><u>Early Voting Dates</u> Begins: August 11, 2008 Ends: August 23, 2008</p> <p><u>Election Date</u> August 26, 2008</p>	<p><u>Book Closing</u> October 6, 2008</p> <p><u>Early Voting Dates</u> Begins: October 20, 2008 Ends: November 1, 2008</p> <p><u>Election Date</u> November 4, 2008</p>

### How To Register

You must fill out a Florida Voter Registration Application form.

Florida Voter Registration Applications are available at:

- ★ Any of the Supervisor of Elections offices or online at [www.sjcvotes.us](http://www.sjcvotes.us)
- ★ Florida Driver's License offices
- ★ State agencies that provide public assistance
- ★ Public Libraries
- ★ County governmental offices

Voter registration books close 29 days prior to each election. In order to be eligible to vote in an election, you must be registered prior to this deadline.

### Who Can Register To Vote

You May Register To Vote If:

- ★ You are a United States Citizen.
- ★ You are at least 18 years of age. (You may pre-register if you are 17 years of age or at 16 upon receipt of a valid Florida Driver's License.) You will be able to vote when you turn 18 years of age.
- ★ You are a legal resident of the Florida county in which you wish to vote.

Persons Not Entitled to Vote:

- ★ Anyone convicted of a felony or declared mentally incompetent with respect to voting, may not register to vote until their civil rights or competency has been restored.
- ★ Any person who is not a citizen of the United States.

## Office Locations

### Supervisor of Elections Office (Main Office)

4455 Avenue A #101  
St. Augustine, FL 32095  
(904) 823-2238 • Toll Free (877) 475-2468

**Ponte Vedra Annex  
(Courthouse Annex)**  
5430 Palm Valley Road  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082  
Toll Free (877) 475-2468

**Julington Creek Annex  
(St. Johns County Service Center)**  
725 Flora Branch Boulevard  
Saint Johns, FL 32259  
Toll Free (877) 475-2468

## When Can You Register

You can apply to register to vote at any time. However, there is a 29 day deadline prior to each election for registering to vote or for changing party affiliation. You must be registered for at least 29 days before you can vote in an election.

The date your voter registration application is postmarked or hand delivered to your county Supervisor of Elections, will be your registration date. If your application is complete and you are qualified as a voter, a voter information card will be mailed to you.

When the registration books are closed for an election, address changes can be made. Voter registration and party changes will be accepted, but only for the purpose of subsequent elections.

(section 97.055, Florida Statutes)

## Update Your Voter Record

It is the voter's responsibility to notify the Elections Office if you:

**Change your address (moved within the county)** - By phone, fax, email, or in writing.

**Change your address (moved from out of county), or change your name, political party, or to update your signature** - Fill out a Florida Voter Registration Application and mail it to our office or visit any of our agencies and they will forward it to the Elections Office.

## Primary Elections

Florida is a closed primary state. This means that in a primary, voters are limited to choosing candidates of their own party; Democrats vote for Democrats, Republicans vote for Republicans. Minor political parties may now have primary elections. Voters registered with no party affiliation or other parties not involved in the Primary may vote only on issues and nonpartisan candidates, such as judges and referenda questions.

A 1998 amendment to the Florida Constitution states, in part, that if all candidates for an office have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the General Election, all qualified voters, regardless of party affiliation, may vote in the Primary Election for that office. This is called a 'Universal Primary'.

Regardless of party affiliation, a voter may vote for any candidate in a General Election. Municipal, Judicial, and School Board elections are non-partisan in St. Johns County.

## Polling Information

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The name and address of your polling location will be on your voter information card.

You must have current and valid picture and signature identification. Both the picture and signature may be on one ID or they may be on two separate forms of acceptable identification. A driver's license is an example of one form of acceptable identification.

### ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ID (F.S. 101.043)

- ★ Florida Driver's License
- ★ Florida ID card issued by DHSMV
- ★ U.S. Passport
- ★ Debit or Credit Card
- ★ Military ID
- ★ Student ID
- ★ Retirement Center ID
- ★ Neighborhood Association ID
- ★ Public Assistance

**NOTE:** if you do not have proper identification, you must vote a provisional ballot.

A precinct locator is available on our website. You may check the location of your polling place by using your residence address.

## Early Voting

Any registered voter may vote early by appearing at one of the Early Voting Sites during the two weeks before Election Day.

Early voting is not available on Election Day.

### EARLY VOTING DATES

#### Primary Election

Begins: August 11, 2008  
Ends: August 23, 2008

#### General Election

Begins: October 20, 2008  
Ends: November 1, 2008

Hours: Monday - Saturday (8:30 am to 4:30 pm)

## Early Voting Sites

### Supervisor of Elections Office

4455 Avenue A #101  
St. Augustine, FL

### Julington Creek Annex (Courthouse Annex) Conference Room

725 Flora Branch Boulevard  
Saint Johns, FL

### Ponte Vedra Branch Library

101 Library Boulevard  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

### Southeast Branch Library

6670 US 1 South  
St. Augustine, FL

### St. Augustine Beach City Hall

2200 A1A South  
St. Augustine, FL

### Hastings Town Hall

6195 South Main Street  
Hastings, FL

## Poll Workers

- ★ Applications are available at the Supervisor of Elections Office.
- ★ Must be registered to vote in St. Johns County.
- ★ Must be able to read and write the English language.
- ★ Must attend mandatory training classes.

## Absentee Voting

Any qualified, registered St. Johns County Voter is entitled to vote an absentee ballot.

Absentee ballots may be requested:

**In Person • By Telephone • By Fax  
By Mail • Online**

If requesting an absentee ballot in person, the voter must present current and valid picture identification with a signature or vote a provisional ballot.

When a voter is requesting his or her own absentee ballot, the voter must provide the following information:

**Name • Residence Address  
Date of Birth • Location to Send Ballot  
Telephone Number  
Requester's Signature  
(Written Requests Only)**

An absentee ballot may be requested by the voter or spouse, or by either his or her immediate family (parent, child, grandparent, or sibling).

If a member of the voter's immediate family is making the request, the requester must provide the following additional information:

**Name • Your Address  
Relationship to Voter  
Driver's License Number (If Available)  
Requester's Signature  
(Written Requests Only)**

Within five (5) days of an election, the voter may designate (in writing), someone other than immediate family, to pick up their absentee ballot for them.

**Deadline for requesting an absentee ballot to be mailed is 5:00 pm on the sixth day prior to each election.**

## Returning An Absentee Ballot

All voted ballots must be in the Supervisor of Elections Main Office by 7:00 p.m. or by 3:00 p.m. at the Annexes on Election Day, in order to be counted.

**VOTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS CANNOT BE  
TURNED IN AT THE POLLS!**

## Voting System

- ★ Optical Scan precinct tabulators are the foundation of our voting system. The Eagles have been in use in St. Johns County since 1994.
- ★ Paper ballots are marked by completing an arrow next to the voter's choice. The voter places their ballot into a tabulator (Eagle) at each precinct or early voting site.
- ★ If a ballot is over voted or improperly marked, the Eagle will not accept the ballot and will return it to the voter. The voter is given the opportunity to review their ballot and obtain a replacement when necessary.
- ★ Additionally, iVotronic touch screen tabulators (DREs) are provided to aid persons with disabilities. Touch screen voting is a federal and state mandate which allows voters with disabilities to vote privately. An audio feature is available for persons who are blind or visually impaired.
- ★ One Eagle and one iVotronic are provided at each precinct and early voting site.
- ★ Absentee ballots are counted on a high speed tabulator at the Main Election Office.
- ★ Results from early voting, precincts, and absentee ballots are tabulated together at the Main Elections Office. After the polls close, the election results are released to the public and posted on our web site.

## How To Mark A Ballot

Since 1994, St. Johns County voters have voted with a "mark sense" ballot. Using a pen, voters fill in the arrow beside their choices. After marking the ballot, the voter inserts the ballot into the "Eagle" (tabulation machine at the polls).



Correct Way    Incorrect Way    Incorrect Way    Incorrect Way

## Touch Screen Voting System

The Elections Office provides touch screen voting to aid persons with disabilities. Touch screen voting allows blind and visually impaired voters to vote privately. Persons who are visually impaired may access the system's audio feature. A touch screen voting tabulator will be available at each of the early voting sites and at each polling site.

## Voter's Bill of Rights

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

## Voter Responsibilities

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