

ATTENTION VOTERS

Florida is a Closed Primary State

Only voters who are registered members of the two major political parties (Republicans and Democrats) may vote for their respective party's candidates in primary elections. Registered minor political party voters and voters without party affiliations are not eligible to vote for major party candidates in primary elections.

However, Article VI, Section 5 (b), Florida Constitution, provides that if all candidates have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the General Election, all qualified electors, regardless of party affiliation, may vote in the Primary Elections for that office.

Nonpartisan judicial and school board offices, special districts and local referendum questions are included in primary elections. All registered voters, including those without party affiliation and minor political party voters are entitled to receive and vote those ballots. For General Elections, all voters receive the same ballot and may vote for any candidate or question on the ballot.

VOTING SYSTEM

Charlotte County uses an optical scan paper ballot system. Votes are cast by filling in the ovals, similar to the lottery or standardized test.

The ballot is then read into an optical scan reader at the polling place.

Mail ballots are fed through a high speed reader at the main office prior to Election Day for tabulation on Election night. For more information visit our Website: charlottevotes.com

SAMPLE BALLOT

Precinct specific sample ballots are available on our website for all elections. The sample ballot will be the same as the one you will vote on Election Day (based on your address) including your Congressional, Senate, House, and local races. Voters are encouraged to mark their sample ballot and take it with them to the polls. Visit our website charlottevotes.com for more information about candidates, voter statistics, precincts, polling locations, and to track your "Vote By Mail" Ballot.



2016

Charlotte County Voter Guide

Hon. Paul A. Stamoulis

Supervisor of Elections

Punta Gorda Main Office

Historical Courthouse
226 Taylor Street, Unit 120
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-4458
(941) 833-5400
(941) 833-5422 (FAX)
8:00AM-5:00PM (Monday thru Friday)

Murdock Annex:

18500 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(941) 743-1387
Monday, Wednesday and Friday Only
8:00AM-12:00PM 1:00PM-5:00PM

Englewood Annex:

6868 San Casa Dr
Englewood, FL 34224
(941) 681-3717
Tuesday and Thursday Only
8:00AM-12:00PM, 1:00PM-5:00PM

Englewood and Murdock days and times are subject to change.

Email: soe@charlottevotes.com

Website: www.charlottevotes.com

This pamphlet is for informational purposes only. The information listed is subject to change without notice.

2016 ELECTION DAY DATES

Presidential Preference Primary:

March 15, 2016

Primary: August 30, 2016

General: November 8, 2016

2016 Voter Registration Deadline:

Presidential Preference Primary:

February 16, 2016

Primary: August 1, 2016

General: October 11, 2016

2016 EARLY VOTING PERIOD

Presidential Preference Primary:

Feb 29-March 13, 2016

Primary: August 15-28, 2016

General: October 24 - November 6, 2016

Each county Supervisor of Elections, at his or her discretion, offer additional days of early voting on any or all days during the 15th through 11th day and the last Sunday before Election Day. FS 101.657. (1) (d)

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Punta Gorda Historical Court House 2nd Floor

226 Taylor Street
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Mid County Library

2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33952

San Casa Elections Office

6868 San Casa Dr.
Englewood, FL 34224

EARLY VOTING

A voter may vote at any one of the early voting sites regardless of location. Locations and times will be printed in the newspaper and our website www.charlottevotes.com. Please bring a photo I.D. with signature when you go to vote.

INTRODUCTION

The Supervisor of Elections office serves the voters of Charlotte County by staffing multiple service offices. The duties of the Supervisor of Elections is to register voters, maintain the voters records, conduct absentee balloting and early voting, candidate qualifying and petition signature verification. Federal, state and local elections are held in accordance with all applicable statutes. It is the goal of the Supervisor of Elections to provide service to the voters of Charlotte County in an impartial and non-partisan manner. To ensure accurate, impartial and convenient elections, voter education is of the utmost importance. An informed citizen makes the voting experience more successful. We pledge to make registration and voting as easy and convenient as possible, while protecting the accuracy and integrity of the results. It is important that everyone votes and that every vote counts.

MISSION STATEMENT

As a Gatekeeper of the Democratic process, the Supervisor of Elections will uphold the election laws of the state of Florida and the Constitution of the United States. Our mission is to enhance public confidence and increase voter awareness and education for citizens of all ages.

VOTER INFORMATION CARD

Voter Information Cards are sent to all voters upon validation of their initial voter registration application. New information cards will be sent to currently registered voters who make a name, address, signature, party affiliation change or who are in a precinct in which there has been a change in their polling place. They serve only as a confirmation of your precinct number and district information, but it is not necessary to show your card when voting. If you do not receive a voter information card or other correspondence within 20 days of registering, please call the Elections Office.

QUALIFICATIONS TO REGISTER TO

VOTE:

A person may become a registered voter only if that person is: At least 18 years of age, a Citizen of the U.S. and a legal resident of the State of Florida.

If you've been convicted of a Felony or declared mentally incompetent by the courts, you must have your right to vote restored pursuant to the law. (F.S. 097.041)

A person who is not registered may not vote.

WHEN: First time Florida voters must register by Book Closing Day, which is 29 days prior to each election. The books remain closed until after each election. The date your application is postmarked or received in the elections office will be your registration date.

WHERE: Applications are available at the following sites:

Supervisor of Elections	County Libraries
Motor Vehicle Office	Public School Office
Post Offices	charlottevotes.com

VALID PHOTO/SIGNATURE ID

Required at Polls (F.S. 101.043)

Provide one or two of the following in order to vote in person:

- ◆ Florida driver's license.
- ◆ Florida ID card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.
- ◆ United States passport.
- ◆ Debit or credit card.
- ◆ Military identification.
- ◆ Retirement center identification.
- ◆ Neighborhood association identification.
- ◆ Public assistance identification.
- ◆ Student identification.
- ◆ Veteran health identification card issued by the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs
- ◆ License to carry a concealed weapon or firearm issued pursuant to s.790.06, F.S.
- ◆ Employee ID card issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity or the Federal Government, the state, a county, or municipality

VOTER RESPONSIBILITIES

F.S. 101.031(2)

Each registered voter in this state should:

Become familiar with the candidates and issues: Maintain a current address with the Supervisor of Elections: Know the location of his or her polling place and its hours of operation: Bring proper identification to the polling station: Become familiar with the operation of the voting equipment in voter's precinct: Treat precinct workers with courtesy: Respect the privacy of other voters: Report any problems or violations of election laws to the Supervisor of Elections: Ask questions, if needed: Make sure his or her completed ballot is correct before leaving the polling station.

VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

F.S 101.031(2)

Each registered voter in the State of Florida has the right to:

Vote and have his or her vote accurately counted: Cast a vote if 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 a mistake is made prior to the ballot being cast: An explanation if registration or identity is in question: If voter's registration or identity is in question, cast a provisional ballot: Written instruction to use when voting, and upon request, oral instructions in voting from election officers: Vote free from coercion or intimidation by elections officials or any other person: Vote on a voting system that is in working condition and that will allow votes to be accurately cast.

ELECTION DAY

On Election Day, the polls are open from 7:00AM to 7:00PM. Don't forget to bring your photo/signature ID. (F.S. 101.013)

VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS

Florida law allows you to vote absentee (via mail). If you would like a "Vote By Mail" ballot mailed to you, contact our office:

- ◆ By phone, call (941) 833-5400
- ◆ By email, provide your name, address, date of birth, and the election or elections for which you are requesting a ballot to: soe@charlottevotes.com
- ◆ By fax or letter, provide your name, address, date of birth, signature and the election or elections for which you are requesting a ballot to the following:
Via Fax: 941 833-5422
Via Letter: 226 Taylor St.,
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
- ◆ A designee may pick up a "Vote By Mail" ballot for a voter up to five (5) days before Election Day.
- ◆ A designee may only pick up two (2) "Vote By Mail" ballots per election, other than his or her own ballot, or ballots for members of his or her immediate family. Designees must have written authorization from the voter, present a picture I.D. and sign an affidavit.
- ◆ The Supervisor may not deliver an absentee ballot to an elector or an elector's immediate family member on the day of the election unless there is an emergency, to the extent that the elector will be unable to go to his or her assigned polling place. If an absentee ballot is delivered, the elector or his or her designee shall execute an affidavit affirming to the facts which allow for delivery of the absentee ballot.
- ◆ When mailing a ballot to a voter, the request must be received no later than six (6) days before the election, by 5:00PM.
- ◆ Ballots will be mailed out no later than 4 days prior to an election. "Vote By Mail" ballots must be received at the Punta Gorda Main Office by 7:00PM on Election Day.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Federal and State laws allow you to apply to register to vote or update your voter registration information (address, name, party and signature) at the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, County libraries, military recruitment offices, public assistance offices and any Elections office. If you wish to register by mail, contact our office to have a form mailed to you, or you can go online at **www.charlottevotes.com**, fill out the form, then print the application. Once the application is completed and signed, mail it to the Supervisor of Elections Office in Punta Gorda. It's important to keep your signature updated in order to verify Absentee/Vote By Mail Ballots, Provisional Ballots and Petitions. To update your signature, fill out another Voter Registration Application and mail it to the Supervisor of Elections.

MILITARY/OVERSEAS VOTERS

Overseas voters and military personnel and their families may apply for voter registration or request a Vote By Mail ballot with a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). An FPCA may be obtained from the Unit Voting Officer or is available online. If the FPCA is not available contact the Supervisor of Elections office by email, phone or written request. Overseas and Military personnel have the option of receiving their ballot via mail or electronically and once issued, will be provided a free access system to track the status of their ballots voted. A ballot received from outside the U.S. is counted if dated no later than Election Day and received by the Elections office within 10 days of the election. Additional Military election information is available at the below program:

**Federal Voting Assistance Program,
Dept. of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon,
Washington DC, 20301-1155**