

## Who can register to vote?

Anyone who

- is a US citizen
- is 18 years old (you may pre-register if you are 17)
- is a resident of Orange County, Florida, and does not claim the right to vote in another county or state
- is not now adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting in Florida or any other state
- has not been convicted of a felony without his or her civil rights having been restored according to law

## How do I register to vote?

Complete a Florida Voter Registration Application form at any of Florida's mandated sites, any Supervisor of Elections office, by mail, by the [Internet](#), or at any one of our outreach locations. For a listing of outreach locations, please call 407- 836-2070. Below is a list of mandated sites.

- Public Libraries and Centers for Independent Living
- Florida Department of Motor Vehicle offices
- Florida Department of Families and Children offices and WIC offices
- Offices serving persons with disabilities, such as the Division of Blind Services

## How much does it cost to register?

Nothing. Registering to vote is a privilege afforded to you as a United States citizen by the Constitution of the United States.

## Do I have to be a resident of the state to register?

Yes. In all counties, including Orange County, your residential address determines who represents you as well as where you go to vote on election day. Post Office Box addresses are not acceptable.

## How soon before an election must I register to be eligible to vote?

Florida statutes require you to be registered **29 days prior** to all elections. This date is called the 'book closing' date.

## What do I need to bring with me to register to vote?

Nothing. No proof of residency or citizenship is required.

### Can I choose which address to use for registering?

No, you must register to vote using your current **residential** address. You cannot register with a business address or the address of property you simply own. You must register where you **live**.

### Why is the residential address so important?

Because your elected representatives are determined by your residential address. In order for you to be given the correct ballot on election day, your registration must have your residential address.

### I am already registered in Orange County, but my residential address, mailing address or name has changed. What do I do?

The fastest and easiest way is to simply call our office at 407-836-2070 and let us know of your residential and/or mailing address change (All other changes require a signature). We'll be happy to take care of it right over the phone. Of course, if you prefer you can also complete a [voter registration application](#) and mail it to us, request the change in writing by mail (**PO BOX 562001, Orlando, FL 32856**), fax (**407-254-6598**) or come by our office. If writing us, please make sure your name, address and date of birth are printed clearly on your request and that it is **signed**. If on election day you realize you have not notified us of your change of address, you can call the office at **407-836-2070** to find out where you should vote. You may change your address at the new polling place, but expect to spend extra time at the polls. It's important to note that Florida law states that it is a felony to vote in any precinct other than the one you live in on election day.

### Do I have to register prior to each election?

No. Once you are registered in Orange County, you will remain registered unless you move from this county or lose your civil rights.

### If I move from another county in Florida, do I have to register again?

Yes. Voter registration is not transferable from one county to another. You must register every time you move to a **new county** in Florida.

### How do I become a Florida resident?

While this question sounds complicated, it's really very simple. If you live in Florida and intend for this to be your legal residence, you are a Florida resident.

### I live in two different states. Is it okay for me to register here?

Yes, but you can't be registered in two places at one time.

### **My children are going off to college. Where should they be registered to vote?**

Students can maintain their voter registration at their Orange County residential address, or they may register to vote in the jurisdiction where they reside while attending school. Those who choose to maintain an Orange County registration need to remember to contact our office for absentee ballots at election time.

### **Florida is a closed primary state. What does that mean to me?**

Florida has a closed primary system, meaning that only persons registered as Democrats or Republicans can vote in their party's primary elections\*. Primaries are nominating elections where the parties decide who their candidate will be for the General Election. Voters registered with a minor party or with no party affiliation may vote during the primary elections on non-partisan ballots (School Board and Judicial races, some local races such as County Commissioners and County Chairman, municipal races and any referenda are all Non-Partisan).

\*New Law - Whenever all candidates for a race are from the same party, ALL voters, regardless of party affiliation, may vote in that race during the primaries. This is called a "Universal Primary."

### **What are the major political parties in the state of Florida?**

Democrat and Republican.

### **What are the recognized minor political parties in the state of Florida?**

There are several minor parties listed with the Division of Elections.

### **What does nonpartisan mean?**

Nonpartisan means that you are not affiliated with any political party. This is different from ***Independent*** which is actually a minor party in Florida.

### **How can I change my party affiliation?**

Your party can be changed by coming to our office or by sending us a **signed** written note requesting your party change. You may also complete the [online application](#) and mail it to us. Please note: party changes must be done **29 days prior** to the first primary (book closing). Party changes received after book closing for the first primary cannot be changed until after the second primary.

### **I've been convicted of a felony, but served my time. Can I register to vote?**

Yes, if your civil rights have been restored.

### How do I find out if my civil rights have been restored?

You must contact the [Office of Executive Clemency](#), 2601 Blairstone Road, Building C, Room 229, Tallahassee, Florida 32399, Phone: (850) 488-2952.

For your convenience we've made a [Civil Rights Restoration Application](#) as well as [Civil Rights Restoration Information](#) available online .

### I've been convicted of speeding and DUI. Are these felonies?

You will need to ask the Clerk of Court of the county where you were convicted.

### Can I register to vote if I have a Green Card?

No, you must be a citizen of the United States to register to vote.

### Where do I go to vote?

We will send you information prior to each election indicating whether you will vote at your county or municipal polling place. Your Voter ID card lists your county polling place and, if your residential address is incorporated within a city, your city polling place. Please pay special attention to make sure you go to the correct polling place. If you are unsure, please call our office at 407-836-2070. [Click here](#) to look up your polling place location.

### How do I get another ID card?

You may write us (**P O BOX 562001, Orlando FL 32856**) requesting a duplicate registration card, fax in the request (**407-254-6598**) or complete another registration application denoting 'Replacement Card'. Make sure to write down your name, address and date of birth. Your correspondence must also include your **signature** or we cannot send you a replacement card.

### Your Voter ID Card

Once your application has been approved, a **Voter ID Card** will be issued in your name and mailed to you. This card not only lets you know that your application has been approved, but includes a great deal of helpful information. The Voter ID Card can be placed in your wallet or purse for convenience. You do not need this card in order to vote. The left front section of the card lists the district and polling place number for your residential address.

The front of your card designates the district number for your member of congress in Washington, your state senator, and your state representative. Also shown are the numbers for your county commission district and your school

board district. If you live in a municipality, your city commissioner's district may also be shown by number.

Municipal  
Polling Place

COUNTY PRECINCT CONDADO PRECINTO					ID #	NÚMERO DE IDENTIFICACIÓN
CONGRESS CONGRESO	FL SENATE SENADO ESTATAL	FL HOUSE CAMARA ESTATAL	COUNTY CONDADO	SCHOOL JUNTA ESCOLAR		
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<b>Polling Place Information:</b> Sample ballots mailed with map/directions prior to election and at <a href="http://www.ocfelections.com">www.ocfelections.com</a> . Listed in newspapers prior to election day. <b>Información sobre los Centro de Votación:</b> Papeletas de muestra son enviadas por correo con un mapa/direcciones antes de las elecciones y son disponibles en <a href="http://www.ocfelections.com">www.ocfelections.com</a> . Un listado tambien es disponible en el periodico antes de las elecciones.						
					SIGNATURE FIRMA	<hr/>

With your voter identification card, you will also receive a change notice form which you can use to notify the elections office of a new address, new name or new political party. In the event of a change, complete, **sign**, detach, and mail the form to our office. Your registration record will be updated, and you will be sent a new card.

The back of the voter identification card contains important notices to voters concerning sample ballots, absentee ballots, serving as pollworkers, and municipal elections.