

RECENT STATE OF FLORIDA GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

Updated Election Procedures | Executive Order [20-149](#) | The Governor enacted measures to prepare for the coming primary and general elections of 2020, which are to be held while dealing with the challenges of COVID-19. The Order facilitates five general actions: early canvassing of mail ballots, an attempt to make more poll workers available, updated election procedures, protection of school polling locations, and public notice of any changes.

- **Vote-By-Mail Canvassing**

In an attempt to process mail ballots timelier, the Order allows canvassing of mail ballots earlier. Instead of waiting until 7 a.m. of the 22nd day before the election, County Canvassing Boards can now begin as soon as Logic & Accuracy Testing (a required test of tabulation machines/equipment) is complete.
- **Poll Workers**

This portion of the Order encourages state employees to serve as polling workers on election day. As an incentive to get more participation, the portion of the Florida Administrative Code that allows state employees 1 hour of administrative leave to vote is modified to instead allow 16 hours of administrative leave to serve as a state polling worker for the August 18th primary and the November 3rd general elections. State employees who decide to participate will get up to an additional 10 hours of administrative leave to participate in needed training.
- **Election Procedures**

The Governor ordered special election health procedures be put in place. Similar to other COVID-19 protections, social distancing and cleaning procedures are to be implemented. The use of barriers and poll machine distancing is encouraged. Finally, PPE is to be provided to poll workers with sanitizer available for everyone.
- **Polling Locations**

Since many polling locations are also schools, the Governor has encouraged schools to close on August 18th and November 3rd. The closure will keep separation and allow schools to be properly cleaned before students return. Counties shall adjust their calendars accordingly. Also, with schools closed the Governor encouraged school employees to act as polling workers like state employees.
- **Public Notice**

With all the aforementioned actions, supervisors of elections are required to give public notice where needed to provide information on changes in procedures and locations. Once those actions are completed, election supervisors are to report to Tallahassee so that the Governor can be updated on the status in each county.