



PRO-DEMOCRACY ACTIONS FOR FLORIDA LOCALITIES

September 2020

Our democracy is at risk this November and we need your help to save it!

Local elected officials cannot sit back as our democracy comes under attack. **Florida localities can take action** to make it easier for residents to register to vote and cast a ballot. This menu offers several ways for cities, counties, and schools to make this a reality.

City and County Governments

- Add banners to all government web pages**

Direct residents to online voter registration or registration application websites as well as websites for absentee ballot applications. Be sure to also include these banners, or prominent links, in the most visited parts of the website (e.g., water-bill payment platforms). Webpage banners should include regular updates on important election deadlines.
- Advertise election information and deadlines in public places**

Advertise election information and reminders of voter registration and mail-in absentee ballot deadlines throughout the city, including at bus stops and train stations.
- Have government entities provide regular reminders**

Require local government entities to provide employees and residents with regularly scheduled reminders via mail, email, and social media regarding important election deadlines and information about updated election procedures, including which early voting and Election Day locations are ADA compliant.
- Encourage government employees to serve as volunteers**

Allow and encourage local government employees to serve as election volunteers (poll workers, etc.) without losing vacation days, make it a goal to have as many employees as possible serve—ideally including an incentive, or find ways to celebrate public employees that choose to serve.
- Offer free transit on Election Day**

Offer free public transit on Election Day, including city bike sharing, if applicable. Ensure all transit options are following proper safety and sanitation guidelines. Partner with private bike-sharing and scooter companies to similarly offer free services during voting periods. Ensure all transit options are following proper safety and sanitation guidelines.
- Work closely with the Supervisor of Elections on a clear plan**

Form relationships with local Supervisors of Elections---ask them, what is their plan for the November election? What issues came up during the primary (be sure to check with community groups in your area to get the full story!)? How are they avoiding any issues that came up during the primary?

-  **Ensure a strong Supervisor of Elections final budget**

Do not approve Supervisors of Elections final budget before you are sure they have enough funding to provide enough staff, create enough signage, and inform voters of key information before the November election---be sure to get a clear plan from them once the budget is approved and hold them accountable!
-  **Partner with local businesses**

Partner with local businesses and encourage them to spread voting information (e.g., signage in stores, links on their website), provide paid time-off to their employees to vote, and/or prizes or discounted products and memberships for consumers who serve as poll workers,

Public Schools

-  **Hold voter registration drives for students**

Work with your local Supervisor of Elections to organize voter registration drives especially during class registration and/or orientation! Alternatively, register as a third party voter-registration organization so you can register students yourself.
-  **Allow third party voter registration on campuses**

Allow third party voter registration organizations to register students to vote on campus, if holding in-person classes.
-  **Encourage students to volunteer as poll workers**

Encourage students to train and volunteer as poll workers—ideally incentivize them to do so by offering class credit, a stipend, or some other incentive.
-  **Make Election Day a school holiday**

Make Election Day a school holiday to encourage eligible students and teachers to serve as poll workers and participate in elections. Alternatively, students serving as poll workers should be provided automatic excused absences as well as school credit (noted above), and eligible students should have automatic excused absences for casting ballots during voting periods.
-  **Make a transportation plan for students on Election Day**

Make a transportation plan around how students should plan to get to the polls on Election Day.
-  **Provide welcome back packages with necessary materials**

Provide students with voter registration applications, absentee ballot applications, and important election information as part of their “welcome back” packages, along with masks and sanitary supplies. All materials must be available in alternate formats and plain language.