

Conducting a Voter Registration Drive in Florida

Voter Registration Deadline

Applications must be received or postmarked 29 days before Election Day
Drives must submit completed applications to the division or supervisor of the applicant's residence so they are received within 10 days of receiving them from the applicant or by the registration deadline, whichever is first.

Getting Started

Preregistration Filings: Before engaging in voter registration activities, third-party voter registration organizations must submit form DS-DE119 electronically to the Division of Elections at 3PVRO@dos.myflorida.com or if email is not available, by fax at 850-245-6291. Updates to staff are required.

 The form and other information is available online at dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/voterregistration/third-party-voter-registration-organizations/

Organization ID: Third-party voter registration organizations may not begin collecting applications until the Division of Elections approves the application and assigns an ID number to the organization.

The organization ID and the date the application is collected from the applicant (MM/DD/YY) must also be on each application collected during the registration drive in a conspicuous space on the bottom portion of the reverse side of the voter registration application in a manner that does not obscure any other entry.

Compensation Restrictions: Do not pay registration drive participants based on how many registrations they collect. It is a felony offense in Florida to solicit or pay another person to solicit voter registration for compensation that is based on the number of registrations obtained.

Canvasser Restrictions: To collect or handle voter registration applications a person must not have been convicted of certain felonies under Florida law. 3PVROs must affirm that their registration agents meet this requirement. State law sets fines of \$50,000 per such agent collecting or handling applications who does not meet this requirement. Additional canvasser restrictions in Florida statute are currently not in effect due to a court order.

Handling Applications

Providing Filled Out Forms: A 3PVRO may not mail or otherwise provide a voter registration application upon which any information about an applicant has been filled in before it is provided to the applicant. Per-application fines apply to violations.

Receipt Requirement: 3PVROs must provide a receipt to an applicant upon accepting the application from them. The format must include the applicant's name, the date the application is received, the name of the 3PVRO, the name of the registration agent, the applicant's political party affiliation, and the county in which the applicant resides.

Incomplete Applications: Do not alter the information on a registration form without the knowledge and consent of the applicant; doing so is a violation of Florida law.

Photocopying Completed Applications: As a best practice, do not retain a voter's full or partial Social Security Number and/or driver's license number, or signature. Retention restrictions in Florida statute are currently not in effect due to a court order.

Obtaining Applications

State Forms: The state mail-in voter registration application can be downloaded at the Florida DOS website.

State forms can also be requested in writing from the Divisions of Elections. The first 10,000 applications are provided at no cost, but a 1 cent charge is assessed for each application over 10,000.

Federal Forms: The <u>federal mail-in registration</u> application also may be used in voter registration drives.

Photocopying Blank Forms: The state mail-in form may be photocopied and used in voter registration drives.

Submitting Applications: Organizations must submit completed applications to the division or supervisor of the applicant's residence so they are received **within 10 days** of receiving them from the applicant or by the registration deadline, whichever is first. Per-day fines apply for late applications.

The third-party voter registration organization must print the date the applicant completed the application or delivered the application to the organization and th organization's ID number in a conspicuous space on the bottom portion of the reverse side of the voter registration application in a manner that does not obscure any other entry.

Voter registration drive rules in Florida are currently the subject of ongoing litigation. Please check back for any changes. This document is not intended to provide legal advice.

For more information, visit www.fairelectionscenter.org

Fair Elections Center and Campus Vote Project intend the information contained herein to be used only as a general guide.

This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed Florida legal professional.

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