



From the Escambia County Supervisor of Elections

Pensacola City Charter Mail Ballot Referendum Frequently Asked Questions

When is the mail ballot election?

“Election Day” is November 24, 2009. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters approximately 20 days prior, and must be returned to the Elections Office no later than 7:00 pm on Election Day.

Who is allowed to vote in this election?

All registered voters who list their legal residence address within the Pensacola City limits.

How do I know if I am registered to vote in the city or in the county?

If you are unsure, call our office at 595-3900.

If I don't live in the city, can I still vote in this election?

No. Only registered voters in the City of Pensacola are eligible to vote in the mail ballot election.

I live in the city but am not registered to vote. What do I do?

You may register at the Elections Office or several other locations throughout Escambia County. Check out our website at www.escambiovotes.com or call us at 595-3900 for locations. You may also download an application from our website, complete, print and sign it and return it to our office. An application can also be mailed to you.

Is there a deadline for registering to vote prior to the election?

Yes. Pursuant to Florida law, registration books close 29 days prior to each election. Registration will close for this election on October 26, 2009.

Do I need to request a ballot?

No. If your residence address on your voter registration record is located within the Pensacola City limits, you will automatically be mailed a ballot for the upcoming mail ballot election.

When and how will I receive a ballot?

Overseas ballots will be mailed on or about October 15, 2009.
All other ballots will be mailed the week of November 4, 2009.

What If I don't receive my ballot in the mail within a few days of the mailing date?

Call our office at 595-3900 to check the status of your ballot. Voters needing a replacement ballot (if ballot was destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received) must complete a replacement ballot oath before receiving a replacement ballot. You may download a copy of the oath from our website or call 595-3900 to have an oath sent to you.

How do I mark my ballot?

To vote, simply mark your ballot by completely darkening the oval to the left of your choice. Instructions will be included with your ballot.

How and where do I return my voted ballot?

You can mail your voted ballot to our office (return postage has been paid), or you can deliver it or have it delivered to the Elections Office at 213 Palafox Place, 2nd floor. Ballots must be received in the Elections Office no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted.

Do I have to pay postage to return my voted ballot?

No. Return postage is paid by the City of Pensacola.

What's the deadline for returning my ballot?

All ballots must be received in the Elections Office no later than 7:00 pm on Election Day.

Can I have my ballot mailed to me early?

No. With the exception of overseas ballots, Florida law requires mail ballot election ballots to be mailed no sooner than 20 days prior to the election, and no later than 10 days prior to the election.

Will my regular polling place be open on Election Day?

No. The upcoming election is a mail ballot election; no polling places will be open on Election Day.

If I make a mistake on my ballot, what do I do?

Voters needing a replacement ballot (if ballot was destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received) must complete a replacement ballot oath before receiving a replacement ballot. You may download a copy of the oath from our website or call 595-3900 to have an oath sent to you.

I already sent in my ballot but have changed my mind. Can I change my vote?

No. Florida law prohibits any changes to a voted mail ballot once it is received in the Elections Office.

Why do I need to sign the mail ballot envelope?

In order for your ballot to be counted, it must be returned sealed inside a signed mail ballot certificate envelope. The signature on the mail ballot certificate envelope is compared to the voter's signature on file in the Elections Office for verification purposes.

What if my signature has changed over the years?

A registered voter may update his or her signature at any time using a Florida Voter Registration Application available through any voter registration agency and submitting it to a voter registration official. If needed, it is important to submit a signature update prior to the beginning of the canvassing of ballots.

I lived in the city and was sent a ballot, but recently moved out of the city. Do I still vote in this election?

No. As you are no longer a city resident, you would not be eligible to vote in the mail ballot election; therefore, destroy your ballot and contact the Elections Office with your updated address.

I lived outside the city limits but recently moved into the city. Can I vote in this election?

Yes. Contact our office immediately to update your address and a ballot can be mailed to you.

When will we know the results?

After 7:00 pm on Election Day. As soon as the results become available, they will be posted on our website at www.escambiavotes.com.

Who is paying for this election?

The City of Pensacola is paying for all costs associated with this mail ballot election.

Is this the first mail ballot election in Escambia County?

No. The City of Pensacola conducted mail ballot referendum elections in 2001 and 2003. And, other Florida counties have used this process for years.

Where can I get additional information about the proposed Pensacola City Charter?

Contact the City of Pensacola at 435-1606, or on the web at www.ci.pensacola.fl.us.