

WHAT IS A PROVISIONAL BALLOT? and HOW TO AVOID IT?

Per Florida Statute 101.048, a voter claiming to be properly registered in the state and eligible to vote at the precinct in the election but whose eligibility cannot be determined, a person whom an official asserts is not eligible, and other persons specified in the code shall be entitled to vote a provisional ballot.

The following persons are entitled to vote a Provisional Ballot:

- Voter's name does not appear on the precinct register and voter's eligibility is unverified;
- Voter refutes the Supervisor of Elections' Office confirmation that they are not registered or eligible;
- There is an indication on the precinct register that the voter has requested an absentee ballot and the voter does not have a ballot to submit. Poll worker is unable to verify that the voter has not voted;
- There is an indication on the precinct register that the voter has returned the absentee ballot or has voted in the office or at an early site, but the voter maintains that they have not voted, even after a call to the Supervisor of Elections' office;
- Voter did not provide both picture identification and signature identification;
- There is an indication on the precinct register that the voter has been challenged in this election;
- Voter is challenged at the precinct;
- Voter's signature does not match signature on record and voter refuses to fill out an affidavit;
- There is an indication on the precinct register that the voter's Florida Driver's License, Florida Identification card number, or social security number is not yet verified by the Department of State in conjunction with Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.
- Florida Statutes requires a voter to vote in the precinct in which they reside. If you are a registered voter and have moved to another area in Putnam County, be sure to inform the Supervisor of Elections immediately upon the change; or tell the poll worker when you arrive to vote, so that she/he can direct you to your new precinct where you must vote. After the poll worker directs you to your new precinct, and if you refuse to go vote in the new precinct location in which your 911 residence address has been assigned, you will be required to vote a provisional ballot at the old precinct.
- **If you wait until Election Day to change your address from another Florida County to Putnam County, you will be required to vote a provisional ballot.**

Once voted, the voter shall place the provisional ballot in a secrecy envelope/sleeve and then place into a Provisional Ballot Certificate envelope, then seal the envelope. The provisional ballot voter and the clerk of the polling place shall fill out the certificate/affirmation on the Provisional Ballot Certificate envelope; then the voter shall deposit the provisional ballot certificate envelope into the auxiliary compartment of the ballot box. At the end of the election day when the polls have closed and all voters have voted, two poll workers shall take the provisional ballot certificate envelopes out of the ballot box compartment, and place them into a Provisional Ballot storage bag, labeled as such, for election night delivery to the elections' office.

If it is determined that the person was registered and entitled to vote at the precinct where the person cast a vote in the election and voted a provisional ballot solely because the person did not provide both, an acceptable photo and signature identification at the polls, the person does not need to provide any further evidence of their eligibility in order for their ballot to count. The Canvassing Board (consisting of a county judge, the supervisor of elections & a county commissioner) shall compare the signature on the Provisional Ballot Voter's Certificate with the signature on the voter's registration and, if it matches, shall count the ballot.

VERY IMPORTANT, Section 98.077(4) **Florida Statutes requires all signature updates for use in verifying absentee and provisional ballots. The update shall be received by the appropriate supervisor of elections not later than the start of the canvassing of absentee ballots by the canvassing board. The signature on file at the start of the canvass of the absentee ballots is the signature that shall be used in verifying the signature on the absentee and provisional ballot certificates.**

A person casting a provisional ballot shall have the right to present written evidence supporting their eligibility to vote to the Supervisor of Elections by no later than 5pm on the second day following the election. You will be given a Notice of Rights which will include instructions on how to find out if your provisional ballot was counted, and if not, the reason(s) why. This notice of rights will be handed to you at the time that you vote a provisional ballot. Within 30 days of the election, the Supervisor of Elections shall provide information as to whether your provisional ballot was counted, or not. Sections 101.048(5)-(6), F.S.) **You may CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR PROVISIONAL BALLOT by visiting our website at www.putnam-fl.com/soe click on Voter Information, next click on Voter Status.**

If it is determined that the person voting the provisional ballot was not registered or entitled to vote at the precinct where the person cast a vote in the election, or any other reason above, and the person did not present proof within the 2 day period after the election, the canvassing board will examine the provisional ballot certificate, and any and all other information and evidence, if anything is available. The board must count your provisional ballot unless the board determines, based on preponderance of the evidence, that you are not entitled to vote. If not entitled to vote, the ballot shall remain in the provisional ballot voter's certificate envelope and the envelope shall be marked "Rejected."