



Hendry County Voter's Guide

2008 Election Dates

Presidential Preference Primary - January 29, 2008

Primary Election - August 26, 2008

General Election - November 4, 2008

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Hendry County, Florida

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www.hendryelections.org

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VOTER'S BILL of RIGHTS

Each registered voter in this state has the right to:

1. Vote and have his or her vote accurately counted.
2. Cast a vote if he or she is in line at the official closing of the polls in that County.
3. Ask for and receive assistance in voting.
4. Receive up to two replacement ballots if he or she makes a mistake prior to the ballot being cast.
5. An explanation if his or her registration or identity is in question.
6. If his or her registration or identity is in question, cast a provisional Ballot.
7. Written instructions to use when voting, and upon request, oral Instructions in voting from elections officers.
8. Vote free from coercion or intimidation by elections officers or any other person.
9. Vote on a voting system that is in working condition and that will allow votes to be accurately cast.

VOTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Each registered voter in this state has the responsibility to:

1. Familiarize himself or herself with the candidates and issues.
2. Maintain with the office of the supervisor of elections a current address.
3. Know the location of his or her polling place and its hours of operation.
4. Bring proper identification to the polling place.
5. Familiarize himself or herself with the operation of the voting equipment in his or her precinct.
6. Treat precinct workers with courtesy.
7. Respect the privacy of other voters.
8. Report any problems or violations of election laws to the supervisor of elections.
9. Ask questions, if needed.
10. Make sure that his or her completed ballot is correct before leaving the polling booth.

NOTE TO VOTER: Failure to perform any of these responsibilities does not prohibit a voter from voting.

How to Register to Vote

Registering to vote is easy. There are 5 requirements to be eligible to register to vote in Hendry County. First you must be a US citizen, a resident of Hendry County, and be 18 years old (you may pre-register if you are 17 or receipt of a valid Florida driver's license). Have your Civil Rights restored if ever convicted of a Felony. You may not be adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting. Complete a Voter Registration Application at the Supervisor of Elections Office in LaBelle at the Courthouse Complex or at the Sub-office in Clewiston. You may also find these forms at the Drivers license office, any Public Assistance Office, Public Libraries or on-line at www.hendryelections.org.

Now that you have the Application the next step

Please print clearly, when completing the form. If you want to vote in a Party Primary Election, be sure to specify a party affiliation. In Florida, you cannot vote in a party primary unless you are registered with that Party. Your completed application can be submitted at any of the above sites, or you may place it in the mail addressed to the Supervisor of Elections, P O Box 174, LaBelle, FL 33975. If, you choose to mail your application in please enclose a copy of picture identification.

Make Changes to your existing Voter's Registration

The same Florida Voter Registration Application Form can now be used to make any changes (name, residence or mailing address, party) on your current registration. All name, address and party changes must be in writing, but if an official form is not available, we will accept a letter with your signature. Always keep us informed of your current residence and/or mailing address.

Deadlines

To be eligible to vote in the 2008 Elections, you must be registered to

Vote before the Books Close:

Book Closing Dates

Presidential Preference Primary - December 31, 2008

Primary Election - July 28, 2008

General Election - October 6, 2008

The How To of Absentee Voting

An absentee ballot may be requested for a specific election or for all elections through the next two General Elections. The request can be made in person, by mail or by telephone. Only the voter or a designated member of his or her immediate family or legal guardian can request an absentee ballot for the voter. Immediate family means the voter's spouse or the parent, child, grandparent, or sibling of the voter or of the voter's spouse. A qualified voter may designate in writing another person to pick up an absentee ballot for the voter. Pickup ballots are available to a designee 5 days prior to Election Day. A designee may only pick up 2 absentee ballots per election other than his or her own, except for ballots picked up for members of his or her immediate family. The designee must provide the written authorization by the voter, a picture ID of the designee and complete an affidavit.



- ★ Absentee ballots cannot be forwarded by the Post Office.
- ★ Absentee ballots may not be dropped off at the polls.
- ★ Absentee ballots must reach the Supervisor of Elections office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- ★ Be sure you read the directions carefully and completely fill in the ovals for your choices on your ballot.
- ★ If voting for a write-in candidate, you are to write in the name of the candidate on the line provided and fill in the oval next to the name.
- ★ If you make a mistake on your absentee ballot, do not erase or use white-out. Call the Supervisor of Elections office for help. DO NOT try to amend your ballot.
- ★ Be sure you have SIGNED the return envelope that came with your absentee ballot.
- ★ Be sure you have affixed the proper postage.
- ★ A Copy of Photo identification if you registered by mail.
- ★ Photo and signature identification will be requested at the polls and for those absentee voters voting in person at the Supervisor of Elections office.

Early Voting

★ Early Voting is easy, 15 days before the Election you can vote at:

Supervisor's Office, 25 E. Hickpochee Ave., LaBelle
Open 9:00 to 5:00, Monday through Saturday

Supervisor's Office in the Clewiston Town Center, 931 W. Sugarland Hwy.,
Open 8:00 to 1:00 and 2:00 to 5:00, Monday through Saturday

★ It's just like voting at your precinct on Election Day except you have the choice of 12 election days to cast your vote.

Early Voting Dates

Presidential Preference Primary - Jan. 14 to Jan. 26, 2008

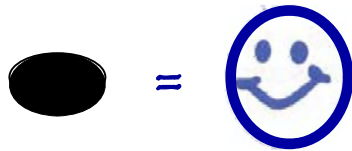
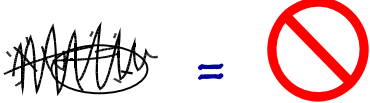
Primary Election - August 11 to August 23, 2008

General Election - October 20 to November 1, 2008



Hendry County's Voting System

Hendry County uses the ES&S M-100 Optical Scan Voting System that is state certified. It is modern computer technology to protect your vote and yet makes it simple using a paper ballot. Hendry County also uses iVotronic touch screen unit to assist Voter's with disabilities.



Make sure your Vote Counts
by Properly Marking your
Ballot



Going to the Polls to Vote

The Polling place will open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 pm. on Election Day. The Election Board worker will ask for photo and signature ID. Your Driver's License is the perfect ID. But if you don't have a valid Drivers License the other types of acceptable ID are:

Florida Drivers License

Florida Identification Card issued by the Dept of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

United States Passport

Student ID

Retirement Center ID

Neighborhood Association ID

Military ID

Debit/Credit Cards (w/photo)

Public Assistance ID

If the picture ID does not contains the signature of the voter, additional ID with the signature will be required.

If the elector fails to furnish the required ID, the elector will be allowed to vote a Provisional Ballot.

Receiving your Ballot and Voting

The voter will receive a paper ballot and be directed to the voting booth to use the pen provided. Record your vote by completely filling in the oval next to the candidate or issue of choice. If you make a mistake on your ballot, you may ask the Election worker for a replacement.

After voting, the voter takes his ballot to the M-100 tabulator and inserts it into a slot on the top of the machine. The scanning device reads the vote's cast. If the voter marks more than the allowed candidates in a race "an Over vote" the ballot is returned to the voter to be corrected.

If a voter does not wish to vote in a race you may leave it blank, "Under vote" the rest of your ballot will be counted. The M-100 will return the ballot if the ballot is completely blank.

In the General Election to cast a vote for a Write-in Candidate (*The person must have qualified as a Write-in Candidate in order for the Vote to Count*). Blacken the Oval to

the left of the line provided and write the name of the Candidate on blank line provided.

Helpful Tips

- ★ Make sure all the information on your Voter Information card is accurate.
- ★ Your Voter Information card has important information specific to your physical address your Precinct # & Polling Location.
- ★ Your Voter Information card also has your Districts #'s for Congress, Senate, County Commission, and School Board.
- ★ If you do not know the location of your polling place, call the Elections office for directions before election day.
- ★ Hendry County is a single member district county, you will only vote for the County Commissioner and School Board District in which you reside.

One Vote Can Make the Difference!

- In 1850, California was admitted to the union by a margin of one vote.
- In 1859, Oregon was admitted to the union by a margin of one vote.
- The Alaska Purchase of 1867 was ratified by just one vote -- paving the way for the eventual annexation of America's largest state in 1958.
- In 1868, one vote in the U.S. Senate saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.
- In 1889, by a one vote margin, Washington was admitted to statehood with the union.
- In 1890, by a one vote margin, Idaho became a state.
- On November 8, 1923, members of the then recently-formed revolutionary political party met to elect a leader in a Munich, Germany beer hall. By a majority of one vote, they chose an ex-soldier named Adolph Hitler to become the Nazi Party leader.
- In 1941, the Selective Service Act (the draft) was passed by a one vote margin -- just weeks before Pearl Harbor was attacked.
- In 1962, the governors of Maine, Rhode Island, and North Dakota were all elected by a margin of one vote per precinct.
- In 1993, the U.S. Senate approved a tax increase by one vote.
- In 1994, the U.S. House of Representatives enacted a law banning specific classes of assault weapons. The vote was initially tied but one member changed his vote to approve the ban.

- In a 1999 city election in Hillsborough County, Florida, one of the city council candidates won by a single vote!