

2018 Voter's Guide

Putnam County



Putnam County Supervisor of Elections
www.putnam-fl.com/soe

Dear Voter,

My goal as Putnam County Supervisor of Elections is to make sure that my staff and I do our very best to serve all citizens of Putnam County and to treat each person with respect and courtesy. We will apply the highest ethical standards, integrity, and professionalism to conduct fair and successful elections and will seek every opportunity to improve the election experience for Putnam County citizens.

I sincerely hope all of us keep in mind that our right to vote came about because of the sacrifice of so many and that each time we vote we should:

“Remember their sacrifice.”

Warmest Regards,

Charles L. Overturf, III
Supervisor of Elections



3 WAYS TO VOTE



Vote by Mail

Mark your ballot at home, then mail it back or drop it off. Vote by Mail ballots must be in our office no later than 7 PM on Election Day.



Early Voting

Choose the location and day convenient for you. The number of days and locations vary by election and are subject to change. Check our website for the most current information.



Election Day

The last day to vote. You **MUST** vote in your assigned polling location.

2018 Primary

A Primary Election is used by political parties to nominate a candidate to move on to the General Election. Florida has **CLOSED PRIMARIES**, which means that you must be registered with a political party to vote in that party's primary race.

If all candidates in a race have the same party affiliation and the winner will be unopposed in the General Election, anyone may vote in the primary for that race, regardless of party affiliation. This is known as a Universal Primary Contest.

The primary is also used to narrow down the number of candidates in nonpartisan races (such as school board) and may include some amendments or referenda. All voters whether affiliated with a political party or not, vote on nonpartisan races and issues in the Primary Election.

2018 General

A General Election is where the final decision on office holders is made. Voters choose among candidates with no party affiliation and candidates nominated by parties.

During the General Election, you can vote in any race, regardless of the party you are affiliated with.



Before each election, watch for your personalized sample ballot to arrive by mail or email, or look it up at www.putnam-fl.com/soe.

REGISTER TO VOTE IN PUTNAM COUNTY

To register and vote here, you must be:

- a U.S. citizen
- a resident of Putnam County, Florida
- at least 18 years old*

*you may pre-register on or after your 16th birthday. You may vote in any election held on or after your 18th birthday.

You cannot register or vote if you are:

- currently adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting.
- a convicted felon whose rights have not been restored. (Call the Office of Executive Clemency, 800-435-8286 for help.)

HOW TO REGISTER

Online...a convenient new option for Florida voters! If you have a Florida Driver License or Florida ID, you can visit www.putnam-fl.com/soe and register online.

On Paper...Voter Registration Applications can be downloaded from www.putnam-fl.com/soe and are displayed at voter registration agencies throughout the county. It only takes a few minutes to fill one out and mail or deliver it to our office or the Division of Elections.

Voter Registration Agencies:

- Supervisor of Elections Office
- Driver's License / Tax Collector's offices
- Public Libraries
- Putnam County Health Department
- Coldwell Banker Ben Bates, Inc. (Palatka & Crescent City)
- The ARC of Putnam County
- Some local banks – Ameris Bank (both locations) & Center State Bank (Crescent City location)

Update Your Voter Information

Once you have registered to vote in Florida, you do not have to register again. But you do need to keep your information up-to-date.

You can change or update your voter information at any time, but a political party change for a Primary Election must be made by the registration deadline for that election.

Our Voter Registration Application can be used to update your address, name, political party or signature. You can also use any of these methods to let us know about your change:

Address Change

Phone: 386-329-0224

Email: electionsoffice@putnam-fl.com

Letter or Registration Application:

Drop off at our office or mail to 2509 Crill Avenue, Suite 900, Palatka, FL 32177

***include your date of birth**

Name or Party Change

Letter or Registration Application:

Drop off at our office or mail to 2509 Crill Avenue, Suite 900, Palatka, FL 32177

***Include your signature & date of birth or voter registration ID**

Your Signature is Important

Your handwriting may change over time, so it's important to update your signature periodically. We use the signatures on file to verify your identity on petitions, provisional ballots and Vote by Mail ballots.

Putnam County Voter Information Card							
NAME AND ADDRESS							
Jane Doe 123 Easy Street Anytown, USA 33322							
						REGISTRATION NUMBER	
						100022333	
PARTY	CONGRESS	SENATE	HOUSE	BCC	SCB	CITY	ASST
NPA	3	8	19	2	2		
DATE OF BIRTH		POLLING LOCATION					
7/7/1977		Putnam County Agricultural Center 111 Yelvington Road East Palatka, FL					
DATE REGISTERED							PRECINCT NO.
9/9/1999							11

Voter Information Cards are issued to new voters and replacement cards are issued to any voter whose record has been updated.

MARKING YOUR BALLOT

- Read the voting instructions at the top of your ballot.
- Use a black or blue pen to carefully fill in the ovals next to your choices.
- Remember that your ballot may be two-sided and have more than one page.
- If you vote for too many candidates in a race, your votes in that race will not be counted.
- It is okay to skip races.
- If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

VOTE BY MAIL

Any registered voter may vote by mail – the most convenient way to vote. We mail your ballot to you, and you can take your time making your voting decisions. If you already enjoy voting by mail, it's a good idea to check to be sure your request is still current. We send out our first batch of Vote by Mail ballots about a month before Election Day. After that, we fulfill requests within 48 hours of receiving them. The deadline to request that a ballot be mailed to you is 5 PM on the 6th day prior to the election.

Requesting your ballot:

Stop by our office, call 386-329-0224, submit an online request at www.putnam-fl.com/soe or send us a written request with:

- Your name and residential address
- Your date of birth
- Your mailing address
- Your signature

After you request your ballot, track it at www.putnam-fl.com/soe. You'll see when we send it out and when we receive it back from you.

Requesting someone else's ballot:

An immediate family member or guardian may request a ballot for someone else. The requester must provide:

- Voter's name and residential address, date of birth and mailing address
- Requester's relationship to the voter
- Requester's name and address
- Requester's driver license number (if available)
- Requester's signature (for written requests)

Important to know:

- Requests expire after two General Elections.
- You may cancel your requests at any time.
- If you are not deployed or overseas and would like your ballot sent somewhere other than the address we have on record, you must submit a signed, written request.

RETURNING YOUR BALLOT

Your Vote by Mail ballot arrives with instructions, a ballot, a secrecy sleeve, and a return envelope.

After you've filled out your ballot, follow these simple steps:

- Put your marked ballot in the secrecy sleeve.
- Put the secrecy sleeve in the return envelope.
- Seal, sign and date the back of the return envelope.
- Mail your ballot back or drop it in a secure ballot drop box at our office or any other drop box location.

Your mail ballot **MUST** be in our office (not postmarked) no later than 7 PM on Election Day to be counted.

You **MAY NOT** drop off your mail ballot at a polling place on Election Day. If you prefer to vote in person, election workers will cancel your mail ballot and give you an Election Day ballot.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

1. We verify your signature and update your voter record to show that you have voted.
2. We securely store your ballot until it's ready to be counted.
3. We separate the envelope from the secrecy sleeve that contains your ballot, and then separate the ballot from the secrecy sleeve, so that your ballot remains secret.
4. We scan your ballot.
5. We tabulate and report **UNOFFICIAL** results on Election Night. (Mail ballots and Early Voting ballots are the first reported.)
6. We securely store ballots for audits and recounts.

VOTE IN PERSON EARLY VOTING

For our 2018 elections, we've scheduled 10 days of Early Voting;

During Early Voting, there are 3 different voting sites throughout the county that are open to all Putnam County voters. The Early Voting locations are:

- Elections Office - 2509 Crill Avenue, Suite 900, Palatka
- South Putnam Government Center - 115 N. Summit St., Crescent City
- Interlachen Community Center - 135 S. County Road 315, Interlachen

When can you Early Vote?

PRIMARY ELECTION

August 16 – August 25, 2018

8:30 AM – 5:30 PM

GENERAL ELECTION

October 25 – November 3, 2018

8:30 AM – 5:30 PM



Watch for Your Sample Ballot

We mail or email personalized sample ballots before each election. Use that to make your voting decisions in advance, and bring it for reference when you're ready to vote.

Read pages 13-14 of this guide for more on what to bring and what to expect when voting in person.

VOTE IN PERSON ELECTION DAY

Election Day is your last chance to vote.

During countywide elections, we set up 21 polling places for Election Day voters, but you can **ONLY** vote in the **ONE** polling place that is assigned to your precinct. Your ballot will be waiting for you at that polling place.

When can you vote on Election Day?

PRIMARY ELECTION

August 28, 2018

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

GENERAL ELECTION

November 6, 2018

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

*Everyone in line at 7:00 PM is allowed to vote.

Know your Polling Place!

Finding your assigned polling place is simple, and it's important to get it right:

1. Check www.putnam-fl.com/soe. The website always has the most current information.
OR
2. Look at your Voter Information Card. We send a new card out whenever your precinct or polling place changes.
OR
3. Call 386-329-0224 and ask us.

VOTE IN PERSON HOW TO VOTE, STEP BY STEP

1. **Bring current, valid identification with your photo and signature.** You may present one or two forms of ID. If you forget your ID, ask an election worker for a **provisional ballot**.

Acceptable Photo ID for Florida Voters	
Florida Driver License	Neighborhood Association ID
Florida ID Card (issued by DHSMV)	Veteran Health ID (issued by VA)
U.S. Passport	Concealed Weapon License (issued pursuant to s.790.06)
Debit or Credit Card	Government Employee ID
Military ID	Retirement Center ID
Student ID	Public Assistance ID

2. **You may bring your sample ballot for reference.**
3. **Sign in with an election worker.**
4. **Receive your paper ballot and a privacy folder.**
5. **Go to the voting booth and mark your ballot.**
6. **Review your ballot.** If you made a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Otherwise, put your ballot in the privacy folder and walk over to the scanning machine.
7. **Insert your ballot into the optical scanner, one page at a time.** An election worker will be standing by the machine to answer any questions you have.
8. **Once your ballot has been accepted by the scanner, your votes have been cast and no changes can be made.**

Did you know? After you vote, your voter record will be updated to show that you voted, but there is no way for anyone to see who you voted for. Every ballot is anonymous, with no name or number attached to it.

What is a Provisional Ballot?

If you do not bring your ID or if there is any question about your eligibility to vote, you may vote a provisional ballot.

You'll mark your ballot just as you would normally, but instead of putting it through the scanner at the voting site, your voted ballot will go into a "provisional envelope" and be delivered to our office. If your eligibility to vote can be verified, the ballot will be counted. You'll be able to check the status of your provisional ballot on our website.

What voting equipment is used?

Putnam County is proud to use Dominion Voting's Democracy Suite products to design and count the ballots for all of our elections. The system is used countywide and was first used in Putnam County for the 2016 Primary Election.

The heart of the voting experience, the ImageCast Evolution (ICE) is an exciting Optical Scan system and the first voting system that combines the counting of ballots with the ballot marking functions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant voting system.

This means that all voters in Putnam County are able to vote using the same ballot, cast their vote on the same equipment, and store their selection as one set of results. No voter has to compromise their privacy.



ImageCast Evolution (ICE)



Optical Scan Voting

Our state-of-the-art voting equipment was purchased in July 2016.



Accessible Voting

Our ADA-compliant Imagecast Evolution ballot marking devices allow voters with disabilities to vote independently, thanks to:

- Audio with headset
- AudioTactile Interface (ATI)
- Zoom-in large print
- Ability for voter to use their own sip and puff device or paddle buttons

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does it matter how I insert my ballot in the scanner?

No. You can place either end into the scanner with either side up.

Do I have to vote in all the races?

No. The ballot scanner will count your votes in all of the races that you marked.

What if I vote for too many candidates in a race?

If you're voting in person, the ballot scanner will alert you that you have "overvoted" and allow you to request a new ballot or cast the ballot anyway. If you cast a ballot with an overvote (in person or by mail), all races except the overvoted race will be counted.

What if I do not vote in ANY races?

The scanner will alert you that the ballot is blank. You can choose to cast the blank ballot or get assistance from an election worker.

What if I make a mistake on my ballot?

If you're voting by mail, call our office and let us know you need a new ballot. If you're voting in person, tell an election worker. You can have up to three ballots, including the original. The ballot(s) with mistakes will be sealed inside a "spoiled ballot" envelope. If you make a mistake on your third ballot, the ballot cannot be corrected.

Can I change my ballot once it has been cast?

No. Once your ballot has been scanned and accepted by the optical scanner or your signature has been verified on a mail ballot, your ballot cannot be retrieved or changed. You may **ONLY** cast one ballot.

Can I write in a candidate?

We can only count votes for candidates who have submitted qualifying paperwork before the election. In races with qualified write-in candidates, your ballot will include a blank space with an oval next to it. If you fill in the oval and write in the name of a qualified write-in candidate, that vote will be counted.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If I receive a Vote by Mail ballot, can I change my mind and vote in person?

Yes. In that case your Vote by Mail ballot will be canceled at the polling place.

What happens if the power goes out or there are technical problems at a voting site?

We have backup equipment, internal batteries, printed check-in registers and an auxiliary bin on the ballot box to keep everything going with minimal interruption. If a ballot scanner stops working, you can wait for a replacement scanner to cast your ballot, or put your ballot in the auxiliary bin on the ballot box and it will be scanned after the polls close.



MILITARY AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS

Registration and Vote by Mail

The Federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and conforming state legislation cover active duty members of the U.S. uniformed services, the merchant marine, spouses and dependents of all, and U.S. citizens residing overseas. They may apply for voter registration and for mail ballots with a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) which may be obtained from a Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) or at www.fvap.gov, the website of the Federal Voting Assistance Program. Mail ballot requests from these voters will be effective for all elections through the next two regularly scheduled general elections. If the FPCA is not available, phone or send a written request by mail, fax, or email to the Supervisor of Elections and a voter registration application or mail ballot will be sent to you however you want it sent (i.e., by mail, fax or email).

UOCAVA voters using the Florida Voter Registration Application form who indicate their overseas/military status will have the same privileges extended to them. Military voters residing within the county in which they wish to register should use the Florida Voter Registration Application and indicate their military status, so the Supervisor may flag the record and ensure their UOCAVA status when they move out of the county but wish to maintain voting residency.

UOCAVA voters may have mail ballots faxed or emailed. Only overseas ballots (those with an APO, FPO or foreign address only, not Guam, American Samoa, etc.) can be returned by fax, but not by email, if the voter waives secrecy. Access to faxed ballots in the elections office is extremely restricted, and ballots are immediately placed in secrecy envelopes. Only the Voter's Certificate, which must be signed and dated, is examined. You can track the status of your mail ballot request and the ballot through the online Voter Lookup Tool at www.putnam-fl.com/soe.

Additional information for UOCAVA voters is available online from the Overseas Vote Foundation. Visit www.overseasvotefoundation.org for a very helpful and informative site for overseas voters. Or contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program: toll-free 1-800-438-8683, fax 1-703-588-0108, or email vote@fvap.gov.

As a result of the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act, voters can now check Voter Registration and Ballot status or submit registration changes, and mail ballot requests through our website www.putnam-f.com/soe or through the state website <http://registration.elections.myflorida.com>.

Federal Write-in Ballots

If it is getting close to Election Day and you still have not received your mail ballot, you can use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) as an emergency back-up Vote by Mail ballot. In order to use it, you have to be a registered voter and have previously requested a regular mail ballot. The FWAB can be used to vote for federal office races and for state and local races with two or more candidates. You cannot use it to vote for referendum issues or for judicial retention candidates. For more information or to complete a FWAB, visit www.fvap.gov.

State Write-in Ballot

State write-in mail ballots shall be made available to voters 90 to 180 days prior to a general election. In the request, the voter must indicate that due to military or other contingencies that preclude normal mail delivery, the voter cannot vote a regular mail ballot during the normal voting period. The ballot will contain only the races, and the voter must fill in the names of candidates OR write in the name of a political party, in which case all candidates of that party will be counted if they are in fact on the ballot.

Late Registration

An individual or accompanying family member who has been discharged or separated from the uniformed services or the United States Merchant Marine, has returned from a military deployment or activation, or has separated from employment outside the territorial limits of the United States, after the book closing date for an election and who is otherwise qualified may register to vote in such election at the Supervisor of Elections Office until 5 PM on the Friday before that election. Such persons must produce sufficient documentation showing evidence of qualifying for the late registration pursuant to Section 97.0555 Florida Statutes.

Assistance in Voting

- A person who is unable to read or write or who, because of a disability, needs assistance in voting may designate someone of his or her own choice, other than an employer or an officer or agent of the person's union, to provide such assistance. Persons providing assistance must complete a Declaration to Provide Assistance form.
- The voter must complete a Declaration to Secure Assistance form in order to receive assistance. If the voter chooses, they may also complete a Florida Voter Registration Application and check the "Assistance Required" box. This will reflect that assistance is needed on their voter record and the voter will no longer have to complete any paperwork in order to receive assistance.
- All polling places are accessible to voters with disabilities and election workers are trained to assist you.
- Voters who require assistance should not hesitate to ask.

BE AN ELECTION WORKER

You can make a difference in our community by joining our team of election workers. It takes about 200 election workers to staff our polling places on Election Day.

Our election workers are engaged citizens from all walks of life who are committed to making Putnam County the best place in America to vote.

Election workers receive state required training for each election and are paid for their work on Election Day.

Interested in applying to be an election worker?

Visit www.putnam-fl.com/soe

An Election Worker must:

- Be a registered voter in Putnam County.
- Read, write, and speak English fluently.
- Have reliable transportation (not public transportation).
- Have access to email.
- Attend scheduled trainings and review all training materials prior to each election.
- Remain nonpartisan while at the polls.
- Refrain from any comments or discussion concerning a voter, voter's party preference, candidate, or an issue while working at the polls.
- Abide by a "no smoking" policy on Election Day.
- Be able to work a 14-hour day.
- Be able to lift up to 40 pounds.

VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 101.031(2), Florida Statutes

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 replacements 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 election officers.
8. Vote free from coercion or intimidation by election 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.

Each registered voter in this state should:

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 station.
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 station.

PUTNAM COUNTY PRECINCTS & POLLING LOCATIONS

Precincts

Polling Location

1 & 2	South Putnam Government Center – 115 N. Summit St., Crescent City
3	Beulah Baptist Church – 106 Beulah Church Rd., Crescent City (Fruitland)
4 & 5	First Baptist Church – 683 Third Avenue, Welaka
6 & 7	Pomona Park Community Center – 200 E. Main St., Pomona Park
8 & 9	Satsuma Fire Department – 103 S. First St., Satsuma
10	Dunns Creek Baptist Church – 686 S. Highway 17, San Mateo
11	Putnam County Agricultural Center – 111 Yelvington Rd., East Palatka
12	Bostwick Community Ctr. – 125 Tillman St., Bldg. 2, Palatka (Bostwick)
14 & 15	Bardin Fire Department – 107 Johns Rd., Palatka (Bardin)
16	Living Hope Family Worship Center – 1109 SR 100, Florahome
18	Trinity Episcopal Church, 204 State Rd.26, Melrose
19 & 20	Woodlawn Baptist Church – 818 County Rd 20A, Hawthorne (Johnson)
21, 22, & 23	Interlachen Community Center – 135 S County Rd 315, Interlachen
24	Grandin Lakes Shores Community Center – 418 Holiday Dr., Interlachen
25	Hollister Fire Dept. – 617 State Rd. 20 , Palatka
26	Grace Community Baptist Church – 161 Peniel Church Rd., Palatka
27 & 30	Southwest Fire Dept – 3409 Park St., Palatka
28 & 36	Edgar Johnson Senior Center – 1215 Westover Dr., Palatka
32 & 39	Price Martin Community Center – 220 N. 11 th St., Palatka
33, 34, & 35	St. Johns River State College, 5001 St. Johns Ave., Palatka
37 & 38	Palatka Woman’s Club, 600 S. 13 th St., Palatka



The goal of the Putnam County Vote in Honor of a Veteran program is to encourage voter participation among our entire population, as well as to have another avenue to teach our voting-age youth about the sacrifices our veterans have made and continue to make every day so that we may continue to live in a democratic society. By exercising our right to vote, we show veterans and active service members the respect they deserve for protecting our country. Veterans have always served us with honor. Let's give them the recognition they have earned.

This is how the program works...

All veterans, a family member or friend of a veteran are encouraged to complete a short biography on the Veteran Biography Form and submit a photograph, preferably in uniform, to the Supervisor of Elections Office (available on our website or at our office), or mail to: Supervisor of Elections, 2509 Crill Avenue, Suite 900, Palatka, FL 32177. You may also email the completed form and photograph to christina.prout@putnam-fl.com. As needed the photographs will be scanned and returned as soon as possible. Biography forms may also be submitted on behalf of an active service member, a discharged veteran, a KIA, MIA, POW, or a deceased veteran. Please feel free to make copies of the Veteran Biography Form and distribute them as you wish.

There has been a wall in the Supervisor of Elections Office designated as what will be known as the "Wall of Honor", and each veteran's photograph that is submitted to the program will be posted on that wall. The veteran biography forms will be kept in a notebook inside the elections office for citizens to view. Please stop by and browse the Veterans on the on the Wall of Honor.

We need your participation to make this valuable program a success



Federal Offices:	U.S. Senator Representative in Congress, District 3
State Offices:	Governor Attorney General Chief Financial Officer Commissioner of Agriculture State Senator, District 8 State Representative, District 19
District Offices:	Soil & Water Conservation, Districts 1, 3, 5
Circuit and County Court Judges (nonpartisan):	Circuit Judge, Groups 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, 21, 27 County Court Judge, Group 1
County Offices:	Board of County Commissioners, Districts 2, 3, 4 School Board Member, Districts 1, 4, 5
Municipal Offices:	City of Palatka Mayor/Commissioner City of Palatka Commissioner, Groups 2, 4 Town of Interlachen Mayor Town of Interlachen Town Council, 2 seats Town of Pomona Park Mayor Town of Pomona Park Town Council, Seats 1, 2, 3, 5 Town of Welaka Town Council, 3 seats City of Crescent City Commissioner, Groups 1, 2

Primary Election – August 28, 2018

Last day to register or change party – July 30, 2018

Early Voting Dates – Thursday, August 16, 2018 through Saturday, August 25, 2018

Early Voting Hours – 8:30 AM until 5:30 PM

General Election – November 6, 2018

Last day to register or change party – October 9, 2018

Early Voting Days – Thursday, October 25, 2018 through Saturday, November 3, 2018

Early Voting Hours – 8:30 AM until 5:30 PM

Election Headquarters
2509 Crill Ave., Suite 900
Palatka, FL 32177
Phone: 386-329-0224
Fax: 386-329-0455



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