



## NEWS RELEASE

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March 8, 2016

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### **Last-Minute Reminders for March 15 Presidential Preference Primary and Municipal Elections**

The Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Office encourages registered voters in the March 15 Presidential Preference Primary and Municipal Elections to remember the following information:

#### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE:**

- Voters must be registered with the Republican Party or Democrat Party to vote in their respective party's Primary for President. Florida is a closed primary state.
- Registered voters residing in the 11 municipalities also conducting elections – Town of Belleair, City of Clearwater, City of Gulfport, City of Indian Rocks Beach, City of Madeira Beach, City of Oldsmar, City of Pinellas Park, City of South Pasadena, City of St. Pete Beach, City of Tarpon Springs and City of Treasure Island (District 4) – may vote in their nonpartisan municipal elections (St. Pete Beach and Treasure Island vote by single-member districts).
- The deadline to register to vote and change political party affiliation was **February 16, 2016**.

#### **WHEN:**

- Polling places will be open 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

#### **WHERE:**

- State law requires voters to vote in the **precinct in which they reside**. Voters who have moved are required to vote in their **new** home precinct.
- Voters are encouraged to confirm their polling places by visiting [VotePinellas.com](http://VotePinellas.com) and clicking on the "Find Your Precinct" button at the top of the page, or calling (727) 464-VOTE (8683).

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## Last-Minute Reminders, CONTINUED,

### HOW:

- Voters should bring [photo and signature identification](#) to the polls to avoid delays. Anyone without valid and current ID may vote a provisional ballot. The canvassing board will later determine the validity of any provisional ballots.
- Voters are encouraged to make any address changes prior to Election Day online at [VotePinellas.com](http://VotePinellas.com); by calling (727) 464-VOTE (8683); or emailing [Election@VotePinellas.com](mailto:Election@VotePinellas.com) (include birth date).
- Name changes may be made by sending a signed, written statement to the Supervisor of Elections (13001 Starkey Rd., Largo, FL 33773); include birth date or voter ID number.
- It is important for voters to have their current signature on file – and to remain consistent when using their legal signature – in order for the signature on their mail ballot return envelope to be verified.

### EARLY VOTING

- Early Voting continues through **Sunday, March 13** in all three Elections Offices: Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Check Early Voting wait times at [VotePinellas.com](http://VotePinellas.com)

### MAIL BALLOTS:

- Any voter may request a mail ballot. The deadline to request a ballot to be mailed is **5:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 9.**
- Beginning **Thursday, March 10**, voters may designate in writing a person to pick up their ballot; however, the designee may not pick up more than two mail ballots per election in addition to the designee's own ballot or a ballot for an immediate family member.
- Mail ballots may still be picked up or voted in person at any Elections Office through **Monday, March 14.**
- Florida state law provides that mail ballot pickup and voting in Supervisor of Elections Offices on Election Day is only permitted in the case of an emergency. A voter or voter's designee must sign an affidavit affirming that the voter is unable to go to his/her polling place on Election Day due to an emergency and provide the reason for the emergency.
- Ballots must be **received by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day (March 15)** at any one of the three Supervisor of Elections Offices. Voted mail ballots can be dropped off at any of the three Elections Offices. Mail ballots **cannot** be accepted at a polling place on Election Day.
- Remote ballot drop-off locations are available through **Monday, March 14** and will be **closed on Election Day**. Check for locations and hours at [VotePinellas.com](http://VotePinellas.com) or in mail ballot kit instructions.
- **PLEASE NOTE: Postal delivery service has changed. Voters are advised to allow at least 5 days for their ballot to be returned by mail to the Supervisor of Elections Office.**

### OTHER INFORMATION:

- No political activity or campaign signs are allowed inside the polling place or within 100 feet of the polling place entrance or elections office entrance. Exit polling is permitted in designated areas as voters are **leaving** the polls.
- No photography is allowed inside the polling place.
- Media wishing to visit a polling place on Election Day are asked to contact the Supervisor of Elections Communications Department – (727) 464-4988.
- Sample ballots may be viewed at [VotePinellas.com](http://VotePinellas.com).
- If you have any election-related questions, please call the Elections Office at (727) 464-VOTE (8683).

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