

My name is Tammy Jones and I'm the Supervisor of Elections in Levy County, Florida. Levy County is a small rural county with a little over 30,000 voters with a total population of 40,801 residents recorded in the 2010 census. I've worked in the Levy County Supervisor of Elections office since 1994 (27 years). I have been Supervisor for 8 years and currently entering my third term in office. In Florida the Supervisor of Elections is an elected position.

Since 1994 I've seen many changes in elections. Changes in technology have shaped the way our voters choose to cast their ballots. My very first Presidential Election in the office was in 1996. At that time only 1,031 voters voted by mail. In 2020, 7,856 voters cast their vote by either mailing in their ballots or dropping them off at a secure drop box. There has been an increase of 2,673 votes since the 2016 Presidential Election. I believe that this increase was mainly due to COVID-19.

In Florida we allow three ways of voting. Early voting, voting by mail and voting on Election Day. These three options have helped with less lines on election day. Of the 23,309 voters that voted in the 2020 General we had 34% vote by mail, 34% vote early and 32% vote election day.

I believe Florida had successful elections in 2020 due to the following laws:

- 1) Our Canvassing Boards can begin opening and processing Vote by Mail ballots 22 days before an election.
- 2) Florida has a 7-day window to mail out the initial domestic Vote by Mail ballots (33 – 40 days before election). This provides flexibility for counties due to their mail out size.
- 3) Florida requires secure Vote by Mail drop boxes at every Early Voting location and at each Supervisor of Elections office and branch offices. Other sites are permitted as long as they are available during early voting hours and deemed permissible as an Early Voting Location (For example, public libraries).
- 4) Florida is a no excuse state allowing voters the flexibility to choose their method of voting without providing a reason.
- 5) If the voter wishes their Vote by Mail request can be valid for up to two election cycles. An important part of this law is that all ballots are non-forwardable. This ensures that if someone has moved away that ballot will be returned to the Supervisor of Elections office and ALL future Vote by Mail ballots will be cancelled. This prevents another individual now residing at that location to receive the voter's ballot.
- 6) If the voter forgets to sign the certificate portion on the return of their vote by mail ballot or their signature does not match, they have until the Thursday after the election at 5pm to cure their ballot.

Our office implemented the below items that helped our voters further understand the Vote by Mail process. These items are not required by Florida Statute.

- 1) Providing a ballot tracking system to automatically sign up to receive alerts when their ballot was mailed or received.
- 2) Providing videos and deadlines on our website and social media platforms to inform our voters.
- 3) Provide pre-paid postage on the return of the Vote by Mail ballot.

When passing election laws, you should consider how it will affect voter education and funding for election related programs. Flexibility should also be considered as a factor due to the size differences of each county.

I urge you to continue to seek the advice of election professionals, including the Pennsylvania elections administrators. As Supervisors, we are on the ground ensuring all laws are followed. Our offices learn what works best for our specific voters. I know from past experience that it can be heartbreaking to tell a voter that their ballot will not count due to a technical law. New laws can be costly for our offices due to the requirement of reprinting materials. When Vote by Mail laws are changed, we are left reprinting a majority of our envelopes and voter information.

The most important job we have as Supervisors is to ensure that the voters voice is heard and every legal vote is counted.