



Make Freedom Count! 2024

VOTER GUIDE

A guide to Elected Officials and
Okeechobee County Election Process

Provided by
Melissa Arnold, Supervisor of Elections

2024 Election Schedule

Presidential Preference Primary Election

Registration Deadline: February 19, 2024

Early Vote: March 9-16, 2024

8:30am -6:00pm

Election Day: March 19, 2024

Polls open: 7:00am-7:00pm

Primary Election:

Registration Deadline: July 22, 2024

Early Vote: August 10-17, 2024

8:30am-6:00pm

Election Day: August 20, 2024

Polls Open: 7:00am-7:00pm

General Election:

Registration Deadline: October 7, 2024

Early Vote: October 26– November 2, 2024

8:30am-6:00pm

Election Day: November 5, 2024

Polls Open: 7:00am-7:00pm

Identification Requirements: In order to vote you must present a current and valid picture/signature identification. It can be one form, such as a Florida driver 's license or Florida issued ID, or two separate forms of identification. A provisional ballot will be issued if you do not have proper ID.

Voting System in Okeechobee County: Instructions on how to use the voting system will be available at the polling locations during early voting and on Election Day

REMEMBER ...

**Your OPINION is IMPORTANT
BUT it is your VOTE that COUNTS!**

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 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 Responsibilities

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.

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

Registration Information

How to Register or Update Voter Information:

You may pick up an application from one of the following locations:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Supervisor of Elections Office | WIC |
| Driver's License Office | DCF |
| Senior Services Center | Public Library |
| Hunting/Fishing License Locations | |

or you may call the elections office and a form will be mailed to you. You may also visit our website at <http://www.voteokeechobee.gov> where you will find an easy to complete online registration form.

Once you have completed your voter registration application, mail or deliver it to the Elections Office. A voter information card will be mailed to you.

Registration Information Cont.

Requirements to Register: You may register to vote if you are:

- a U.S. Citizen
- a resident of the State of Florida (your county of residence)
- 18 years of age (you may pre-register at 16)
- If you are a felon with rights restored
- You must **register at least 29 days prior to voting in any Election.**

To Remain a Voter: Registration is permanent as long as you remain a qualified voter and a resident of Florida. Please **keep** your **address current** with the Supervisor of Elections. As failure to do so may result in the cancellation of your registration. You may **change your address**, by phone, in person or in writing. However, if you **change your party** OR **change your name** by marriage or other legal process, you must complete a new voter application.

Precinct Changes: In the case of redistricting or a change of polling location, you will be sent a new Voter Information Card with all your updated information.

Party Affiliation: You may choose to register in a political party (major or minor) or register with no party affiliation. You may change your party affiliation, however the completed application must be submitted at least 29 days prior to a primary election.

Voting Information

What is a Closed Primary? Florida is a closed primary state. In a primary election, registered voters may only vote for candidates in their party of registration. By not selecting a party when you register, your vote is limited in the primary election to nonpartisan races and issues. In the general election, you may vote for any candidate, regardless of party affiliation.

EXCEPTION: UNIVERSAL PRIMARY CONTEST

If all candidates have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the general election, then **ALL** qualified voters may vote on that "Universal Primary Contest" in the primary election.

Election Day Voting: Voting in a precinct in which you do not live is illegal. You must vote only at the precinct in which you reside. You are encouraged to report any changes in your registration (i.e., address, name, party affiliation) to the Elections Office. A current and valid picture/signature ID is required.

Vote by Mail (Absentee): Any registered voter may apply by mail, phone, e-mail, or in person to the Elections Office for an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots will not be forwarded, so please keep your address updated. An absentee ballot must be received by your Elections Office no later than 7 p.m. Election Day. Your signature will be verified so to ensure your absentee ballot gets accepted, please keep an up to date signature on file with our office.

Early Voting: The law permits voters to vote in person prior to election day. Early Voting begins up to 15 days before election day and ends the Saturday before election day. A current and valid picture/signature ID is required.

Provisional Ballots: The law permits voters to who are potentially ineligible or lacking a valid form of identification to vote a provisional ballot.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT (4 Year Term)

Joseph R. Biden (D)/ Kamala D. Harris (D) 2024

The White House
(202) 456 -1414
www.whitehouse.gov

U.S. SENATORS (6 Year Term)

Rick Scott (R) 2024
(202) 224 -5274

Toll Free in Florida: 1 -888 -671 -4091
www.rickscott.senate.gov

Marco Rubio (R) 2028

(202) 224 -3041 or (561) 775-3360
Toll Free in Florida: 1 -866 -630 -7106
www.rubio.senate.gov

U.S. HOUSE 18TH DISTRICT (2 Year Term)

Scott Franklin (R) 2024

(202) 225 -1252 [DC] or (863) 644 -8215
franklin.house.gov

STATE GOVERNMENT

GOVERNOR/LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND CABINET
(4 year terms-2026)

GOVERNOR

Ron DeSantis (R)
(850) 488 -7146

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Jeanette M. Nunez (R)
(850) 488 -7146

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ashley Moody (R)
(813) 254 -3369

Toll Free in Florida: 1-866-966-7226

The Capitol, 400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399 -0001
www.flgov.com

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Wilton Simpson (R)
(800) 212-0226

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Manny Diaz Jr. (R)
(850) 245 -0505

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Jimmy Patronis (R)
(877) 693 -5236

STATE LEGISLATORS

SENATE DISTRICT 29 (4 Year Term)

Erin Grall (R) 2026
7555 20th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32966
(772) 569-0000
TLH www.flsenate.gov

HOUSE OF REPS DISTRICT 83 (2 Year Term)

Kaylee Tuck (R) 2024
55 S Parrott Ave
Okeechobee, FL 34974
(863) 835 -0130 or (850) 717 -5055
TLH www.myfloridahouse.gov

LOCAL POLITICAL PARTY

OKEECHOBEE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Austin Harvey
(863)634-2848

OKEECHOBEE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Jim Craig
(574)249 -9495

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

COUNTY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS (4 Year Term—2024)

SHERIFF

Noel Stephen (R)
(863) 763-3117
www.okeesherriff.org

CLERK OF THE COURT

Jerry D. Bryant (R)
(863) 763-2131

www.clerk.co.okeechobee.fl.us

PROPERTY APPRAISER

Mickey Bandi (R)
(863) 763-4422

www.okeechobeeipa.com

TAX COLLECTOR

Celeste Watford (R)
(863) 763-3084

www.okeechobeeountytaxcollector.com

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Melissa Arnold (R)
(863) 763-4014

http://www.voteokeechobee.gov

COUNTY JUDGE (6 Year Term)

William Wallace (2024)
(863) 763-3193

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

(Elected at Large — 4 Year Term)

304 NW 2nd Street, Room 123
Okeechobee, FL 34972
863-763-6441
www.co.okeechobee.fl.us

Dist.1: **David Hazellief (R)**.....2024 Dist.4: **Terry Burroughs (R)**.....2026
Dist.2: **Frank DeCarlo (R)**.....2026 Dist.5: **Kelly Owens (R)**.....2024
Dist.3: **Brad Goodbread (R)**.....2024

SCHOOL BOARD

(Nonpartisan / Elected at Large—4 Year Term)

700 SW 2nd Avenue
Okeechobee, FL 34974
863-462-5000
www.okee.k12.fl.us

Dist.1: **Christine Bishop**.....2026 Dist.4: **Amanda Riedel**.....2024
Dist.2: **Malissa Morgan**.....2024 Dist.5: **Jill Holcomb**.....2026
Dist.3: **Melisa Jahner**.....2026

OKEECHOBEE CITY GOVERNMENT

(Nonpartisan / City Residents Only) (4 Year Term)

55 SE 3rd Avenue Okeechobee, FL 34974
863-763-3372
www.cityofokeechobee.com

CITY COUNCIL

Noel Chandler.....2024 **David McAuley**.....2026
Monica Clark.....2024 **Mayor Dowling R. Watford, Jr**.....2026
Bob Jarriel.....2026

CITY CLERK

Lane Gamiotea (2026)

JUDICIAL OFFICES

STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

(6 Year Term)

Charles T. Canady.....2028 **John D. Couriel**.....2028
Jorge Labarga.....2028 **Ricky Polston**.....2028
Renatha Francis.....2024 **Jamie R. Grosshans**.....2028
Carlos G. Muniz.....2026

4TH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

(6 Year Term)

Cory J. Ciklin.....2028 **Mark W. Klingensmith**.....2026
Burton C. Conner.....2024 **Jeffrey T. Kuntz**.....2024
Dorian K. Damoorgian.....2028 **Spencer D. Levine**.....2028
Alan O. Forst.....2026 **Melanie G. May**.....2028
Jonathan D. Gerber.....2028 **Edward L. Artau**.....2028
Robert M. Gross.....2028 **Martha C. Warner**.....2026

19TH CIRCUIT STATE ATTORNEY

(4 Year Term—2024)

Thomas Bakkedahl (R)
312 NW 3rd Street, Suite 260
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 763-5557

19TH CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER

(4 Year Term—2024)

Diamond R. Litty (R)
312 NW 3rd Street, Suite 220
Okeechobee, FL 34972
(863) 763-7977

19TH CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES

(6 Year Term)

Dan L. Vaughn (#3).....2024 **Rebecca White (#1)**.....2028
Robert E. Belanger (#12).....2024 **Michael J. McNicholas (#6)**.....2028
Brett M. Waronicki (#17).....2026 **Elizabeth A. Metzger (#18)**.....2026
Gary L. Sweet (#10).....2026 **Lawrence M. Mirman (#16)**.....2026
Cynthia L. Cox (#13).....2026 **Robert Meadows (#19)**.....2024
Janet C. Croom (#8).....2028 **William L. Roby (#14)**.....2026
Victoria L. Griffin (#11).....2026 **Charles Schwab (#9)**.....2028
Michael C. Heisey (#4).....2026 **Laurie Buchanan (#2)**.....2028
Michael J. Linn (#5).....2024 **Sherwood Bauer, Jr. (#15)**.....2026
Steven J. Levin (#7).....2026

This brochure reflects information available
as of December 2022. Information is subject to change.



Melissa Arnold, Supervisor of Elections
304 NW 2nd St, Room 144
Okeechobee, FL 34972
voteokeechobee.gov
(863)763-4014

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to receive
regular election updates.