



CHANGE A GENT NETWORK NEEDS YOU!

October 2022

Volume 4, Issue 4

This Newsletter Is A Project Of The Family Cafe

GENERAL ELECTION 2022: LET'S DO OUR PART!

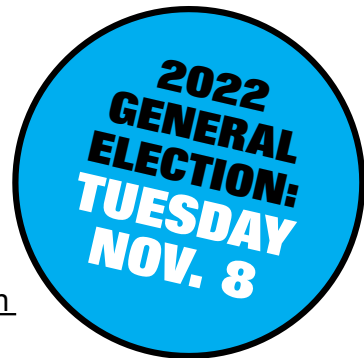
When is election day exactly?

The primary election was held August 23rd. The Primary Election is for the purpose of nominating party nominees to be voted for in the General Election to fill a national, state, county, or district office. A General Election is held on the second Tuesday in November of every even-numbered year.

Eligible individuals can register to vote at any time. The deadline to register in order to participate in an upcoming election is 29 days before the election. That means the registration deadline for 2022 is October 11th so please make sure your registration information is up to date. You will not be able to vote in the General Election if you do not register by this date!

For absent stateside and overseas uniformed service member and overseas civilian voters (also known as UOCAVA voters), Supervisors of Elections send the ballots no later than 45 days before an election. The send deadlines for 2022 are July 9th for the Primary Election and September 24th for the General Election.

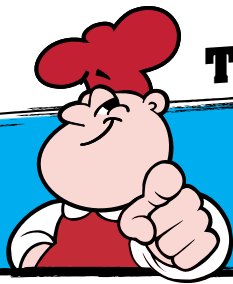
A vote-by-mail ballot must be returned and received by the Supervisor of Elections in the county of registration no later than 7:00 p.m. (local time) on election-day for the respective election in order to be counted. By law, early voting must be held at least for 8 days. The mandatory General Election early voting period for 2022 is October 29 - November 5.



With election season upon us, this is a good time to remind ourselves not just of the importance of voting, but of some of the important things to know to be prepared to vote. Here are some helpful things to keep in mind from the Florida Secretary of State's website. If you have any questions, more information can be found at Division of Elections - Florida Department of State (<https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/>).

Each county Supervisor of Elections may offer more days of early voting from one or more of the following days: October 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and November 6.

Check with your county Supervisor of Elections for the additional days of early voting that may be offered in your county. You can find a link for the Supervisor of Elections in every Florida county at <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/supervisors/>. For more information about early voting, visit the Division of Elections' webpage on Early Voting.



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Individuals With Disabilities: Know Your Rights At The Voting Booth.

Our friends at Disability Rights Florida are a great resource for voting info for people with disabilities. Here's their advice:

Even though voting is considered one of our most basic rights, voters with disabilities can often find casting a ballot challenging. According to a 2016 Election Day study done by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), 60% of polling locations were inaccessible. Issues such as lack of transportation, signature matching requirements, and failure to provide information in accessible formats can all create obstacles for voters with disabilities throughout the voting process.

The good news is that many of the barriers that voters with disabilities face are easy to solve. Registering to vote can be made easier by ensuring the accessibility of online registration forms and allowing same-day voter registration.

Many polling location accessibility issues, such as ensuring accessible pathways have proper signage and that ballot-marking devices are properly setup, can be addressed by making sure poll workers have adequate training.

Many of these accommodations can be made with minimal, or even no costs. Not only would these measures greatly improve access to the ballot for voters with disabilities, but it would also improve access for other marginalized communities who are also disenfranchised by these same barriers.

Every poll site in the state is required to have at least one accessible and operational accessible voting system on election day and during all early voting. As a voter with a disability, I have the right to:

- A full and equal opportunity to vote
- Vote privately and independently
- Utilize accessible poll sites, voter registration systems, vote-by-mail balloting & other ballot casting devices
- Receive assistance from a person of my own choosing (other than my employer or a union representative) when I cast my ballot



Voting Rights Hotline

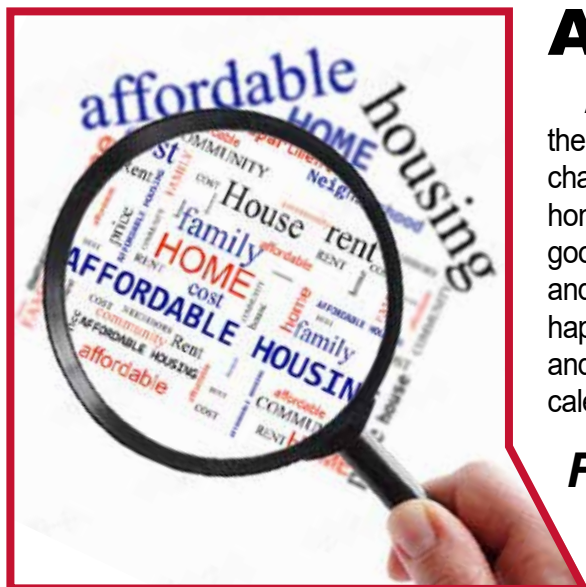
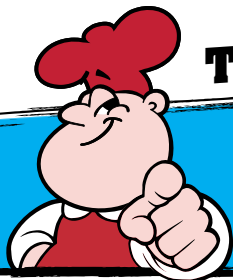
If you have any issue with voting or registering to vote due to a disability, please contact Disability Rights' Voting Rights Hotline at 1-800-342-0823 extension 6000.

You can also learn more about assistance with voting from the Division of Elections' "Accessible Voting for Persons with Disabilities" page at <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/voting/accessible-voting-for-persons-with-disabilities/>.

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Affordable Housing

Affordable housing in Florida has reached a crisis point. It's not just the poor who are struggling in this area. Middle class families are also challenged to keep pace with steadily increasing cost of housing in both home costs and especially the rental market. That's the bad news. The good news is that there is a growing consensus between the Legislative and Executive branches that significant reform needs to happen and happen fast. It is far too early for any specifics, as it is being discussed and debated as you read this and will continue throughout the rest of the calendar year. The time to become a part of that conversation is now!

Florida Housing Coalition: Florida's Legislature Must Address Our Affordable Housing Crisis

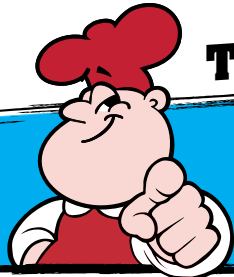
Florida has one of the most severe affordable housing crises in the nation. We have more cost-burdened renters than any other state, and declining a stock of affordable housing units. The rise in low-wage jobs coupled with limited affordable housing means that many Floridians are having to make impossible choices between paying rent and other priorities, like buying groceries and seeking medical care. Households of color tend to face these challenges more acutely.

Investing in affordable housing development has ripple effects throughout the economy, creating good-paying jobs, increasing the financial well-being of households, and generating revenue for the state. The Sadowski Housing Trust Fund is the state's only vehicle for making long-term investments in affordable housing development. However, over the past few decades, funding slated for the trust fund has instead been diverted toward other purposes, forgoing the construction of tens of thousands of much-needed affordable housing units.

Expanding affordable housing is critical for meeting the needs of Florida's current and future population. The Sadowski Housing Trust Fund was established as a mechanism to invest in the preservation and development of affordable housing, but the two-decade legacy of diverting funds for other uses has resulted in thousands of foregone housing units and a persistently tight housing market for low-income households. In order to alleviate the housing cost burden and make affordable housing more accessible, the state must commit to fully funding the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund.

Years of funding "sweeps" — when the Legislature diverts dollars slated for the fund to use for other purposes — have undermined the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund. Lawmakers have swept more than \$2 billion from the trust fund into the General Revenue Fund to support other appropriations. The Florida Housing Coalition estimates that these sweeps resulted in 94,000 foregone affordable housing units.





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THE FIGURES BELOW ILLUSTRATE THAT FLORIDA IS FAST BECOMING ONE OF THE MOST EXPENSIVE STATES IN WHICH TO LIVE IN THE UNITED STATES. (Florida Today/ Dave Berman)

FLORIDA RANKINGS NATIONALLY ON MONTHLY RENT

National Rank / Monthly Rent

7. Miami-Fort Lauderdale -West Palm Beach	\$2,846
13. North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton .	\$2,331
14. Port St. Lucie	\$2,266
19. Fort Myers	\$2,073
20. Tampa.....	\$2,055

National Rank / Monthly Rent

21. Orlando:	\$1,999
29. Melbourne:	\$1,881
35. Lakeland:	\$1,808
39. Daytona Beach:	\$1,788
44. Jacksonville:	\$1,748

YEAR-OVER-YEAR RENT INCREASE FOR 10 FLORIDA AREAS

National Rank / Year-Over-Year Change

1. Fort Myers	+32.38%
2. Miami-Fort Lauderdale -West Palm Beach	+31.70%
3. North Port-Sarasota -Bradenton	+30.88%
5. Tampa:	+26.93%
6. Port St. Lucie	+25.54%
8. Lakeland	+23.92%
9. Orlando	+23.70%
10. Melbourne	+22.46%
11. Daytona Beach.....	+21.88%
15. Jacksonville	+20.39%

EVEN MORE ALARMING:

Please stay tuned on future legislative proposals to address this issue. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to email jmccann@familycafe.net.

See you next year!

at the **25th** Anniversary

Family CAFÉ

June 9 - 11, 2023

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