

# 2023-24 Voter's Guide

## Okaloosa County



Paul Lux, Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections

[www.VoteOkaloosa.gov](http://www.VoteOkaloosa.gov)

## **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 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.

### **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.

Dear Voter,

With the 2022 Elections over, I am pleased to publish the new Voter's Guide for 2023 - 2024!

The back pages of this guide have an up-to-date list of all of your federal, state, county, and judicial officers for easy contact. If an issue is important to you, call, email, or write the appropriate elected official; they DO want to hear from you.

The biggest change in legislation last year was the cancellation of any outstanding vote-by-mail requests at the end of 2022. Going forward, one vote-by-mail request is only good through the next General Election. That means that **if you voted by mail in 2022 you will need to renew your request for a vote-by-mail ballot if you wish to continue voting by mail in 2024**. Contact our office to renew your request today!

I also expect very active sessions in both US Congress and the Florida Legislature this year – particularly as it relates to election reforms. If there are any changes that will affect elections in 2024 we will be sure you know about them!

We continue to add to and update the content on our website, [www.VoteOkaloosa.gov](http://www.VoteOkaloosa.gov), as well as the mobile version of the site. Whether you are checking your registration status, updating your address, requesting to vote by mail, or even looking for a sample ballot, there is no better resource for you than our website! You can also find your polling place, search the campaign finance reports of candidates, and even look up election results as far back as the 1922 Primary Election!

If you cannot find what you need in this booklet or on our website, never hesitate to call the office. My staff and I are here to serve you! We are always happy to answer any questions or solve your problem.

Warmest Regards,



Paul Lux, CERA  
Supervisor of Elections

## Registering to Vote

### Who can register and vote?

A legal resident of Florida with a valid residence address in Okaloosa County, who fulfills all the following conditions, is eligible to register to vote in Okaloosa County:

- A citizen of the United States
- 18 years of age (may pre-register as early as 16, but must be 18 to vote)
- Not have been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting without having civil rights restored
- Former convicted felons who were **not** convicted of murder or sexual offenses. Please see FAQ #32.

### When can I register to vote?

You can register to vote at any time; however, registration books for any election close **29 days prior to Election Day**. A person registering to vote when the books are closed will not be eligible to vote in the upcoming election, but will be eligible for future elections.

### How can I register?

#### In Person Voter Registration

If you go to the Supervisor of Elections Office in Crestview or Shalimar, your application process begins immediately. Our office is the best source for providing new voters with information.

If you go to one of the mandated agencies (see FAQ #1), you can apply to register there at the same time as taking care of other business, such as driver's license, etc. The application must be processed through the Supervisor of Elections Office.

NOTE: The Florida Voter Registration Application (FVRA) may be used for any record change as well as a new registration. **Name and party changes require a signature and must be made on the FVRA (see FAQ #6 & 7).**

#### Online Voter Registration

Register to vote online at [www.registertovoteflorida.gov](http://www.registertovoteflorida.gov). A Florida Driver's License or state-issued Identification Number and Social Security Number are required to complete online registration.

#### By Mail Voter Registration

Complete a form on our website [www.VoteOkaloosa.gov](http://www.VoteOkaloosa.gov) print, sign, and mail it to us. Call (850) 689-5600 or (850) 651-7272 to have an application mailed to you.

Anyone who registers by mail and has never previously voted in Florida and does not hold a current and valid Florida driver's license, Florida ID card, or a Social Security number, must provide a copy of a current and valid identification or fit one of the exemptions listed below. Such identification or exemption may be provided when registering or at any time prior to voting for the first time in the state. Acceptable ID includes a valid U.S. Passport, Military ID, Student ID, Public Assistance ID and others; contact the elections office for additional information. Certain persons are exempt:

- Persons 65 years of age or older
- Voters with a temporary or permanent physical disability
- Uniformed Services on active duty and their dependents, who, by reason of member's active duty, are absent from the county on Election Day
- Merchant Marine members and their dependents, who, by reason of member's service in the Merchant Marine, are absent from the county on Election Day
- Civilians residing outside the U.S. who are eligible to vote in Florida

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Where can I go to register to vote?

- Supervisor of Elections Office  
*North:* 302 N Wilson St, Suite 102, Crestview, FL 32536  
*South:* 1250 Eglin Pkwy, Suite 103, Shalimar, FL 32579
- Driver's License Offices - Tax Collector Offices (Crestview, Destin, Eglin AFB, Niceville, and Shalimar)
- Public Libraries (Crestview, Destin, Ft. Walton Beach, Mary Esther, Niceville, Shalimar, and Valparaiso)
- Children & Family Services Centers in Crestview and Fort Walton Beach that provide public assistance and food stamps (WIC, AFDC, Medicaid, and Public Health)
- Department of Labor Offices serving persons with disabilities
- Armed Forces Recruiting Offices
- Military Voting Assistance Officers
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

All of the above agencies are required to accept your completed form and forward it to our office within five days for processing. Every application received is acknowledged in writing with a Voter Information Card or a letter requesting more information.

### 2. Do I have to re-register (a) if I haven't voted in a long time, or (b) every time I move?

(a) Failure to vote or contact our office in four years may result in being removed from the voter list.

- Inform the elections office of any change of address within the county or state.
- Respond to any request for Address Confirmation in order to keep your record current as an active voter.

**Note:** It is suggested that a voter make some form of contact at least every two years to ensure active status.

(b) You do not have to re-register, but you do have to notify the elections office of your new address. Your address determines your precinct.

### 3. Do I have to choose a political party?

No, it is not required. If you do not choose a party, you will be registered as "No Party Affiliation." Voters registered as No Party Affiliation or in a minor party may not vote for party (Democrat and Republican) candidates in a primary election (see FAQ #4 & #5), but may vote on nonpartisan candidates and issues. Party affiliation does not matter in the general election.

### 4. Does being "No Party Affiliation" or in a minor party mean I can vote for anyone in a primary?

No, Florida is a *closed primary state*. Usually, only the two major parties (Democrat and Republican) have primaries, which are nominating elections. Florida Statute 101.021 states, "It is unlawful for any elector to vote in a primary for any candidate running for nomination from a party other than that in which such elector is registered." However, all voters may vote in a primary for nonpartisan races, such as school board members, judges, and referenda. The only other exception is for a Universal Primary Contest.

**5. What is a Universal Primary Contest?**

If, in any race, only candidates of one party have qualified, and there are no minor party, No Party Affiliation, or write-in candidates for the general election, that race will be on the primary ballot for ALL registered voters of the jurisdiction, regardless of party registration.

**6. How do I change my political party?**

Submit a party change on any Florida Voter Registration Application to our office with the signature of the voter, through the Driver's License Office, or complete the record change through Online Voter Registration at [www.registertovoteflorida.gov](http://www.registertovoteflorida.gov). Party Changes **will not** be processed while the registration books are closed 29 days prior to a primary election.

**7. If my name has changed (marriage, divorce, other legal act), how do I change my name on your records?**

Submit a name change on any Florida Voter Registration Application, through Driver's License Office, or complete the record change through Online Voter Registration at [www.registertovoteflorida.gov](http://www.registertovoteflorida.gov). Please include the former name on the application.

**8. How do I change my address?**

*My address change is within Okaloosa County* - Use our online form for address changes within Okaloosa County. Address changes within the county of registration can also be made in writing, by email, fax, telephone, or just about any contact with the elections office.

*I am moving into Okaloosa County from another Florida county* - Address changes into Okaloosa county can be made in writing, by email, fax, or telephone.

*I have moved OUT of Okaloosa County into another Florida county* - Use the Florida Voter Registration Application form to change your address or call the elections office in your new county. Our office can provide the phone number.

All address changes can also be made through Online Voter Registration at [www.registertovoteflorida.gov](http://www.registertovoteflorida.gov).

**9. What identification do I need to vote?**

Voter Information Cards are not a valid form of identification when voting. Be sure to bring a **current and valid** photo ID for precinct and early voting. *If the photo ID does not contain your signature, an additional ID that includes your signature shall be required.* If you do not bring any ID, you will be allowed to vote; however, you will be asked to vote a provisional ballot. Approved forms of photo ID are:

- Florida Driver's License
- Florida ID card issued by the Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles
- Military ID
- U.S. Passport
- Debit/Credit Card
- Student ID
- Retirement Center ID
- Neighborhood Association ID
- Public Assistance ID
- Veteran health identification card issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Concealed carry license
- Employee identification card issued by the Federal Government, the state, a county, or a municipality

**10. How do I get a replacement Voter Information Card?**

Voters may request a duplicate Voter Information Card from the Supervisor of Elections with a signed, written request, through our website form at [www.VoteOkaloosa.gov](http://www.VoteOkaloosa.gov), or through Online Voter Registration at [www.registertovoteflorida.gov](http://www.registertovoteflorida.gov).

**11. I've moved since the last time I voted, and I forgot to change my address. Do I go to my old precinct to vote?**

No! It is a felony to vote in a precinct in which you do not live. Call the Supervisor of Elections Office to change your address over the phone and find your new precinct and polling location.

**12. If it is not convenient to go to the polls for an election, how can I vote?**

You may vote by mail or vote early before Election Day. To vote by mail, request a vote-by-mail ballot by telephone, mail, email, fax, website form or in person. Voters must provide either the last 4 of their social security number or Florida Driver's License number to request a vote-by-mail ballot. Or, you may vote early at any one of our early voting sites. For early voting dates, times, and locations, please visit [www.VoteOkaloosa.gov](http://www.VoteOkaloosa.gov).

**13. Can someone pick up or return a vote-by-mail ballot for me?**

You may name, in writing, a designee to pick up a ballot for you, no earlier than five days before an election, and provide certain required information. The designee for pick-up must provide identification. You can also have someone else return your ballot.

**14. Does Power of Attorney apply when voting?**

Power of Attorney cannot be used to vote or sign another voter's registration form. [F.S. 709.2201(3)(c)].

**15. When does my vote-by-mail ballot have to be returned to your office?**

The ballot must be in either one of our two offices by 7:00 pm Central Time on Election Day in order to be counted. However, if you are overseas and voting in a federal election, your ballot must be dated and/or postmarked by the date of the election, and we must receive it within 10 days of the election for it to be counted.

**16. Where else can I return my voted vote-by-mail ballot?**

Voted Okaloosa County vote-by-mail ballots can be returned via secure ballot intake station at either of our office locations during business hours, or at any of our early voting sites during early voting hours. A secure ballot intake station will be located at all early voting sites and each election office location for the convenience of the voter. Early voting locations and hours may vary depending on the election. Visit [www.VoteOkaloosa.gov](http://www.VoteOkaloosa.gov) or call one of our offices for more information.

**17. How often do I have to renew my vote-by-mail request?**

Vote-by-mail requests now expire on December 31st following each general election.

**18. How do voters' names get removed and/or re-instated?**

(a) If a voter moves to another county in Florida and registers there, the statewide Florida Voter Registration System will notify our office of the change and that voter will be listed as "Moved" from our county.

(b) If a voter registers in another state and indicates a prior registration in Florida, we will be notified, in most cases, and the Florida registration will be canceled.

(c) If we receive notification from the post office that a voter's address has changed, we will send an Address Confirmation card to the new address for the voter to verify the change on his/her registration. If that, or any other piece of First-Class mail, comes back to the office as Returned Undeliverable, we send an Address Confirmation Final Notice, and if we receive no response within 30 days, or if the Final Notice comes back Undeliverable as well, the voter will be placed on Inactive status.

(d) Voters on the Inactive list can be re-instated by updating their voter registration, appearing to vote, or requesting a vote-by-mail ballot. However, after two general (federal) elections from the date the final notice was sent, all Inactive voters who show no activity will be removed from the registration records and must register again in order to vote.

**19. If I'm not currently registered, what is the registration deadline for an election?**

The registration deadline is **29** days prior to any election.

**20. Do the courts get prospective jurors' names from voter registration rolls?**

The county courts obtain their prospective jurors' names from the Department of Motor Vehicles. Federal courts obtain their prospective jurors' names from the voter registration rolls.

**21. I've never voted before. Will someone show me what to do?**

Yes. Our Greeter/Voter Education Inspector will offer you a demonstration on how to mark your ballot when you arrive at the polling place. You can also see "How to Mark a Paper Ballot" on page 13.

**22. If I'm physically impaired in some way, can I bring someone with me to help me vote?**

Yes, you may, but you are not required to. If you need assistance, two of our poll workers from different political parties will assist you as needed. We also have one accessible voting device in each polling place capable of allowing most voters with disabilities to vote secretly and independently without any assistance. See "Assistance in Voting" on page 11.

**23. What happens if I make a mistake on my ballot?**

Tell the poll workers you have made a mistake, and you will be issued a new ballot in exchange for your "spoiled" ballot, which is sealed in an envelope and never opened. You may be issued up to, but no more than, three ballots.

**24. What happens if I forget to bring my ID with me to the polls?**

Even if your name is in the precinct register, the law requires you to vote a provisional ballot.

**25. What is a provisional ballot?**

A provisional ballot is a conditional ballot, the validity of which is determined by the canvassing board. A voter has until 5:00 pm on the 2nd day after the election to provide proof of eligibility, if necessary, for the canvassing board to validate a ballot.

**26. What hours are the polls open?**

The polls are open 7:00 am to 7:00 pm on Election Day. Anyone in line by 7:00 pm will be allowed to vote.

**27. Can I just turn my voted vote-by-mail ballot in at my polling place?**

No, your voted vote-by-mail ballot must be turned in to one of our two offices (see FAQ #15 & #16).

**28. Can I bring my children with me to the polling place?**

Yes, you may bring your children with you; we ask only that they behave appropriately. We have sample ballots designed especially for children. Involving children helps to educate them on the importance of voting. However, children cannot handle your official ballot.



**29. How do I find out where I need to go to vote?**

Your Voter Information Card will include your precinct and polling information or you can go to our website, [www.VoteOkaloosa.gov](http://www.VoteOkaloosa.gov), and use the *Voter Lookup Tool* to find out where to vote on Election Day. If we change your precinct or polling location for any reason, we will send you a new Voter Information Card.

**30. Can I change my political party at the polls on election day?**

Registration books close **29** days before a primary election. Party changes must be made prior to the book closing date in order to be in effect for that election. Party affiliation does not apply to municipal or general elections.

**31. Can I bring my marked sample ballot to the polls?**

Yes, as long as you do not display it for others to see and do not leave it in the polling place. We encourage you to use the sample ballot.

**32. Can I still vote if I've been convicted of a felony?**

From the effective date of Amendment 4- January 8, 2019, those convicted of a felony (excluding murder or sexual offenses) are able to register to vote after they have completed all terms of their sentence, including probation, parole and payment of fines and fees. Those convicted of murder or sexual offenses must go through the current clemency process.

**33. How do I find out if my civil rights have been restored?**

Individuals unsure of their status should contact the Clerk of Circuit Court in the county where they were sentenced or the Florida Commission on Offender Review. More information can be found through the Florida Commission on Offender Review at <https://www.fcor.state.fl.us>.

**34. How do I apply for clemency?**

Individuals may search or apply for Restoration of Civil Rights through the Florida Commission on Offender Review or may visit the website of the Office of Executive Clemency at <https://www.fcor.state.fl.us/restoration.shtml>.

## Military and Overseas Citizens

**Registering and Voting Absentee**

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 absentee ballots with a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) which may be obtained from a Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) or at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov), the website of the Federal Voting Assistance Program. Absentee requests from these voters will be effective for all elections through the next regularly scheduled general election. 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 absentee ballot will be sent to you however you want it sent (i.e., by mail, fax or email). You may also register via the Online Voter Registration portal with your Florida Driver's License and Social Security Number at [www.registertovoteFlorida.gov](http://www.registertovoteFlorida.gov).

UOCAVA voters using the Florida Voter Registration Application form who indicate their status as part of the optional information 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.

### Registering and Voting Absentee (cont'd)

UOCAVA voters may have absentee 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 absentee ballot request and the ballot through the online *Voter Lookup Tool* at [www.VoteOkaloosa.gov](http://www.VoteOkaloosa.gov).

We encourage all UOCAVA voters to include their email addresses on any forms or correspondence and to update them along with mailing addresses whenever they move. The most important thing to remember is to notify the Supervisor of Elections Office of address changes so you don't jeopardize your active voter registration status. The most efficient way to notify us is by email to Paul Lux at [plux@myokaloosa.com](mailto:plux@myokaloosa.com).

Contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program: toll-free 1-800-438-8683, DSN: 425-1584, fax 1-703-588-0108, and email [vote@fvap.gov](mailto: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, questions and absentee requests through our website [www.VoteOkaloosa.gov](http://www.VoteOkaloosa.gov) 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 absentee ballot, you can use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) as an emergency back-up absentee ballot. In order to use it, you have to be a registered voter and have previously requested a regular absentee ballot. The FWAB can be used to vote for federal office races as well as all other races to which you are entitled. For more information or to complete a FWAB, visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

### State Write-In Ballot

State write-in absentee 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 absentee 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 5:00 pm on the Friday before that election. Such persons must produce sufficient documentation showing evidence of qualifying for the late registration pursuant to 97.0555 F.S.

## Other Helpful Information

### Assistance in Voting

- A voter can have his/her record marked to indicate assistance is required if permanent, and poll workers will provide assistance without delay.
- A voter may bring someone to assist him/her and fill out a Declaration to Secure Assistance form at the polls (anyone except employer, union official, agent of either or candidate). Persons providing assistance must also complete a Declaration to Provide Assistance form.
- All polling places are accessible to voters with disabilities and poll workers are trained to assist you.
- Voters who require assistance should not hesitate to ask.

### Accessible Voting Machines

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires that all jurisdictions have one piece of equipment at each precinct or early voting site so all voters with disabilities may vote in secret and without assistance. In Okaloosa County, one ExpressVote ballot marking device is available in every voting site.

Persons with disabilities have the option of voting on accessible voting equipment which allows them to vote without assistance. *Rule 15-2.034*

The Supervisor of Elections Office staff work tirelessly to ensure that proper security procedures and policies have been established and followed. The voters of Okaloosa County can be confident in the continued accuracy and integrity of the elections process.

### Poll Watchers

- Must be registered voters in the county; poll watchers cannot be candidates or law enforcement officers.
- Each political party and each candidate may have one poll watcher per precinct or early voting site at any given time, and all must follow Florida Statutes and Supervisor of Elections procedures.
- Applications must be in Supervisor of Elections Office by noon two weeks prior to the start of early voting or the election.

### Florida's Public Record Law

Voter registration records are public record and any person can examine or copy the records. However, the following registration information is confidential and exempt from public disclosure: Social Security number, Driver's License number, Florida ID number, location of voter's place of registration, and location of place of registration update. A voter's signature may be viewed but may not be copied. Residence addresses and birth dates can be protected for voters covered by *119.071 F.S.* Total record protection is only provided for voters in the Address Confidentiality Program.

### How to Report Election Law Violations

Report violations of either the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, the Help America Vote Act of 2002, or any irregularities or fraud involving voter registration or voting, or candidate or issue petition activities under the Florida Election Code in writing. Complaint forms are available on the Division of Elections website at: <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/forms-publications/forms-complaint-forms/>.

Report violations relating to campaign financing, candidates, committees, or other political activities under chapters 104 and 106, and section 105.071, Florida Statutes, by sworn written complaint to the Florida Elections Commission, Suite 224, Collins Building, 107 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050, phone 850-922-4539. The Florida Elections Commission is not affiliated with the Department of State, Division of Elections.

All other violations should be reported to the Office of Election Crimes and Security by phone at (850)245-6684 or email [OECS@DOS.MyFlorida.com](mailto:OECS@DOS.MyFlorida.com).

### Voter Signature Updates

Has your signature changed from

 to  ?

Among all the information in your record that should be kept up to date, one of the most important is your signature. If you have been registered for many years and your signature style has changed, or if you have married, divorced, or become disabled or unable to write, please update your signature. (If you are caregiver to someone whose signature needs to be updated for any reason, please call the office for specific instructions.)

Signature updates should be done on a Florida Voter Registration Application. The application can be downloaded and printed from our website [www.VoteOkaloosa.gov](http://www.VoteOkaloosa.gov). Be sure to mark the "Record Update/Change" block on the application and mail it back to either one of our offices.

- North: 302 N Wilson St, Suite 102, Crestview, FL 32536
- South: 1250 Eglin Pkwy, Suite 103, Shalimar, FL 32579

### Interested in becoming a poll worker?

- Applications are available at the Supervisor of Elections Office or online at [www.VoteOkaloosa.gov](http://www.VoteOkaloosa.gov).
- Selection is based on qualifications to fulfill job description.
- Appointed after mandatory training classes, no less than six hours per election year.
- Paid positions, with requirements



### Okaloosa County's Paper Ballot Voting System

- Paper ballots are read by DS-200 digital scan system.
- Results are precinct-count based.
- To vote, completely fill in the oval to the left of your choice in each race.
- Mark your ballot as directed, such as "Vote for One."
- If race is marked to vote for more than one, for example "Vote for Up to Three," you do not have to vote for that number, only up to that number, but no more.
- The DS-200 rejects an overvote, giving you an opportunity to correct or to process as you wish. Overvote means that a voter marks or designates more names than there are persons to be elected to an office or designates more than one answer to a ballot question.
- The DS-200 also rejects a completely blank ballot, unless that is your wish.
- You will be given any assistance you need by poll workers.
- If you make a mistake, you may be issued up to three ballots, but only one ballot will be counted.
- Redundant security measures and procedures protect the accuracy and integrity of all Okaloosa County elections.
- Paper ballots by law are maintained for 22 months after an election.

### How to Mark a Paper (Marksense) Ballot



# 2023-24 Elected Officials

Key: Name, (Party), Year on Ballot

## FEDERAL

### PRESIDENT

Joseph Biden (D) 2024

The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**4-year term**

202-456-1111

### VICE PRESIDENT

Kamala Harris (D) 2024

The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

202-456-1111

### U.S. SENATE

Marco Rubio (R) 2028

284 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510  
700 S Palafox St. #125 Pensacola, FL 32502

**6-year term**

202-224-3041  
850-433-2603

Rick Scott (R) 2024

B3 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510  
221 Palafox Place, Suite 420, Pensacola, FL 32502

202-224-5274  
850-760-5151

### U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**District 1** Matt Gaetz (R) 2024

226 S. Palafox Place, 6th Floor, Pensacola, FL 32502  
1721 Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515

**2-year term**  
850-479-1183  
202-225-4136

## STATE

**GOVERNOR** Ron DeSantis (R) 2026

**LT. GOVERNOR** Jeanette Nuñez (R) 2026

**ATTORNEY GENERAL** Ashley Moody (R) 2026

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER** Jimmy Patronis (R) 2026

**COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE** Wilton Simpson (R) 2026

The Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399

**4-year term**

850-717-9337

### STATE SENATE

**District 1** Doug Broxson (R) 2024

418 West Garden Street, 4th floor, Rm. 403, Pensacola, FL 32502  
318 Senate Office Bldg., 404 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399

**4-year term**  
850-595-1036  
850-487-5001

**District 2** Jay Trumbull (R) 2026

840 West 11th Street, Panama City, FL, 32401  
302 Senate Office Bldg., 404 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399

850-747-5454  
850-487-5002

### STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**District 3** Joel Rudman (R) 2024

4519 Woodbine Road, Pace, FL 32571  
222 The Capitol, 402 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399

**2-year term**  
850-995-3698  
850-717-5003

**District 4** T. Patterson "Patt" Maney (R) 2024

25 Walter Martin Rd NE, Suite 202, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548  
214 House Office Bldg., 402 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399

850-833-3713  
850-717-5004

### STATE ATTORNEY FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Ginger Bowden Madden (R) 2024

151 Cedar Ave., Crestview, FL 32536  
1-B 9th Ave., Shalimar, FL 32579

**4-year term**  
850-689-5620  
850-651-7260

### PUBLIC DEFENDER FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Bruce A. Miller (R) 2024

302 N Wilson St., Suite 301, Crestview, FL 32536  
1-A 9th Ave., Shalimar, FL 32579

**4-year term**  
850-689-5580  
850-651-7350

## COUNTY

### OKALOOSA COUNTY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT JD Peacock II (R) 2024

101 E James Lee Blvd, Crestview, FL 32536

**4-year term**

850-689-5000

SHERIFF Eric Aden (R) 2024

50 2nd St., Shalimar, FL 32579

850-651-7410

PROPERTY APPRAISER Mack Busbee (R) 2024

1250 Eglin Pkwy., Suite 201, Shalimar, FL 32579

850-651-7240

**COUNTY (CONTINUED)**

**TAX COLLECTOR** Ben Anderson (R) 2024  
1250 Eglin Pkwy., Suite 101, Shalimar, FL 32579 850-651-7300

**SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS** Paul Lux (R) 2024  
302 N Wilson St., Suite 102, Crestview, FL 32536 850-689-5600

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS** Marcus Chambers (R) 2024  
120 Lowery Pl., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 850-833-3110

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

302 N Wilson St., Suite 302, Crestview, FL 32536 **4-year term**  
1250 Eglin Pkwy., Suite 100, Shalimar, FL 32579 850-689-5030  
850-651-7105

**District 1** Paul Mixon (R) 2024

**District 2** Carolyn Ketchel (R) 2026

**District 3** Nathan Boyles (R) 2024

**District 4** Trey Goodwin (R) 2026

**District 5** Mel Ponder (R) 2024

County Commissioners are elected at large but must live in their districts. Districts 1, 3 and 5 are elected in Presidential years, and Districts 2 and 4 are elected in Gubernatorial years. The Commission meets twice monthly, usually on the first and third Tuesdays. Please call for confirmation.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

120 Lowery Pl., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 **4-year term**  
850-833-5895

**District 1** Lamar White 2026

**District 2** Marti Gardner 2024

**District 3** Linda Evanchyk 2026

**District 4** Tim Bryant 2024

**District 5** Diane Kelley 2026

School Board Members are elected at large but must live in their districts. Districts 1, 3 and 5 are elected in Gubernatorial years, and Districts 2 and 4 are elected in Presidential years. The School Board meets twice monthly, usually on the second and fourth Mondays. Please call for confirmation.

**OKALOOSA COUNTY JUDGES****6-year term**

**Group 1** Jim Ward 2028  
Okaloosa County Courthouse  
101 E James Lee Blvd., Crestview, FL 32536 850-689-4117

**Group 2** Angela D. Mason 2026  
Okaloosa County Courthouse Annex Extension  
1940 Lewis Turner Blvd., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547 850-609-3880

**Group 3** Jonathan Schlechter 2024  
Okaloosa County Courthouse Annex Extension  
1940 Lewis Turner Blvd., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547 850-609-5411

**FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF FLORIDA JUDGES****6-year term****Okaloosa County Courthouse****101 E James Lee Blvd., Crestview, FL 32536**

**Group 3** Lacey Powell Clark 2028 850-609-4700

**Group 15** Terrance R. Ketchel 2024 850-689-4116

**Okaloosa County Courthouse Annex Extension****1940 Lewis Turner Blvd., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547**

**Group 1** Jay Gontarek 2024 850-609-4700

**Group 2** John T. Brown 2028 850-609-5416

**Group 13** Vacant

**Group 21** William F. Stone 2028 850-609-4700

Disclaimer: This information is accurate as of February 17, 2023.

# 2023 OFFICES UP FOR ELECTION

Municipal Offices:	Niceville – Three (3) City Council Seats, Group 1, 3, and 5 Ft. Walton Beach – Four (4) City Council Seats Laurel Hill – Three (3) City Council Seats Shalimar - Mayor and two (2) Town Commission Seats
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# 2024 OFFICES UP FOR ELECTION

Federal Offices:	U.S. President and Vice President U.S. Senate House of Representatives - District 1
State Offices:	State Attorney Public Defender
Multicounty and District Offices:	Florida Senate - District 1 Florida House of Representatives - Districts 3 & 4
County Offices:	Clerk of Court, Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Superintendent of Schools, and Supervisor of Elections *Board of County Commissioners - Districts 1, 3 & 5 *School Board - Districts 2 & 4 (Nonpartisan)
Judicial Retention (Nonpartisan):	Florida Supreme Court and First District Court of Appeal
Circuit and County Court Judges: (Nonpartisan)	First Judicial Circuit and Okaloosa County Judges
Municipal Offices:	Cinco Bayou – Mayor and two (2) Town Council Seats Destin – Four (4) City Council Seats Mary Esther – Mayor and three (3) City Council Seats Valparaiso- Two (2) City Commission Seats Crestview- Mayor and two (2) City Council Seats

\*Elected at Large

## 2023 ELECTION DATES

**Municipal Election** **March 14, 2023**  
(Niceville, Fort Walton Beach, Laurel Hill, Shalimar)

*Last day to register* *February 13, 2023*

## 2024 ELECTION DATES

**Presidential Preference Primary and Municipal Election** **March 19, 2024**  
*Last day to register* *February 20, 2024*

**Primary Election** **August 20, 2024**  
*Last day to register or change political party* *July 22, 2024*

**General Election** **November 5, 2024**  
*Last day to register* *October 7, 2024*

*(Note: Early Voting schedule will be available at [www.VoteOkaloosa.gov](http://www.VoteOkaloosa.gov))*

Election Headquarters  
302 N Wilson Street, Ste 102  
Crestview, FL 32536  
Phone: 850.689.5600  
Fax: 850.689.5644



South Office  
1250 Eglin Pkwy, Ste 103  
Shalimar, FL 32579  
Phone: 850.651.7272