

# VOTING BILL OF RIGHTS

## ★★★ Florida Long-Term Care Residents ★★★

**This Bill of Rights outlines what resident voters can and should expect from our election systems — an environment that makes it easy to vote and hard to cheat.**

### I. THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The federal Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984 (VAEHA) is designed to assure the fundamental right to vote by directing polling locations to provide access for elderly and handicapped voters.

### II. THE RIGHT TO REGISTER TO VOTE

You also have the right to register to vote if you have changed your place of residence. You may directly register to vote or check your voter registration status at: Florida Online Voter Registration System. To avoid fraudulent system abuse, we recommend contacting your previous voting jurisdiction to ensure you are removed from their voter rolls.

### III. THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE VOTE FRAUD

After every recent election, there have been reports of people taking advantage of seniors to commit vote fraud by changing votes, inputting false choices and other crimes. Vote fraud is often committed face-to-face by people who approach you to "assist" with filling out your ballot or "delivering" your ballot to a polling location. You should only rely on trusted and known individuals to assist you with voting, and you have the right to refuse assistance from anyone you do not know or trust.

### IV. THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ASSISTANCE FROM UNKNOWN PERSONS OR PERSONS YOU DO NOT WANT HELP FROM

Many political operatives are active in neighborhoods or facilities with a large senior population and have been known to manipulate or change votes. Suppose a stranger approaches you with offers of voting assistance. In that case, you have a right to refuse such help and request that the operative or unknown person leave your property or residential unit.

### V. THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY

If any person is legally assisting you at your private home or residential community with filling in your mail-in, absentee or in person ballot, your choice is yours alone. It should not reflect the political preferences of the person assisting. Any person assisting you with transportation or accommodation at your home, residential

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community or polling station has no right to ask you about your personal and private voting preferences or make a voting suggestion. Voting is confidential!

### VI. THE RIGHT TO AN ABSENTEE OR MAIL BALLOT

Florida offers supervised voting to residents in long-term care communities. Election officials will deliver a ballot to you at the community. There are a few guidelines, so be sure to talk to your community director, ombudsman, or contact your local election office for more information. The deadline for your community director to request a supervised voting team visit your community is no later than 28 days before election day. You may call the Florida Division of Elections at 1.866.308.6739, for further guidance or help in locating your local election office.

### VII. THE RIGHT TO CONFIRMATION OF YOUR VOTE CHOICE

If the supervised voting team delivers your ballot to you, you always have the option to keep your ballot and vote at a later time. You also have the right to seek help from someone other than the supervised voting team outside of the presence of the team. You have the right to ensure that your ballot is handled confidentially, securely, and accurately--reflecting your vote choice.

### VIII. THE RIGHT TO DEMAND THAT STAFF ADHERE TO STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS

If you live in a residential community, you have a right to request that your community provide staff training on adherence to state and federal election laws. Staff cannot influence or comment on your choices, and they must maintain the confidentiality of your vote. If you suspect laws are being broken, contact the Florida voter/election fraud hotline at 1.877.868.3737. You may also call the Center for Vulnerable Voter at 888-820-VOTE.

### IX. THE RIGHT TO VOTING INFORMATION

The Florida Division of Elections provides complete information about your polling station and requirements in its "For Voters" tab. This information can be accessed directly at: <https://dos.fl.gov/elections>. The Florida Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program can provide information and resources to you by calling 1-888-831-0404 or email at [LTCOPInformer@elderaffairs.org](mailto:LTCOPInformer@elderaffairs.org).

### X. THE RIGHT TO APPLY FOR STATE PHOTO ID

Seniors who have given up a driving license have a right to receive a photo ID from their state. Presenting ID at polling stations helps to ensure no vote fraud

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will be committed in your name and affirms your right to vote. You or a trusted friend or relative can check with your local Department of Motor Vehicles. You may locate your local DMV at <https://www.dmvflorida.org/>.

### XI. THE RIGHT TO REQUEST ACCOMMODATION AT POLLING STATIONS

Federal and state laws provide you with the right to ask your polling location for accommodation and alternate means of voting on election day if you have sensory or mobility issues. These accommodations include visual aids, telecommunication devices for the hearing impaired or wheelchair ramps, without a medical certificate being required.

### XII. THE RIGHT TO MOVE TO HEAD OF THE LINE

If you are over 70 years old or physically disabled, federal law gives you the right to move to the front of the line at your polling location by making a request at check-in.

### XIII. THE RIGHT TO VOTE EVEN IF YOUR POLLING LOCATION IS NOT ACCESSIBLE

Suppose your home polling location cannot provide adequate accommodation for your physical disability. In that case, that location must direct you to the nearest polling station that can accommodate your sensory or mobility restrictions or provide another means of voting for you on Election Day.

### XIV. THE RIGHT TO CURBSIDE VOTING

Florida polling locations provide drive-up voting to accommodate people who wish to vote in person but have mobility challenges. In this case, a designated curbside official will show you their credential then provide you with a paper or electronic ballot.

### XV. THE RIGHT TO EARLY VOTING

With shorter lines and fewer crowds, early voting is often a good option for seniors. Verify the locations of early voting polling locations with your local election office.

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### XVI. THE RIGHT TO REDRESS IF NOT ACCOMMODATED ON ELECTION DAY

If you believe your rights to the accommodation have been violated, you can report this to your local election official or call the Florida Division of Elections at 1.866.308.6739. Be sure to notify your election official with specific details, including time and place, within 45 days of the election violation.

### XVII. THE RIGHT TO REQUEST CANDIDATE VISITS AT YOUR SENIOR RESIDENCE

Many candidates visit residential communities before elections. You have the right to request your community director invite candidates of all parties to visit your residence, hear your concerns, and explain their policy positions.

### XVIII. THE RIGHT TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

Many procedures and requirements for absentee or mail ballots and in-person voting accommodation can be found online on state and local voting information websites, as well as local political party pages.

### XIX. THE RIGHT TO DEMAND YOUR VOTING RIGHTS

You've earned it! If you feel your rights are being violated on election day, speak up for those rights or ask for assistance from a relative or trusted friend to ensure you can trust the integrity of your voting choice and be provided full federally protected sensory or physical accommodation.

### XX. THE RIGHT TO MARK ELECTION DAY ON YOUR CALENDAR

If you prefer to vote absentee, we recommend requesting your ballot no later than two months before election day. Don't miss your chance to have your voice heard in the political process.

### XXI. THE RIGHT TO TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR VOTE

America celebrates and treasures its senior voters who have left an indelible mark on our strength and patriotic culture. We thank you for your leadership and life-long demonstration of exemplary citizenship.