



CS/HB 7101 Elections

CS/HB 7101 ensures that supervisors of elections, poll workers, and county canvassing board members have the time and tools necessary to ensure smooth elections in the future.

- The bill addresses vote-by-mail process issues by:
 - Moving the last day voters can request a vote-by-mail ballot from 6 days to 10 days before an election and prohibiting supervisors of elections (SOEs) from mailing them less than 8 days prior to the election.
 - Allowing SOEs to mail domestic vote-by-mail ballots between 40 and 28 days before an election instead of 35 to 28 days, therefore extending voting in the state by up to 5 extra days.
 - Allowing a voter to drop a vote-by-mail ballot at a secure drop box located at each early voting location.
 - Allowing canvassing of vote-by-mail ballots to start one week earlier, beginning 22 days before an election rather than the current 15 days.
 - Moving the deadline for a voter to update his or her signature for purposes of validating a vote-by-mail ballot from the beginning of the vote-by-mail canvassing period to when the ballot is received by the SOE.
 - Extending the deadline for curing defective vote-by-mail ballot signatures from 5 PM on the day before the election to the second day after the election.
 - Requiring the Department of State to provide formal signature-matching training to SOEs and county canvassing boards.
 - Creating a process modeled after the vote-by-mail ballot cure process to cure provisional ballots with a signature problem to ensure that provisional ballots with signature problems have a cure option.
- The bill moves the primary election from 10 weeks to 11 weeks before the general election to give SOEs more time to prepare for a general election.
- The bill fixes transparency issues among county canvassing boards by:
 - Requiring the county canvassing board to post on the supervisor's website the time the board expects to reconvene if the board recesses for more than an hour. If the board does not reconvene at that specified time, the board must provide at least 2 hours' notice before reconvening.
 - Requiring county canvassing board members and staff to wear identification badges during any period in which the board is canvassing votes or performing official duties.



HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



REPRESENTATIVE DANE EAGLE, MAJORITY LEADER

- Increasing the security of ballots by requiring the Department of State to develop rules regarding minimum security standards to address the chain of custody of ballots, transportation of ballots, and ballot security, including requiring ballots to be kept in a locked room when not being canvassed.
- The bill preserves the sanctity of the polling place by expanding the no solicitation zone at polling places and early voting sites from 100 feet to 150 feet.
- The bill removes the prohibition on photography in the polling room by decriminalizing the action of voters taking pictures of his or her own ballot.
- The bill requires all ballot instructions to be horizontal across the top of the ballot or vertical on the leftmost column as long as there are no individual races underneath the instructions. This action will address issues with confusion of ballot design.
- The bill prohibits SOEs from collecting a special qualification salary for a period of 2 years if they are found by a court to have violated a provision of the Election Code. This will provide increased accountability for supervisors.
- The bill addresses voter confusion by:
 - Eliminating confusing language from a primary ballot for gubernatorial candidates if they have not designated a lieutenant governor by a time certain.
 - Providing that publication of sample ballots in a newspaper is not necessary if the SOE sent a sample ballot by mail or email to every registered voter in the county.
 - Allowing SOEs to use ballot-on-demand printers on election day.