

VOTING IN FLORIDA: SECURE BALLOT INTAKE STATIONS

What are Secure Ballot Intake Stations?

- These are drop boxes set up for the secure return of vote-by-mail ballots at authorized locations.
- Rather than returning a vote-by-mail ballot by mail, voters can return it at a secure ballot intake station.

Why are they allowed?

- [Florida Statute 101.69](#) allows supervisors of elections to place secure ballot intake stations in specific locations, during particular times, for the return of vote-by-mail ballots.

Where can they be located?

- At the supervisor of elections main office;
- At a permanent branch office of the Supervisor of Elections, if it has been used as such for at least a year before the election;
- At early voting sites during early voting hours;
- At another location that could qualify as an early voting site under Florida laws.

When are they available?

- The boxes are available during early voting hours, which may vary by county.

How are they secured?

- Florida law requires secure ballot intake stations to be supervised **in person** by personnel from the elections office during all operating hours, and ballots are retrieved at the end of each day.



*Image: Collier County
Supervisor of Elections Office*



Who can return ballots to the secure ballot intake stations?

- Florida voters who requested a vote-by-mail ballot, their designees, or any other individual, as permitted by Florida laws, may return vote-by-mail ballots to the secure ballot intake stations.
- When returning ballots, it's important to remember that Florida law limits the possession of ballots to: the voters' own ballot, their immediate family members, and only two additional ballots.

Who can collect the ballots from the secure ballot intake stations?

- Trained election worker staff secure ballot intake stations to ensure ballots are safe.
- They must be emptied by authorized personnel from the supervisor of elections office and returned to the supervisor's office after each day of early voting, while those located at the main office of the supervisor must be emptied each day before being left unsupervised.

How are the ballots transported to a supervisor of elections office?

- Only authorized personnel from the elections office may retrieve the ballots and transport them to the main office, following the chain of custody procedures.

Where can I find more information?

- Specific information about the availability of secure ballot intake stations can be found on each county's [supervisor of elections](#) website or by contacting the supervisor's office.

