

VOTING IN FLORIDA: NEWLY NATURALIZED UNITED STATES CITIZENS



Florida law stipulates that only individuals who are United States citizens who legally reside in Florida and in the county in which they intend to register may do so. A citizen of the United States, [as defined by U.S. law](#), is any individual who is a citizen of the United States by law, birth, or naturalization. As newly naturalized citizens, certain steps must be taken to fully participate in Florida elections.

Post-naturalization identification

- [Florida Statutes 322.19](#) establishes that if a person, after applying for or receiving a driver's license or identification card, becomes a citizen of the United States, such person must, **within 30 calendar days after making the change, obtain a replacement license or card that reflects such change**. Failure to do so is a non-moving violation that may result in a \$30.00 fine.
- Failure to update the identification on time **may result** in the individual being incorrectly flagged as a non-U.S. citizen attempting to register to vote or to vote.

Voter registration requirements

- Once an individual is naturalized, they become a United States citizen and may register to vote if they meet the other eligibility criteria, including that they:
 - Are at least 18 years of age (16-year-olds are eligible to pre-register);
 - Are a legal resident of the state of Florida;
 - Are a legal resident of the county in which they seek to be registered;
 - Have not been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting in Florida or any other state without having their right to vote restored; and
 - Have not been convicted of a felony without having their right to vote restored.
- **At this time**, individuals **are not required to present documentary proof of citizenship**, such as a birth certificate or passport, when registering to vote in Florida, but they will need to provide their Florida Driver's License or ID number or the last four digits of their Social Security number. If registering through the [Florida online voter registration portal](#), they must provide both sets of information.
- When an individual completes a voter registration application, they must check the box indicating that they are a United States citizen.



Identification for voting and where to vote

- In Florida, voters must show an acceptable form of identification that includes a photo and a signature **when voting in person**.
- The most common forms are the Florida Driver's License or ID. A complete list of acceptable forms of identification is available in [this resource from VoteRiders](#).
- If a voter does not provide acceptable identification, they can vote by casting a provisional ballot.
- Once an individual is registered to vote, they may vote by mail, during early voting in person, or at their assigned polling location on election day.
 - [Click here for voter-facing information on how to vote-by-mail.](#)
 - [Click here for voter-facing information on in-person early voting.](#)

Language or other assistance

- Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act protects the right of any voter who requires assistance to vote because of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write by requiring that the voter **be assisted by a person of the voter's choice**, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union.
- Additional language accessibility considerations vary by county. [You can find more information in this resource produced by All Voting is Local and LatinoJustice.](#)

Documentary proof of citizenship

- As stated before, individuals are not required to show documentary proof of citizenship in Florida when registering to vote. However, attempts have been made to incorporate this requirement into the voter registration process.
- [Here you can find talking points on this issue](#) to share with your networks.

When communicating with your networks

- Keep it simple and accurate. Do not share information unless it is from reliable sources.
- Re-emphasize the eligibility requirements to vote in Florida.
- Share resources that can assist with obtaining a new Florida ID or Driver's License:
 - [VoteRiders](#)
 - [IDignity](#)
- Do not share misinformation or other media aimed at causing fear.
- Unless you are qualified to do so, do not provide legal advice. Direct individuals with legal questions to a trusted legal services provider.