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**County of Volusia**

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**Voting by Mail**

In Volusia County, we are seeing a rise in voting by mail. We mailed out just under 80,000 in our initial mailing of ballots on July 24, 2018; and within three days over 10% had been returned. We will continue to mail each day until the deadline to request a mail ballot, August 22, 2018.

Of the ballots mailed out, we have received over 3,800 back from the post office as “undeliverable” or “temporarily away”. It is important to keep your address updated when you move, as mail ballots are non-forwardable.

Many voters are forgetting to sign the certificate on the back of the envelope. In the past this would have precluded the ballot from being counted; however, the legislature passed a statute allowing for the “cure” of a vote by mail ballot. This means for every ballot not signed or the signature is different than the signature on file; an affidavit is mailed to the voter. The voter has until 5 pm on the day before the election to return the affidavit along with a copy of identification.

When voting by mail, the signed certificate/envelope is verified with the signature on the voter’s registration record. Signatures may change over the years; therefore, it is good to update your signature periodically.

Rumors which state that mail ballots are only counted in close elections, or are not counted at all, **are absolutely false**. Mail ballots are actually the first ballots to be counted in an election. The canvassing board begins canvassing on the first day authorized by law. For the primary election, the date is August 13, 2018. Every mail ballot that is received from a voter that contains a properly completed certificate is counted in each election.

Everyone who votes by mail is encouraged to track their ballot at [www.volusiaelections.org](http://www.volusiaelections.org). A voter can see when the ballot was mailed out; and when it was received in the office. The deadline to return a mail ballot is 7 PM on Election Day in our office.

Voting by Mail is convenient, easy, no lines or waiting, no reason required, and delivered to your door. Request your ballot at [www.volusiaelections.org](http://www.volusiaelections.org) or call 386-736-5930.

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