from the desk of...

Craig Latimer
Supervisor *of* Elections

VoteHillsborough.org

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Understanding Primaries

are you ready to vote?

Most everyone knows that it's almost time to select our presidential nominees, but not all voters understand who votes in our primaries.

For our March 15 Presidential Preference Primary, voters who are registered as Democrats will vote for a Democratic nominee for president, and those who are registered as Republicans will vote for a Republican nominee for president. The State of Florida holds **closed primaries**, which means you have to be a member of a party to vote in that party's primary races. So if you are registered with any other party, or are not affiliated with a party, you will not vote in this election. The deadline to choose or change your party for the Presidential Preference Primary is **February 16**.

In August, we'll have a Primary Election that includes nominees for other offices. In that election, everyone gets to vote, but ballots will differ depending on party affiliation. Again, since Florida has closed primaries, you will choose a nominee within your party for partisan offices. But there will also be nonpartisan races, such as school board, on all ballots so those who aren't affiliated with a major party still have races and issues to vote on. The deadline to choose or change your party for the Primary Election is **August 1**.

The General Election is an open election, and you can choose any candidate to represent you, regardless of party affiliation. But you do need to make sure you're registered to vote by **October 11**.

Dates & Deadlines

Presidential Preference Primary

Deadline to register to vote or change your party: Feb. 16

Early Voting: Feb. 29 - Mar. 13

Election Day: Mar. 15

Primary Election

Deadline to register to vote or change your party: Aug. 1

Early Voting: Aug. 15 - Aug. 28

Election Day: Aug. 30

General Election

Deadline to register to vote or change your party: Oct. 11

Early Voting: Oct. 24 - Nov. 6

Election Day: Nov. 8

All Vote By Mail ballots must be in our office by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

the flip side

ARE YOU READY TO VOTE?

VoteHillsborough.org

JOIN ME...

We're hosting **open houses** at each of our offices so that voters, poll workers and anyone who is interested can see our new voting equipment and ask us questions about elections in Hillsborough County.

Tuesday, January 26, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections (Northwest Regional Office)
4575 Gunn Highway, Tampa, FL 33624

Tuesday, January 26, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Hillsborough County Elections Service Center
2514 N. Falkenburg Rd., Tampa, FL 33619

Wednesday, January 27, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
County Center *(lobby)*
601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33602

Thursday, February 4, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections (Southeast Regional Office)
10439 Gibsonton Dr., Riverview, FL 33578

ARTISTIC STUDENTS WANTED!

We're once again holding an art contest and asking high school students to submit original poster designs that encourage people to vote.

The best student designs will be used in our outreach efforts and seen on posters, our website and social media. They'll also be featured on a million McDonald's bag stuffers, thanks to a partnership with Caspers Company McDonald's. Caspers Company is also donating $100 to the first place artist and $100 to his or her art class.

Contact Gerri at gkramer@hcsoe.org for details.

the last word

Are you interested in working on Election Day? If so, please visit VoteHillsborough.org and go to "About Being A Poll Worker." Even if you've been a poll worker before, you must apply through our website. Thanks!

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