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Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Shares 2020 Election Plans

Hillsborough County, FL – Today, Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Craig Latimer outlined his plans for in-person voting and Vote By Mail for the upcoming 2020 Elections.

“As always, we will offer no-excuse Vote By Mail, postage-paid return envelopes for Vote By Mail, and the maximum number of Early Voting days for Hillsborough County voters,” said Supervisor Craig Latimer. “And while some of our Election Day polling places are unavailable to us, the large majority have been confirmed and will be open.”

With the addition of the University Area Community Center, Hillsborough County will have 24 Early Voting locations – one more than in the 2020 Presidential Preference Primary and eight more than the 2016 Presidential Election.

“The University Area Community Center is typically one of our busiest Election Day voting locations, so opening it up for Early Voting should help to lessen wait times in that area,” said Latimer.

During Early Voting, curbside tents will be outside each of the 24 sites for voters who want to drop off a Vote By Mail ballot. Vote By Mail ballots can also be dropped off at any of the four elections offices in Hillsborough County.

On Election Day, 239 locations will be open – which includes a loss of 21 locations that became unavailable due to COVID19. The office is sending out new Voter Information Cards this week to all voters who will experience a polling place change in the upcoming elections.

“When a polling place becomes unavailable, a lot of thought goes into where to reassign those voters. For 2020, we’ve primarily been able to reassign Election Day voters to other established polling places that are nearby and have room to accommodate more voters,” said Latimer.



In-person voting is expected to take longer than usual because of necessary health and safety precautions, which include limiting the number of people inside the polling place and continuous cleaning of equipment and surfaces. All Hillsborough County poll workers will wear masks and pass a temperature check before starting work.

Other planned health and safety measures for in-person voting include:

- Providing voters with single-use stylus pens and secrecy cover sheets
- Plexiglass barriers or face shields between poll workers and voters
- Minimizing touch points for voters and poll workers

Poll worker recruitment is well underway to determine the teams of people who will work in each polling place on Election Day, with a focus on bringing back experienced poll workers. So far, more than 1,600 poll workers have committed to working. Once all teams are assigned, new qualified applicants will be added to a standby pool. Those who are interested in working on Election Day can visit [VoteHillsborough.org](http://VoteHillsborough.org) to apply. Training is conducted online and begins next month.

Voters should be aware of these important dates and deadlines:

- Deadline to register to vote or change party: July 20
- Deadline to request Vote By Mail ballots: August 8
- Early Voting: August 3 – 16, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., including weekends, in 24 locations
- Vote By Mail:
  - Ballots that have been requested will be mailed to overseas and absent military voters beginning July 3 and to domestic voters beginning July 9.
  - All voted ballots must be in one of the four elections offices (not postmarked) no later than 7 p.m. August 18. Voters can mail their ballot back, no postage necessary. They can also drop their ballot off at any Early Voting site during Early Voting or at one of the four elections offices.
  - Voters should allow at least a week for the ballot to arrive by mail.
  - Voters can track their ballot online at [VoteHillsborough.org](http://VoteHillsborough.org).
- Election Day: August 18, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Voters must vote in their assigned polling place on Election Day.

“My message to voters is simple – don’t wait until the last minute,” said Latimer. “If you’re not already registered to vote, register now. If you haven’t requested a Vote By Mail ballot, do it now. If you prefer to vote in person, plan to go during the first week of Early Voting. And if you vote on Election Day, visit [VoteHillsborough.org](http://VoteHillsborough.org) or call our office before you leave to double-check your assigned polling place.”