



Okaloosa County, Florida

Vote by Mail Myths & Facts











Why sign up to Vote by Mail? Voting by mail significantly increases the number of voters who turn out. Make sure your voice is heard! The COVID-19 pandemic and hurricane season creates much uncertainty. Signing up for Vote by Mail is easy and provides a great "insurance policy" in these times.

How can someone request a Vote by Mail ballot? Complete a Vote by Mail ballot request online at www.voteokaloosa.gov or by calling and requesting a Vote by Mail ballot at either of the Supervisor of Elections offices: Crestview (850) 689-5600 or Shalimar (850) 651-7272. You can also request a Vote by Mail ballot by emailing plux@myokaloosa.com, and including your name, address, and date of birth in your email.

When you receive and complete your ballot, mail or hand deliver the ballot to the Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections office at 302 N Wilson St, Suite 102, Crestview, FL 32536-3474, or 1250 Eglin Parkway, Suite 103, Shalimar, FL 32579.

When will my Vote by Mail ballot arrive? In Okaloosa County, VBM ballots arrive approximately 35-40 days before the election.

	Myth: A voter can't vote in person if they have received a Vote by Mail ballot.
	Fact: A voter can decide to vote at the polls instead of using their Vote by Mail ballot. The Supervisor of Elections will check that the vote by mail ballot has not been received and if it hasn't, then they can vote using a regular ballot at the polling location. Voters are not required to bring their vote by mail ballot when voting in person at their polling location.
	Myth: You can't trust the mail system to deliver your ballot.
	Fact: You can make sure your ballot was delivered and received! Simply go to the Supervisor of Elections website at www.voteokaloosa.gov or call (850)-689-5600.
	Myth: Vote by Mail is less secure than voting in person and someone could hack it.
	Fact: Okaloosa County uses paper ballots, including vote by mail ballots, which are more secure than electronic voting. Vote by Mail ballots are opened and tabulated beginning one week before Election Day, then ballots are processed daily upon receipt. All ballots are accounted for and ballot counts are verified.

	Myth: If I do not receive my ballot in the mail, I cannot vote.
	Fact: If you did not receive your ballot in the mail, you can request a new one by contacting the Supervisor of Elections, or simply vote in person. The Supervisor of Elections mails ballots to voters approximately 40 days before the election.
	Myth: In 2018, the Supervisor of Elections rejected an excessive number of Vote by Mail ballots due to signature issues.
	Fact: Close to 100% of all Vote by Mail ballots returned to the Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections were counted in the last election. If there are any signature or other issues, the Supervisor of Elections contacts the voter the same day their ballot is received to try to resolve it. In 2018, 18,959 people voted by mail in our county and of these, 18,586 were counted. The majority of rejected ballots (0.7%) had issues that could not be resolved because the ballot was mailed in after election day. *Note: if your signature has changed significantly since your voter registration signature date, please re-register to vote in Okaloosa County with a legible signature that will match your Vote by Mail ballot signature.
	Myth: A stamp is not needed to mail in a Vote by Mail ballot.
	Fact: Only a first-class stamp is needed to mail in your completed ballot! You can also drop-off your completed ballot to the Supervisor of Elections office at any time before 7 PM on Election Day. According to a new Florida law, there will also be a drop box for completed VBM ballots at each Okaloosa County Early Voting location.
	Myth: A Voter can return their Vote by Mail ballot to any polling location on Election Day.
	Fact: On Election Day, completed Vote by Mail ballots can only be hand delivered to the Supervisor of Elections office by 7 PM.
	Myth: Vote-by-mail ballots are counted last and/or aren't counted unless needed to determine a winner.
	Fact: Florida law requires that vote-by-mail ballots must be reported to the Department of State 30 minutes after the polls close on election day.