

## **Customize this for YOUR precinct**

Dear Meadows' Neighbor,

Whether you plan to **Vote By Mail** or not, **please read this letter.**

The stakes in this year's November Presidential Election could not be higher and every vote will be critical. In casting your vote, you should anticipate the unexpected, and **have a voting plan** in place **NOW** which provides multiple ways for you to cast it. One of these should be Voting By Mail (VBM), or, as I like to call it, "Voting From Home". Think of VBM as "**voting insurance**", or, "**Plan B**", in case something/anything (the unexpected, or even, the unimaginable) happens.

### **Vote By Mail realities:**

- **VBM is the simplest, safest, most convenient way to vote!**
- Florida has been using VBM safely, reliably and without incident for years.
- You can easily **verify that your VBM ballot was received/accepted** by the Supervisor of Elections (SOE). **Either:**
  - Check online- [https://www.precinctfind.com/ab\\_status/ab\\_status\\_sar.php?op=lookup](https://www.precinctfind.com/ab_status/ab_status_sar.php?op=lookup)
  - Call the SOE at 941 861-8618
- You don't have to use your VBM ballot. You can change your mind and vote in person during Early Voting, or, on Election Day. (Either discard your VBM ballot or return it when you vote.)

### **If you have already signed up to VBM:**

- Verify your VBM status and mailing address. **Either:**
  - Check online- [https://www.precinctfind.com/ab\\_status/ab\\_status\\_sar.php?op=lookup](https://www.precinctfind.com/ab_status/ab_status_sar.php?op=lookup)
  - Call the SOE at 941 861-8618
- If traveling, submit a new VBM form to the SOE with the temporary address to mail your ballot.
  - Get a VBM form here: <https://www.sarasotavotes.com/content.aspx?id=19>
- Note- the Post Office will not forward VBM ballots to another address.

### **If you need to sign up to VBM, or, update your signature/address:**

- You'll need to submit a new VBM form to the SOE.
  - Get one online at <https://www.sarasotavotes.com/content.aspx?id=19>
  - Request one from the SOE at 941 861-8618
  - If traveling, include the temporary address to mail your ballot
    - Get a VBM form here: <https://www.sarasotavotes.com/content.aspx?id=19>
  - **Saturday, Oct. 24th, 5pm is the last day to request a VBM ballot**
- Note- the PO will not forward VBM ballots to another address.

### **Completed VBM ballot return options:**

- Mail (Post Office)
  - **MAIL EARLY IF USING THE PO**
- Hand deliver to SOE office

- Hand deliver to Early Voting sites

Please, please, seriously consider using, or, at least giving yourself the VBM option. Check your VBM status and ensure it is up to date; update your signature if it has changed; if traveling, provide the SOE the correct address to mail your ballot; and register to VBM if you haven't already done so. **Do it NOW.**

Below are answers to Frequently Asked VBM Questions (FAQ).

Any questions, please contact me. And, to paraphrase our next president ... "vote like your soul depends on it because it does".

Rita Major-Hallerdin

Meadows' Democratic Precinct Captain

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#### FAQ:

- When will VBM ballots be mailed? **Answer-** they will be mailed in batches towards the end of September.
- Is mailing my completed VBM ballot safe? **Answer-** YES, as of now, but plan to **MAIL EARLY**, by Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Besides the SOE office and Early Voting sites, will there be any other drop-off sites for VBM ballots to be returned? **Answer-** NO, only the SOE office and Early Voting sites.
- When does Early Voting start? **Answer-** Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> through Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:30am to 6:30pm daily.
- Besides returning VBM ballots early, is there any other advice regarding returning VBM ballots? **Answer-** make sure to sign, date, and put **TWO** forever stamps on the return envelope; and, make sure your signature matches the one on file.
- If a VBM ballot is returned because of being undeliverable or mail forwarding instructions to the PO, does the voter get removed from the Voter Registration Roll? **Answer-** NO, not the registration roll, but they may get dropped from receiving future VBM ballots until they submit another VBM form.
- Can a friend or a Precinct Captain drop off another voter's completed VBM ballot at the SOE's office or at Early Voting? **Answer-** YES, there is no limit to the number as long as each ballot envelope is properly completed by the voter.
- With the increased number of VBM ballots anticipated, will the SOE be notifying VBM voters with signature or name issues in time for them to remedy? **Answer-** YES, they will be notified immediately.
- What do I do if I mailed my ballot early, but in checking online, the SOE hasn't received it? **Answer-** call the SOE 941 861-8618 immediately.
- If I hand deliver my completed VBM ballot to the SOE office or an Early Voting site, do I need to put a stamp on it? **Answer-** NO.