



MEDIA
FREEDOM &
INFORMATION
ACCESS CLINIC



Media Access Overview: Florida

Access at the Polling Places

- Members of the media are not allowed inside the polling place. Fla. Stat. § 102.031.
- Members of the media are allowed to approach voters for the purpose of exit polling as voters are leaving the polling place within the 150-foot no-solicitation zone. Fla. Stat. § 102.031(4).
 - Solicitation that is prohibited within the designated zone includes “seeking or attempting to seek any vote, *fact, opinion*, or contribution[.]” Fla. Stat. §102.031(4)(b).
 - The clerk or supervisor of elections will designate the no-solicitation zone around the polling place. Fla. Stat. § 102.031.
- While voters are allowed to take a “ballot selfie,” no other photography is allowed inside the polling place. Fla. Stat. § 102.031(4).

Access to Vote Count & Tabulation/Vote Count Process

- For mail-in ballots, the Supervisor of Elections office handles verification of ballots and the results are compiled at the end of each day. However, the final results may not be released to the public until after 7:00 PM on election day. Fla. Stat. § 101.6103(6).

Access to Information Issues

- According to the Florida Division of Elections, both voting registration and voting history information is public record under Florida law.
- Additionally on the Florida Division of Elections website, the certification status and testing schedule for election systems and software is available.

Important Contact Information and Resources

- The State of Florida has compiled a list of resources for the media relating to elections on its website here: <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/contacts/media-room/>
- The Supervisor of Elections for each county and his or her contact information can be found at this link: <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/supervisors/>
- Information relating to election results data and voter registration statistics can be found at this link: <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/data-statistics/>

Contact the Reporters Committee Legal Hotline at 1-800-336-4243 or hotline@rcfp.org if you have questions about reporting on the general election or run into issues while covering the election.