Jan 24, 2019

**Vote by Mail (formally known as Absentee) Ballot Q. & A.**

*In 2016 the Legislator changed the name of Absentee Ballots to Vote by Mail Ballots*

**Vote by Mail information is protected by law.**  We are limited to who we can give this information to, and those persons can only use this information for election purposes.

**What does Bulk mean?** Bulk is the term we use for the first Vote by Mail ballot mailing. In August 2016, the bulk mailing was over 13,000 voters, county wide.

**When is the Bulk mailed?** F.S. 101.62 Vote by Mail ballots must be mailed between the 35th and 28th day before the election. In Monroe County we try to mail on the 1st day allowed. Bulk labels are paid for when you pick them up.

**What are dailies?** After the bulk is mailed, we mail Vote by Mail ballots daily. Candidates wanting to mail the dailies may come into the office every day after 4:00 pm to pick up labels, of the Vote by Mail ballots mailed that day. The Supervisor of Elections will run a tab for dailies. The tab must be paid the last week of Vote by Mail mailings.

**What form must be filed with the Supervisor of Elections to receive the Vote by Mail information?**  Candidate must complete and sign: **Application to Obtain Vote by Mail Ballot Information.** The Candidate will list representatives who have the authorization to pick this information up for the candidate. The representatives must complete and file with the Supervisor of Elections the **Representative’s Application** **to Obtain Vote by Mail Ballot Information**, prior to picking up the Vote by Mail information.

**Who can get the information:** Candidates may get information on who requested Vote by Mail ballots after they Qualify during the Qualifying period*. Qualifying period is F.S. 99.061 Noon of the 71st day prior to the primary elections and no later than Noon of the 67th day prior to the primary elections.*

**How Qualified Candidates can get the Vote by Mail information:** Qualified Candidates are able to request who has requested a Vote by Mail ballot and where it is being mailed to on labels (1 cent each label) or raw data (free). Don’t forget to budget for postage and printing cost.

**What does raw data mean?** Raw data is the Vote by Mail information in a format that must be imported into a program such as Excel. Candidates provide this information to a printing service/mail house to print the name and address on the mail piece to be sent to the Vote by Mail voter. Some qualified candidates will get raw data for the bulk and labels for the dailies.

**Shopping for a printing service/mail house:**  get recommendation from friends, past candidates, or services listed on the financial reports of past candidates. How much do they charge? How long will it take? Can they mail on a date that you request? Can they help you design the mailer? From mailing date to the date it is in the voters mail box how long will it take?

**Example of how many Vote by Mail ballots are mailed.**

2018 November - Gubernatorial – 17,000 Vote by Mail ballots were mailed out

2018 August – Primary – 14,000 Vote by Mail ballots were mailed out

**2016 General 79.19% turn out Presidential Election (13,336 early votes)**

17,967 Vote by Mail Ballots Requested

14,396 returned

**2016 Primary 37.57% turn out (2,622 early votes)**

14,335 Vote by Mail Ballots Requested

6,947 Rep ballots were mailed

7,422 Dem ballots were mailed

42 Libertarians

2,102 Other

7,978 returned

2017 March – Key Colony Bch Election – 150 Vote by Mail ballots were mailed out

2015 November – Marathon Election – 4,500 Vote by Mail ballots were mailed out