

FOUNDATION FOR FREEDOM | CONSTITUTIONAL COUNTY TOOLKIT

ELECTION INTEGRITY RESOURCES

A Florida Citizen Guide to Transparent, Lawful, Verifiable Elections

2026 RESOURCE LIBRARY

LEARN • OBSERVE • DOCUMENT • VERIFY • PARTICIPATE LAWFULLY

Purpose

Election integrity depends on lawful administration, accurate voter records, secure voting systems, transparent procedures, meaningful observation, reliable chain of custody, accurate canvassing, post-election audits, and public confidence grounded in verifiable facts.

This guide is designed to help Constitutional County Teams work constructively with Florida Supervisors of Elections while respecting the Supervisor's independent constitutional and statutory authority. It is not a substitute for Florida election law or official election procedures.

The Supervisor of Elections as a Constitutional County Pillar

The Supervisor of Elections administers election responsibilities assigned by Florida law. A County Commission or citizen committee should not attempt to assume or direct powers allocated to the Supervisor. The citizen role is education, lawful observation, public-record review, constructive questions, documented recommendations, and participation through procedures established by law.

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1. Florida Election Integrity Framework

State-certified voting systems and state voting-system standards.

County minimum security procedures for voting systems and election operations.

Publicly noticed pre-election Logic and Accuracy testing.

Ballot accounting, custody, transport, storage, and canvassing procedures.

Poll watchers and other forms of observation authorized by law.

Post-election voting-system audits.

Public inspection of ballots when permitted by Florida law and applicable procedures.

Voter-registration list-maintenance procedures.

Public records, official reports, and transparent documentation.

Election emergency contingency planning.

2. County Election Security Assessment

Use this assessment as a conversation guide, not as an accusation checklist. Ask the Supervisor's office to explain existing safeguards before recommending changes.

ASSESSMENT AREA	QUESTIONS TO ASK
Governance & Written Procedures	Are current security, continuity, incident-response, records, and chain-of-custody procedures documented and periodically reviewed?
Voting Systems	Which state-certified system and version does the county use? How are software, firmware, access, seals, storage, and trusted-build procedures controlled?
Logic & Accuracy Testing	When is public notice issued? What equipment and ballot styles are tested? How are discrepancies

	documented and resolved?
Physical Security	How are election facilities, tabulators, ballots, memory/media, and restricted areas secured?
Access Control	Who has authorized access? Are roles separated, logged, reviewed, and revoked when no longer needed?
Ballot Chain of Custody	How are blank, voted, spoiled, provisional, early-voting, Election Day, and vote-by-mail ballots accounted for and transported?
Vote-by-Mail	What procedures govern receipt, storage, signature review, cure, canvassing, duplication when legally required, and documentation?
Voter Registration	How does the office perform statutory list maintenance while protecting eligible voters from improper removal?
Canvassing	How can the public observe? How are discrepancies, provisional ballots, and vote-by-mail determinations documented?
Post-Election Audit	Which audit method is used? How are precincts/races selected, results reported, discrepancies explained, and records retained?
Cybersecurity & Continuity	What safeguards, backups, recovery procedures, incident reporting, and continuity plans protect election-support systems?

Public Transparency	Are notices, procedures, audit reports, canvassing information, public-record instructions, and observation rules easy to find?
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3. Questions for the Supervisor of Elections

What voting system and certified version is currently used in the county?

How does the office verify that installed election software corresponds to the state-authorized build?

What physical and procedural controls protect voting equipment and election media?

When will the next Logic and Accuracy Test occur, and how may citizens observe?

What ballot-accounting and chain-of-custody records are created at each stage?

How are bipartisan or multi-person controls used where required or appropriate?

What procedures govern vote-by-mail signature verification and cure?

How are provisional ballots handled and presented to the canvassing board?

What is the county's procedure for poll watchers and observers?

Which post-election audit method does the county use and why?

Where are past audit reports and conduct-of-election reports available?

How are election-related cybersecurity incidents reported and handled?

What election records can citizens inspect, and what exemptions or security restrictions apply?

What are the most common public misunderstandings about the county's election process?

What constructive role can trained citizens play in improving transparency and public confidence?

4. Logic and Accuracy Testing

Florida requires testing of tabulating equipment before an election. The state describes Logic and Accuracy testing as a publicly noticed process used to verify that ballots are prepared correctly and voting equipment accurately counts test votes.

- ☐ Find the official notice for the test.
- ☐ Review the county's observer rules before attending.
- ☐ Arrive early and sign in if requested.
- ☐ Observe the process rather than interfering with election staff.
- ☐ Record factual questions for the appropriate question period.
- ☐ Ask how test decks or test ballots are prepared and reconciled.
- ☐ Ask how any discrepancy is documented, corrected, retested, and reported.
- ☐ Distinguish observed facts from conclusions when reporting to your team.

5. Chain of Custody

Chain of custody is the documented control and transfer of election materials from one authorized stage or custodian to another. A useful review focuses on whether records permit officials and authorized reviewers to reconstruct what happened.

Unique container, seal, batch, precinct, or other identifiers where applicable

Date and time of transfer

Identity or role of persons releasing and receiving materials

Quantity or ballot-accounting information

Condition of seals or containers

Destination and storage location

Documentation of discrepancies or broken seals

Corrective action and supervisory review

6. Vote-by-Mail Transparency

Vote-by-mail procedures are governed in detail by Florida law. Citizen review should focus on whether statutory procedures are followed consistently and transparently rather than assuming that a rejected, cured, duplicated, or challenged ballot is inherently improper.

Learn the statutory deadlines and canvassing schedule.

Understand signature-review and cure procedures.

Ask how ballot envelopes and ballots are secured and accounted for.

Learn when and how canvassing-board proceedings may be observed.

Understand lawful ballot-duplication procedures before drawing conclusions from duplicated ballots.

Document specific incidents with date, location, persons involved, and supporting records.

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7. Voter Registration & List Maintenance

Accurate voter rolls matter, but list maintenance must also protect eligible voters from improper removal. Florida law establishes procedures for registration, address maintenance, eligibility review, notice, and removal.

Ask the Supervisor to explain the county's routine list-maintenance calendar.

Use official aggregate reports and public records rather than publishing sensitive voter information.

Distinguish inactive status, address changes, returned mail, deceased voters, felony-related eligibility questions, and duplicate records.

Do not assume an outdated record proves an illegal vote was cast.

Refer specific evidence of possible unlawful registration or voting through the legally appropriate process.

8. Poll Watchers, Observers & Public Conduct

Florida law provides specific roles and restrictions for poll watchers. Other election activities—such as canvassing, audits, ballot inspection, and testing—have their own observation rules.

Know whether you are acting as a legally designated poll watcher, member of the public, candidate representative, or other observer.

Follow credentialing, location, conduct, photography, voter-contact, and noninterference rules.

Never intimidate, confront, obstruct, or question voters in a manner prohibited by law.

Direct procedural questions to the designated election official rather than poll workers who are actively serving voters.

Keep contemporaneous factual notes.

Use the official challenge or complaint process when one exists.

9. Canvassing Board Observation

Review meeting notices and agendas.

Understand the board's legal role before attending.

Learn the categories of ballots or issues being considered.

Observe how decisions and votes are recorded.

Note the legal standards cited for disputed ballots.

Request public records after the meeting when additional documentation is needed.

Avoid treating disagreement over a ballot as proof of fraud.

10. Post-Election Audits

Florida requires a post-election voting-system audit following certification, subject to statutory exceptions. Current law permits a manual audit or an automated independent audit. Audit proceedings are publicly noticed and results are reported.

Determine which audit method the county selected.

Attend the public audit when possible.

Ask how the random selection is conducted.

Compare audit totals with the applicable reported totals.

Review the official discrepancy report rather than relying on social-media claims.

Ask how discrepancies were explained and whether corrective action was required.

Preserve the final audit report in the County Team's election resource file.

11. Public Records for Election Transparency

Public records can answer many questions without speculation. Requests should be narrow enough to be processed efficiently and should recognize statutory exemptions and security restrictions.

Public notices for Logic and Accuracy tests, canvassing, and audits

Publicly available voting-system certification/version information

County election security procedures to the extent public and nonexempt

Logic and Accuracy test documentation

Canvassing-board minutes and public materials

Post-election audit reports

Conduct-of-election reports

Public ballot-accounting or reconciliation records

Contracts and procurement records for election equipment or services, subject to exemptions

Policies governing records retention, observers, or public inspection

12. Sample Public Records Request

“Pursuant to Florida public-records law, I request electronic copies of the following existing, nonexempt records for the [DATE/ELECTION]: [describe records narrowly]. I am not requesting the creation of a new report. If any portion is exempt, please provide the nonexempt portion and identify the legal basis for the exemption. Please advise before incurring costs above \$____.”

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13. Citizen Election Incident Report

For serious, specific concerns, use a factual incident form. Do not label an event as fraud unless reliable evidence supports that conclusion.

Date and exact time

Election / voting location / meeting

Observer's name and contact information

Role: voter, poll watcher, observer, worker, candidate representative, other

Names/titles of officials involved, if known

Exactly what was personally observed

What was heard directly and by whom

Photographs/video/documents lawfully obtained

Names/contact information of witnesses

Rule, procedure, or law believed relevant

Who was notified and the response received

Requested follow-up

14. Model County Election Security Plan — Citizen Review Framework

This framework is intended for discussion with the Supervisor of Elections. It should not be adopted by a County Commission in a manner that intrudes upon authority assigned by law to the Supervisor.

- 1. Legal Compliance** — Maintain current procedures aligned with Florida election statutes, administrative rules, Division of Elections directives, and certified voting-system requirements.
- 2. Physical Security** — Document controlled access to election facilities, ballots, equipment, media, storage, and transport.
- 3. Personnel Controls** — Define roles, training, access authorization, separation of duties, credentialing, and termination of access.
- 4. Voting-System Security** — Use only authorized systems and versions; protect trusted-build installation, configuration, seals, logs, backups, and equipment custody.
- 5. Pre-Election Testing** — Conduct and document required Logic and Accuracy testing with lawful public observation.
- 6. Ballot Control** — Maintain accounting and chain-of-custody procedures for all ballot categories.
- 7. Vote-by-Mail** — Document receipt, storage, signature review, cure, canvassing, duplication, and reconciliation procedures required by law.

8. Early Voting & Election Day — Maintain site-opening, equipment, ballot, voter-processing, incident, closing, reconciliation, and transport procedures.

9. Canvassing — Provide lawful public notice, orderly observation, documented determinations, and retention of required records.

10. Cybersecurity — Maintain access controls, patch/configuration management where applicable, backups, incident response, recovery, and coordination with authorized state/federal security resources.

11. Continuity — Maintain contingency plans for storms, power loss, facility disruption, equipment failure, communications failure, and other emergencies.

12. Audit & Reconciliation — Complete statutory audits, investigate discrepancies, document findings, and implement corrective action.

13. Transparency — Publish notices, observation instructions, public reports, FAQs, and lawful records-access information.

14. Continuous Improvement — After each major election, conduct a documented lessons-learned review and update procedures where appropriate.

15. County Team Election Integrity Scorecard

AREA	VERIFIED / STRONG	NEEDS FOLLOW-UP	NOTES / SOURCE
Governance & Written Procedures	☐	☐	
Voting Systems	☐	☐	
Logic & Accuracy Testing	☐	☐	
Physical Security	☐	☐	
Access Control	☐	☐	
Ballot Chain of Custody	☐	☐	

Vote-by-Mail	☐	☐	
Voter Registration	☐	☐	
Canvassing	☐	☐	
Post-Election Audit	☐	☐	
Cybersecurity & Continuity	☐	☐	
Public Transparency	☐	☐	

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16. Election Integrity Team Rules

- ☐ Use primary sources first.
- ☐ Verify claims before publishing them.
- ☐ Separate procedural questions from allegations of wrongdoing.
- ☐ Do not infer an illegal vote merely from an imperfect voter-registration record.
- ☐ Respect voter privacy and ballot secrecy.
- ☐ Do not interfere with election workers, voters, canvassing boards, audits, or testing.
- ☐ Follow Florida law governing poll watchers, challenges, public inspection, and election conduct.
- ☐ Correct mistakes publicly when the team discovers it circulated inaccurate information.

- ☐ Preserve original documents and contemporaneous notes.
- ☐ Escalate credible evidence through the proper legal or administrative channel.

17. 90-Day County Election Integrity Action Plan

Days 1–30 — Meet the Supervisor or staff; identify voting system/version; obtain election calendar, observation rules, and public resources; build a small trained team.

Days 31–60 — Review public procedures and prior audit reports; attend available public testing/canvassing activities; identify questions requiring records or clarification.

Days 61–90 — Complete the County Election Security Assessment; meet again with the Supervisor; present a short list of evidence-based recommendations; prepare observers for upcoming public processes.

18. Florida Legal & Official Resource Guide

Florida Constitution — Article VI (Suffrage and Elections) and Article VIII (Local Government)

Florida Election Code — Chapters 97–106, Florida Statutes

Section 101.5612 — Testing of tabulating equipment

Section 101.131 — Watchers at polls

Section 101.572 — Public inspection of ballots

Section 101.591 — Voting system audit

Sections 101.5614 and related provisions — canvassing and election procedures

Sections 101.62–101.69 — vote-by-mail procedures

Florida Division of Elections voting-system, rules, forms, publications, and reports pages

Applicable Florida Administrative Code election rules

19. Recommended Toolkit Resources

What Is a Constitutional County?

Constitutional County Strategy Overview

How to Organize a Constitutional County Team

County Commissioner Outreach Guide

Sheriff Outreach Guide

Constitutional Compliance Committee Model

Citizen Constitutional Complaint Form

Petition for Redress Template

Sample Constitutional County Resolution

Model Constitutional County Ordinance

Educational & Legal Notice

This guide is provided for education and civic participation and is not legal advice. Florida election law is detailed and can change. Election administration authority is allocated by the Florida Constitution and statutes, and some election records or security information may be confidential or exempt. Before undertaking observation, challenges, ballot inspection, public-record requests, or formal complaints, consult current Florida law and official instructions from the Florida Division of Elections and the relevant Supervisor of Elections.

TRUST GROWS WHEN ELECTIONS ARE LAWFUL, TRANSPARENT, OBSERVABLE, AND VERIFIABLE.

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