

26 | deceased registered voters using information received
27 | from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor
28 | Vehicles; amending s. 98.093, F.S.; requiring clerks
29 | of the circuit court and the Department of Highway
30 | Safety and Motor Vehicles to monthly furnish certain
31 | information to the Department of State; amending s.
32 | 100.041, F.S.; providing an exception to certain
33 | county commissioner election requirements for certain
34 | districts; amending s. 100.371, F.S.; requiring a
35 | supervisor to separate and provide a method of viewing
36 | and copying certain retained signature forms;
37 | requiring a supervisor to post certain information on
38 | his or her website; creating s. 101.019, F.S.;
39 | prohibiting the use of ranked-choice voting to
40 | determine election or nomination of any candidate to
41 | elective office; providing that certain existing or
42 | future ordinances are void; amending s. 101.5614,
43 | F.S.; requiring certain individuals to sign a certain
44 | affidavit; prohibiting certain individuals from
45 | releasing certain information about an election before
46 | the closing of the polls; providing criminal
47 | penalties; amending ss. 101.6103 and 101.6104, F.S.;
48 | revising certain provisions governing the Mail Ballot
49 | Election Act to conform to changes made by the act;
50 | amending s. 101.64, F.S.; requiring the voter's

51 certificate for vote-by-mail ballots be printed on a
52 separate certificate envelope, instead of the return
53 mailing envelope; requiring the voter's certificate
54 for a vote-by-mail ballot to include space for the
55 last four digits of the absent elector's driver
56 license number, Florida identification card number, or
57 social security number; amending s. 101.65, F.S.;
58 revising instructions that must be provided to absent
59 electors to conform to changes made by the act;
60 amending s. 101.68, F.S.; requiring a supervisor to
61 verify an absent elector's partial identification
62 number listed on the voter's certificate upon receipt
63 of a vote-by-mail ballot; requiring a canvassing board
64 to make certain determinations; providing that a vote-
65 by-mail ballot may only be counted if certain criteria
66 are met; requiring a supervisor to provide certain
67 notification to certain electors; amending ss.
68 101.6921, 101.6923, and 101.6925, F.S.; revising
69 provisions governing special vote-by-mail ballots to
70 certain first-time voters to conform to changes made
71 by the act; amending s. 102.091, F.S.; requiring the
72 Governor, in consultation with the executive director
73 of the Department of Law Enforcement, to appoint
74 special officers to investigate violations of the
75 Florida Election Code; providing requirements for such

76 special officers; providing construction; amending s.
 77 102.101, F.S.; prohibiting a special officer from
 78 entering a polling place; providing exceptions;
 79 amending s. 104.0616, F.S.; increasing criminal
 80 penalties for a person who distributes, orders,
 81 requests, collects, delivers, or otherwise physically
 82 possesses more than two vote-by-mail ballots per
 83 election except in certain circumstances; amending s.
 84 104.185, F.S.; increasing criminal penalties for a
 85 person who signs another person's name or a fictitious
 86 name on certain petitions; amending s. 104.186, F.S.;
 87 increasing criminal penalties for a person who
 88 compensates a petition circulator based on the number
 89 of petition forms gathered; amending s. 124.011, F.S.;
 90 providing that certain county commissioners must be
 91 elected at the general election immediately following
 92 redistricting; requiring such commissioners' terms to
 93 commence on a certain date; providing applicability;
 94 amending s. 921.0022, F.S.; ranking a specified
 95 offense involving vote-by-mail ballots on the severity
 96 ranking chart of the Criminal Punishment Code;
 97 requiring the Department of State to submit to the
 98 Legislature a report detailing a plan for obtaining an
 99 identifying number from each registered voter who does
 100 not have one on file; providing requirements for the

101 plan; providing effective dates.

102

103 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

104

105 Section 1. Section 97.022, Florida Statutes, is created to
106 read:

107 97.022 Office of Election Crimes and Security; creation;
108 purpose and duties.—

109 (1) The Office of Election Crimes and Security is created
110 within the Department of State. The purpose of the office is to
111 aid the Secretary of State in completion of his or her duties
112 under s. 97.012(12) and (15) by:

113 (a) Receiving and reviewing notices and reports generated
114 by government officials or any other person regarding alleged
115 occurrences of election law violations or election
116 irregularities in this state.

117 (b) Initiating independent inquiries and conducting
118 preliminary investigations into allegations of election law
119 violations or election irregularities in this state.

120 (2) The office may review complaints and conduct
121 preliminary investigations into alleged violations of the
122 Florida Election Code or any rule adopted pursuant thereto and
123 any election irregularities.

124 (3) The secretary shall appoint a director of the office.

125 (4) The office shall be based in Tallahassee and shall

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126 employ nonsworn investigators to conduct any investigations. The
127 positions and resources necessary for the office to accomplish
128 its duties shall be established through and subject to the
129 legislative appropriations process.

130 (5) The office shall oversee the department's voter fraud
131 hotline.

132 (6) This section does not limit the jurisdiction of any
133 other office or agency of the state empowered by law to
134 investigate, act upon, or dispose of alleged election law
135 violations.

136 (7) By January 15 of each year, the department shall
137 submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
138 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives detailing
139 information on investigations of alleged election law violations
140 or election irregularities conducted during the prior calendar
141 year. The report must include the total number of complaints
142 received and independent investigations initiated and the number
143 referred to another agency for further investigation or
144 prosecution, including the total of those sent to a special
145 officer pursuant to s. 102.091. For each alleged violation or
146 irregularity investigated, the report must include:

147 (a) The source of the alleged violation or irregularity;

148 (b) The law allegedly violated or the nature of the
149 irregularity reported;

150 (c) The county in which the alleged violation or

151 irregularity occurred;

152 (d) Whether the alleged violation or irregularity was
 153 referred to another agency for further investigation or
 154 prosecution, and if so, to which agency; and

155 (e) The current status of the investigation or resulting
 156 criminal case.

157 Section 2. Section 97.0291, Florida Statutes, is amended
 158 to read:

159 97.0291 Prohibition on use of private funds for election-
 160 related expenses.—No agency or state or local official
 161 responsible for conducting elections, including, but not limited
 162 to, a supervisor of elections, may solicit, accept, use, or
 163 dispose of any donation in the form of money, grants, property,
 164 or personal services from an individual or a nongovernmental
 165 entity for the purpose of funding any type of expenses related
 166 to election administration, including, but not limited to,
 167 ~~election-related expenses or~~ voter education, voter outreach,
 168 voter ~~or~~ registration programs, or the cost of any litigation
 169 related to election administration. This section does not
 170 prohibit the donation and acceptance of space to be used for a
 171 polling room or an early voting site.

172 Section 3. Subsection (13) of section 97.057, Florida
 173 Statutes, is amended to read:

174 97.057 Voter registration by the Department of Highway
 175 Safety and Motor Vehicles.—

176 (13) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
 177 must assist the Department of State in regularly identifying
 178 changes in residence address on the driver license or
 179 identification card of a voter. The Department of State must
 180 report each such change to the appropriate supervisor of
 181 elections who must change the voter's registration records in
 182 accordance with s. 98.065(5) ~~s. 98.065(4)~~.

183 Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
 184 97.0575, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

185 97.0575 Third-party voter registrations.—

186 (3)(a) A third-party voter registration organization that
 187 collects voter registration applications serves as a fiduciary
 188 to the applicant, ensuring that any voter registration
 189 application entrusted to the organization, irrespective of party
 190 affiliation, race, ethnicity, or gender, must be promptly
 191 delivered to the division or the supervisor of elections in the
 192 county in which the applicant resides within 14 days after the
 193 application was completed by the applicant, but not after
 194 registration closes for the next ensuing election. A third-party
 195 voter registration organization must notify the applicant at the
 196 time the application is collected that the organization might
 197 not deliver the application to the division or the supervisor of
 198 elections in the county in which the applicant resides in less
 199 than 14 days or before registration closes for the next ensuing
 200 election and must advise the applicant that he or she may

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201 deliver the application in person or by mail. The third-party
202 voter registration organization must also inform the applicant
203 how to register online with the division and how to determine
204 whether the application has been delivered. If a voter
205 registration application collected by any third-party voter
206 registration organization is not promptly delivered to the
207 division or supervisor of elections in the county in which the
208 applicant resides, the third-party voter registration
209 organization is liable for the following fines:

210 1. A fine in the amount of \$50 for each application
211 received by the division or the supervisor of elections in the
212 county in which the applicant resides more than 14 days after
213 the applicant delivered the completed voter registration
214 application to the third-party voter registration organization
215 or any person, entity, or agent acting on its behalf. A fine in
216 the amount of \$250 for each application received if the third-
217 party voter registration organization or person, entity, or
218 agency acting on its behalf acted willfully.

219 2. A fine in the amount of \$100 for each application
220 collected by a third-party voter registration organization or
221 any person, entity, or agent acting on its behalf, before book
222 closing for any given election for federal or state office and
223 received by the division or the supervisor of elections in the
224 county in which the applicant resides after the book-closing
225 deadline for such election. A fine in the amount of \$500 for

226 each application received if the third-party registration
 227 organization or person, entity, or agency acting on its behalf
 228 acted willfully.

229 3. A fine in the amount of \$500 for each application
 230 collected by a third-party voter registration organization or
 231 any person, entity, or agent acting on its behalf, which is not
 232 submitted to the division or supervisor of elections in the
 233 county in which the applicant resides. A fine in the amount of
 234 \$1,000 for any application not submitted if the third-party
 235 voter registration organization or person, entity, or agency
 236 acting on its behalf acted willfully.

237
 238 The aggregate fine pursuant to this paragraph which may be
 239 assessed against a third-party voter registration organization,
 240 including affiliate organizations, for violations committed in a
 241 calendar year is \$50,000 ~~\$1,000~~.

242 Section 5. Subsections (3) through (6) of section 98.065,
 243 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4) through (7),
 244 respectively, paragraph (c) of present subsection (4) is
 245 redesignated as paragraph (e), subsection (2) and present
 246 subsections (3) are amended, and a new subsection (3) is added
 247 to that section and new paragraphs (c) and (d) are added to
 248 present subsection (4) of that section, to read:

249 98.065 Registration list maintenance programs.—

250 (2) A supervisor must incorporate ~~one or more of~~ the

251 following procedures in the supervisor's ~~biennial~~ registration
 252 list maintenance program ~~under which:~~

253 (a) At least once each even-numbered year, to begin in
 254 November of the year preceding a presidential election year,
 255 change-of-address information supplied by the United States
 256 Postal Service through its licensees is used to identify
 257 registered voters whose addresses might have changed.;

258 (b) At least once each odd-numbered year, change-of-
 259 address information is identified from returned nonforwardable
 260 return-if-undeliverable address confirmation requests mailed
 261 ~~mail sent~~ to all registered voters in the county.; ~~or~~

262 (c) At the supervisor's discretion, change-of-address
 263 information is identified from returned nonforwardable return-
 264 if-undeliverable address confirmation requests mailed to all
 265 registered voters who have not voted in the last 2 years and who
 266 did not make a written request that their registration records
 267 be updated during that time.

268 (d) At least once each odd-numbered year, an identifying
 269 number solicitation is sent by nonforwardable return-if-
 270 undeliverable mail to each voter who does not have on file a
 271 Florida driver license number, a Florida identification card
 272 number, or the last four digits of his or her social security
 273 number.

274 (3) (a) Address confirmation requests sent pursuant to
 275 paragraphs (2) (b) and (c) must be addressed to the voter's

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276 address of legal residence. If a request is returned as
277 undeliverable, any other notification sent to the voter pursuant
278 to subsection (5) or s. 98.0655 must be addressed to the voter's
279 mailing address on file, if any, in addition to any residence
280 address on file.

281 (b) An identifying number solicitations sent pursuant to
282 paragraph (2)(d) must be addressed to the voter's mailing
283 address.

284 (4)(3) A registration list maintenance program must be
285 conducted by each supervisor at least annually, but may begin in
286 November of the year preceding a presidential election year, at
287 a minimum, in each odd-numbered year and must be completed not
288 later than 90 days prior to the date of any federal election.
289 All list maintenance actions associated with each voter must be
290 entered, tracked, and maintained in the statewide voter
291 registration system.

292 (5)(4)

293 (c) If the supervisor of elections receives returned mail
294 addressed to a voter at his or her address of legal residence
295 indicating that the mail was undeliverable but without
296 indication of an address change, the supervisor must send an
297 address confirmation request to the voter's mailing address on
298 file.

299 (d) If an address confirmation request sent pursuant to
300 paragraph (c) is returned as undeliverable with no indication of

301 an address change, an address confirmation final notice must be
 302 delivered to the voter at any address on file.

303 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 98.0655, Florida
 304 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (4) is added to that
 305 section, to read:

306 98.0655 Registration list maintenance forms.—The
 307 department shall prescribe registration list maintenance forms
 308 to be used by the supervisors which must include:

309 (1) An address confirmation request that must contain the
 310 following:

311 (a) The voter's name and address of legal residence as
 312 shown on the voter registration record.~~;~~ ~~and~~

313 (b) A request that the voter notify the supervisor if
 314 either the voter's name or address of legal residence is
 315 incorrect.

316 (c) Instructions for updating voter registration
 317 information online.

318 (d) A voter registration application for the voter's use
 319 if making a registration change by mail.

320 (e) Notification that a person who willfully submits any
 321 false voter registration information commits a felony of the
 322 third degree, as provided by s. 104.011(2).

323 (4) An identifying number solicitation that requests the
 324 voter provide his or her Florida driver license number or
 325 Florida identification card number, and the last four digits of

326 his or her social security number.

327 Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
328 98.075, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

329 98.075 Registration records maintenance activities;
330 ineligibility determinations.—

331 (3) DECEASED PERSONS.—

332 (a)1. The department shall identify those registered
333 voters who are deceased by comparing information received from
334 the following entities ~~either~~:

335 a. The Department of Health as provided in s. 98.093. ~~;~~ ~~or~~

336 b. The United States Social Security Administration,
337 including, but not limited to, any master death file or index
338 compiled by the United States Social Security Administration.

339 c. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

340 2. Within 7 days after receipt of such information through
341 the statewide voter registration system, the supervisor shall
342 remove the name of the registered voter.

343 Section 8. Paragraphs (b) and (g) of subsection (2) of
344 section 98.093, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

345 98.093 Duty of officials to furnish information relating
346 to deceased persons, persons adjudicated mentally incapacitated,
347 ~~and~~ persons convicted of a felony, and persons who are not
348 United States citizens.—

349 (2) To the maximum extent feasible, state and local
350 government agencies shall facilitate provision of information

351 and access to data to the department, including, but not limited
 352 to, databases that contain reliable criminal records and records
 353 of deceased persons. State and local government agencies that
 354 provide such data shall do so without charge if the direct cost
 355 incurred by those agencies is not significant.

356 (b) Each clerk of the circuit court shall furnish monthly
 357 to the department:

358 1. A list of those persons who have been adjudicated
 359 mentally incapacitated with respect to voting during the
 360 preceding calendar month, a list of those persons whose mental
 361 capacity with respect to voting has been restored during the
 362 preceding calendar month, and a list of those persons who have
 363 returned signed jury notices during the preceding months to the
 364 clerk of the circuit court indicating a change of address. Each
 365 list must ~~shall~~ include the name, address, date of birth, race,
 366 sex, and, whichever is available, the Florida driver license
 367 number, Florida identification card number, or social security
 368 number of each such person.

369 2. Information on the terms of sentence, including any
 370 financial obligations, of all persons listed in the clerk's
 371 records who reside within the state and have been convicted of a
 372 felony.

373 (g) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
 374 shall furnish monthly to the department:

375 1. A list of those persons whose names have been removed

376 from the driver license database because they have been licensed
 377 in another state. The list must ~~shall~~ contain the name, address,
 378 date of birth, sex, social security number, and driver license
 379 number of each such person.

380 2. A list of those persons who presented evidence of non-
 381 United States citizenship upon being issued a new or renewed
 382 Florida driver license or Florida identification card. The list
 383 must contain the name; address; date of birth; social security
 384 number, if applicable; and Florida driver license number or
 385 Florida identification card number, as applicable, of each such
 386 person.

387 Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
 388 100.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

389 100.041 Officers chosen at general election.—

390 (2) (a) Except as provided in s. 124.011 relating to single
 391 member districts after decennial redistricting, each county
 392 commissioner from an odd-numbered district shall be elected at
 393 the general election in each year the number of which is a
 394 multiple of 4, for a 4-year term commencing on the second
 395 Tuesday following such election, and each county commissioner
 396 from an even-numbered district shall be elected at the general
 397 election in each even-numbered year the number of which is not a
 398 multiple of 4, for a 4-year term commencing on the second
 399 Tuesday following such election. A county commissioner is
 400 "elected" for purposes of this paragraph on the date that the

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401 county canvassing board certifies the results of the election
402 pursuant to s. 102.151.

403 Section 10. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (11) of
404 section 100.371, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

405 100.371 Initiatives; procedure for placement on ballot.-

406 (11) (a) An initiative petition form circulated for
407 signature may not be bundled with or attached to any other
408 petition. Each signature shall be dated when made and shall be
409 valid until the next February 1 occurring in an even-numbered
410 year for the purpose of the amendment appearing on the ballot
411 for the general election occurring in that same year, provided
412 all other requirements of law are met. The sponsor shall submit
413 signed and dated forms to the supervisor of elections for the
414 county of residence listed by the person signing the form for
415 verification of the number of valid signatures obtained. If a
416 signature on a petition is from a registered voter in another
417 county, the supervisor shall notify the petition sponsor of the
418 misfiled petition. The supervisor shall promptly verify the
419 signatures within 60 days after receipt of the petition forms
420 and payment of a fee for the actual cost of signature
421 verification incurred by the supervisor. However, for petition
422 forms submitted less than 60 days before February 1 of an even-
423 numbered year, the supervisor shall promptly verify the
424 signatures within 30 days after receipt of the form and payment
425 of the fee for signature verification. The supervisor shall

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426 promptly record, in the manner prescribed by the Secretary of
427 State, the date each form is received by the supervisor, and the
428 date the signature on the form is verified as valid. The
429 supervisor may verify that the signature on a form is valid only
430 if:

431 1. The form contains the original signature of the
432 purported elector.

433 2. The purported elector has accurately recorded on the
434 form the date on which he or she signed the form.

435 3. The form sets forth the purported elector's name,
436 address, city, county, and voter registration number or date of
437 birth.

438 4. The purported elector is, at the time he or she signs
439 the form and at the time the form is verified, a duly qualified
440 and registered elector in the state.

441 5. The signature was obtained legally, including that if a
442 paid petition circulator was used, the circulator was validly
443 registered under subsection (3) when the signature was obtained.

444
445 The supervisor shall retain all ~~the~~ signature forms, separating
446 forms verified as valid from those deemed invalid, for at least
447 1 year following the election for ~~in~~ which the petition was
448 circulated. The supervisor shall provide a method of viewing and
449 copying valid and invalid forms ~~issue appeared on the ballot or~~
450 ~~until the division notifies the supervisors of elections that~~

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451 ~~the committee that circulated the petition is no longer seeking~~
452 ~~to obtain ballot position.~~

453 (c) On the last day of each month, or on the last day of
454 each week from December 1 of an odd-numbered year through
455 February 1 of the following year, each supervisor shall post on
456 his or her website the total number of signatures submitted, the
457 total number of invalid signatures, the total number of
458 signatures processed, and the aggregate number of verified valid
459 signatures and the distribution of such signatures by
460 congressional district for each proposed amendment proposed by
461 initiative, along with the following information specific to the
462 reporting period: the total number of signed petition forms
463 received, the total number of signatures verified, the
464 distribution of verified valid signatures by congressional
465 district, and the total number of verified petition forms
466 forwarded to the Secretary of State.

467 Section 11. Section 101.019, Florida Statutes, is created
468 to read:

469 101.019 Ranked-choice voting prohibited.—

470 (1) A ranked-choice voting method that allows voters to
471 rank candidates for an office in order of preference and have
472 ballots cast be tabulated in multiple rounds following the
473 elimination of a candidate until a single candidate attains a
474 majority may not be used in determining the election or
475 nomination of any candidate to any local, state, or federal

476 elective office in the state.

477 (2) Any existing or future ordinance enacted or adopted by
478 a county, a municipality, or any other local governmental entity
479 which is in conflict with this section is void.

480 Section 12. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and subsection
481 (8) of section 101.5614, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

482 101.5614 Canvass of returns.—

483 (4)(a) If any vote-by-mail ballot is physically damaged so
484 that it cannot properly be counted by the voting system's
485 automatic tabulating equipment, a true duplicate copy shall be
486 made of the damaged ballot in an open and accessible room in the
487 presence of witnesses and substituted for the damaged ballot.
488 Likewise, a duplicate ballot shall be made of a vote-by-mail
489 ballot containing an overvoted race if there is a clear
490 indication on the ballot that the voter has made a definite
491 choice in the overvoted race or ballot measure. A duplicate
492 shall include all valid votes as determined by the canvassing
493 board based on rules adopted by the division pursuant to s.
494 102.166(4). A duplicate may be made of a ballot containing an
495 undervoted race or ballot measure if there is a clear indication
496 on the ballot that the voter has made a definite choice in the
497 undervoted race or ballot measure. A duplicate may not include a
498 vote if the voter's intent in such race or on such measure is
499 not clear. Upon request, a physically present candidate, a
500 political party official, a political committee official, or an

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501 authorized designee thereof, must be allowed to observe the
502 duplication of ballots upon signing an affidavit affirming his
503 or her acknowledgment that disclosure of election results
504 discerned from observing the ballot duplication process while
505 the election is ongoing is a felony, as provided under
506 subsection (8). The observer must be allowed to observe the
507 duplication of ballots in such a way that the observer is able
508 to see the markings on each ballot and the duplication taking
509 place. All duplicate ballots must be clearly labeled
510 "duplicate," bear a serial number which shall be recorded on the
511 defective ballot, and be counted in lieu of the defective
512 ballot. The duplication of ballots must happen in the presence
513 of at least one canvassing board member. After a ballot has been
514 duplicated, the defective ballot shall be placed in an envelope
515 provided for that purpose, and the duplicate ballot shall be
516 tallied with the other ballots for that precinct. If any
517 observer makes a reasonable objection to a duplicate of a
518 ballot, the ballot must be presented to the canvassing board for
519 a determination of the validity of the duplicate. The canvassing
520 board must document the serial number of the ballot in the
521 canvassing board's minutes. The canvassing board must decide
522 whether the duplication is valid. If the duplicate ballot is
523 determined to be valid, the duplicate ballot must be counted. If
524 the duplicate ballot is determined to be invalid, the duplicate
525 ballot must be rejected and a proper duplicate ballot must be

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526 made and counted in lieu of the original.

527 (8) Any supervisor of elections, deputy supervisor of
528 elections, canvassing board member, election board member, ~~or~~
529 election employee, or other person authorized to observe,
530 review, or inspect ballot materials or observe canvassing who
531 releases any information about votes cast for or against any
532 candidate or ballot measure or any ~~who releases the results of~~
533 any election before ~~prior to~~ the closing of the polls in that
534 county on election day commits a felony of the third degree,
535 punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

536 Section 13. Effective January 1, 2024, subsections (1),
537 (2), (3), (5), and (7) of section 101.6103, Florida Statutes,
538 are amended to read:

539 101.6103 Mail ballot election procedure.—

540 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (7), the
541 supervisor of elections shall mail all official ballots with a
542 secrecy envelope, a certificate envelope, a return mailing
543 envelope, and instructions sufficient to describe the voting
544 process to each elector entitled to vote in the election not
545 sooner than the 20th day before the election and not later than
546 the 10th day before the date of the election. All such ballots
547 shall be mailed by first-class mail. Ballots shall be addressed
548 to each elector at the address appearing in the registration
549 records and placed in an envelope which is prominently marked
550 "Do Not Forward."

551 (2) Upon receipt of the ballot the elector shall mark the
 552 ballot, place it in the secrecy envelope, place the secrecy
 553 envelope into the certificate envelope and sign the voter's
 554 certificate, and then place the certificate envelope into the
 555 return mailing envelope supplied with the ballot, and comply
 556 with the instructions provided with the ballot. The elector
 557 shall mail, deliver, or have delivered the marked ballot so that
 558 it reaches the supervisor of elections no later than 7 p.m. on
 559 the day of the election. The ballot must be returned in the
 560 certificate envelope and then enclosed in the return mailing
 561 envelope.

562 (3) The certificate return mailing envelope must bear a
 563 certificate in substantially the form prescribed by s.
 564 101.64(1) (a) shall contain a statement in substantially the
 565 following form:

566
 567 ~~VOTER'S CERTIFICATE~~

568
 569 ~~I, ...(Print Name)..., do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I~~
 570 ~~am a qualified voter in this election and that I have not and~~
 571 ~~will not vote more than one ballot in this election.~~

572 ~~I understand that failure to sign this certificate and give~~
 573 ~~my residence address will invalidate my ballot.~~

574
 575 ~~...(Signature)...~~

576 ~~... (Residence Address) ...~~

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(5) A ballot shall be counted only if:

(a) It is returned in the certificate envelope and return mailing envelope;

(b) The elector's signature has been verified as provided in this subsection; and

(c) It is received by the supervisor of elections not later than 7 p.m. on the day of the election.

The supervisor of elections shall open the return mailing envelope and verify the signature and the provided identifying number of each elector on the certificate ~~return mailing~~ envelope with the signature and the number in ~~on~~ the elector's registration records. Such verification may commence at any time before ~~prior to~~ the canvass of votes. The supervisor of elections shall safely keep the ballot unopened in his or her office until the county canvassing board canvasses the vote. If the supervisor of elections determines that an elector to whom a replacement ballot has been issued under subsection (4) has voted more than once, the canvassing board shall determine which ballot, if any, is to be counted.

(7) With respect to absent electors overseas entitled to vote in the election, the supervisor of elections shall mail an official ballot with a secrecy envelope, a certificate envelope,

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

601 a return mailing envelope, and instructions sufficient to
 602 describe the voting process to each such elector on a date
 603 sufficient to allow such elector time to vote in the election
 604 and to have his or her marked ballot reach the supervisor by 7
 605 p.m. on the day of the election.

606 Section 14. Effective January 1, 2024, section 101.6104,
 607 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

608 101.6104 Challenge of votes.—If any elector present for
 609 the canvass of votes believes that any ballot is illegal due to
 610 any defect apparent on the voter's certificate, the elector may,
 611 at any time before the ballot is removed from the certificate
 612 envelope, file with the canvassing board a protest against the
 613 canvass of such ballot, specifying the reason he or she believes
 614 the ballot to be illegal. No challenge based upon any defect on
 615 the voter's certificate shall be accepted after the ballot has
 616 been removed from the certificate ~~return mailing~~ envelope.

617 Section 15. Effective January 1, 2024, paragraphs (a) and
 618 (c) of subsection (1) and subsection (2) of section 101.64,
 619 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

620 101.64 Delivery of vote-by-mail ballots; envelopes; form.—

621 (1)(a) The supervisor shall enclose with each vote-by-mail
 622 ballot three ~~two~~ envelopes: a secrecy envelope, into which the
 623 absent elector shall enclose his or her marked ballot; a
 624 certificate envelope, into which the absent elector shall place
 625 the secrecy envelope; and a mailing envelope, into which the

626 absent elector shall then place the certificate envelope
 627 containing the secrecy envelope, which shall be addressed to the
 628 supervisor. The certificate envelope must bear ~~and also bear on~~
 629 ~~the back side~~ a certificate in substantially the following form:

630 Note: Please Read Instructions Carefully Before
 631 Marking Ballot and Completing Voter's Certificate.

632 VOTER'S CERTIFICATE

633 I, , do solemnly swear or affirm that I am a qualified
 634 and registered voter of County, Florida, and that I have
 635 not and will not vote more than one ballot in this election. I
 636 understand that if I commit or attempt to commit any fraud in
 637 connection with voting, vote a fraudulent ballot, or vote more
 638 than once in an election, I can be convicted of a felony of the
 639 third degree and fined up to \$5,000 and/or imprisoned for up to
 640 5 years. I also understand that failure to sign this certificate
 641 will invalidate my ballot.

642 . . . (Date) (Voter's Signature) . . .
 643 . . . (E-Mail Address) (Home Telephone Number) . . .
 644 (Mobile Telephone Number) . . .
 645 . . . (Last four digits of Florida Driver License (FL DL) or
 646 Florida Identification Card (FL ID) number) . . .
 647 . . . (If no FL DL or FL ID, then provide last four digits of
 648 social security number) . . .

649
 650 (c) The A mailing envelope, the certificate envelope, or

651 | the secrecy envelope may not bear any indication of the
652 | political affiliation of an absent elector.

653 | (2) The voter's certificate shall be arranged on the ~~back~~
654 | ~~of the mailing~~ envelope so that the line for the signature of
655 | the absent elector is across the seal of the envelope; however,
656 | no statement shall appear on the envelope which indicates that a
657 | signature of the voter must cross the seal of the envelope. The
658 | absent elector shall execute the certificate on the envelope.

659 | Section 16. Effective January 1, 2024, section 101.65,
660 | Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

661 | 101.65 Instructions to absent electors.—The supervisor
662 | shall enclose with each vote-by-mail ballot separate printed
663 | instructions in substantially the following form; however, where
664 | the instructions appear in capitalized text, the text of the
665 | printed instructions must be in bold font:

666 | READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY
667 | BEFORE MARKING BALLOT.

668 | 1. VERY IMPORTANT. In order to ensure that your vote-by-
669 | mail ballot will be counted, it should be completed and returned
670 | as soon as possible so that it can reach the supervisor of
671 | elections of the county in which your precinct is located no
672 | later than 7 p.m. on the day of the election. However, if you
673 | are an overseas voter casting a ballot in a presidential
674 | preference primary or general election, your vote-by-mail ballot
675 | must be postmarked or dated no later than the date of the

676 election and received by the supervisor of elections of the
677 county in which you are registered to vote no later than 10 days
678 after the date of the election. Note that the later you return
679 your ballot, the less time you will have to cure any signature
680 deficiencies, which is authorized until 5 p.m. on the 2nd day
681 after the election.

682 2. Mark your ballot in secret as instructed on the ballot.
683 You must mark your own ballot unless you are unable to do so
684 because of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write.

685 3. Mark only the number of candidates or issue choices for
686 a race as indicated on the ballot. If you are allowed to "Vote
687 for One" candidate and you vote for more than one candidate,
688 your vote in that race will not be counted.

689 4. Place your marked ballot in the enclosed secrecy
690 envelope.

691 5. Insert the secrecy envelope into the enclosed
692 certificate envelope. Seal the envelope and completely fill out
693 the Voter's Certificate on the envelope ~~mailing envelope which~~
694 ~~is addressed to the supervisor.~~

695 ~~6. Seal the mailing envelope and completely fill out the~~
696 ~~Voter's Certificate on the back of the mailing envelope.~~

697 6.7. VERY IMPORTANT. In order for your vote-by-mail ballot
698 to be counted, you must sign your name on the line above
699 (Voter's Signature) on the certificate envelope. A vote-by-mail
700 ballot will be considered illegal and not be counted if the

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701 signature on the Voter's Certificate does not match the
702 signature on record. The signature on file at the time the
703 supervisor of elections in the county in which your precinct is
704 located receives your vote-by-mail ballot is the signature that
705 will be used to verify your signature on the Voter's
706 Certificate. If you need to update your signature for this
707 election, send your signature update on a voter registration
708 application to your supervisor of elections so that it is
709 received before your vote-by-mail ballot is received.

710 7. VERY IMPORTANT. In order for your vote-by-mail ballot
711 to be counted, you must also enter in the space provided on the
712 Voter's Certificate the last four digits of your Florida driver
713 license number or the last four digits of your Florida
714 identification card number, or, if you have neither a Florida
715 driver license nor a Florida identification card, the last four
716 digits of your social security number. A vote-by-mail ballot
717 will be considered illegal and not be counted if the number
718 provided does not match a number in the supervisor's records.

719 8. VERY IMPORTANT. If you are an overseas voter, you must
720 include the date you signed the Voter's Certificate on the line
721 above (Date) or your ballot may not be counted.

722 9. Place the certificate envelope into the enclosed
723 mailing envelope addressed to the supervisor and seal the
724 mailing envelope.

725 10.9. Mail, deliver, or have delivered the completed

726 mailing envelope. Be sure there is sufficient postage if mailed.
 727 THE COMPLETED MAILING ENVELOPE CAN BE DELIVERED TO THE OFFICE OF
 728 THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH YOUR PRECINCT
 729 IS LOCATED OR DROPPED OFF AT AN AUTHORIZED SECURE DROP BOX,
 730 AVAILABLE AT EACH EARLY VOTING LOCATION.

731 ~~11.10.~~ FELONY NOTICE. It is a felony under Florida law to
 732 accept any gift, payment, or gratuity in exchange for your vote
 733 for a candidate. It is also a felony under Florida law to vote
 734 in an election using a false identity or false address, or under
 735 any other circumstances making your ballot false or fraudulent.

736 Section 17. Effective January 1, 2024, subsection (1),
 737 paragraph (c) of subsection (2), and paragraph (a) of subsection
 738 (4) of section 101.68, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

739 101.68 Canvassing of vote-by-mail ballot.—

740 (1) The supervisor of the county where the absent elector
 741 resides shall receive the voted ballot. Upon receipt, ~~at which~~
 742 ~~time~~ the supervisor shall open the mailing envelope and then
 743 compare the signature and the provided partial driver license
 744 number, identification card number, or social security number of
 745 the elector on the voter's certificate with the signature and
 746 the partial identification number of the elector in the
 747 registration books or the precinct register to determine whether
 748 the elector is duly registered in the county and must record on
 749 the elector's registration record that the elector has voted.
 750 During the verification ~~signature comparison~~ process, the

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751 supervisor may not use any knowledge of the political
752 affiliation of the voter whose signature and partial
753 identification number are ~~is~~ subject to verification. An elector
754 who dies after casting a vote-by-mail ballot but on or before
755 election day shall remain listed in the registration books until
756 the results have been certified for the election in which the
757 ballot was cast. The supervisor shall safely keep the ballot
758 unopened in his or her office until the county canvassing board
759 canvasses the vote. Except as provided in subsection (4), after
760 a vote-by-mail ballot is received by the supervisor, the ballot
761 is deemed to have been cast, and changes or additions may not be
762 made to the voter's certificate.

763 (2)

764 (c)1. The canvassing board must, if the supervisor has not
765 already done so, compare the signature of the elector on the
766 voter's certificate or on the vote-by-mail ballot cure affidavit
767 as provided in subsection (4) with the signature of the elector
768 in the registration books or the precinct register to see that
769 the elector is duly registered in the county and to determine
770 the legality of that vote-by-mail ballot. In addition, if the
771 supervisor has not already done so, the canvassing board must
772 also determine if the elector provided the last four digits of
773 his or her Florida driver license number, the last four digits
774 of his or her Florida identification card number, or the last
775 four digits of his or her social security number in the

776 appropriate space on the voter's certificate and that the number
777 provided matches the supervisor's records.

778 2. A vote-by-mail ballot may only be counted if the
779 criteria under both sub-subparagraphs a. and b. are met:

780 a. (I) The signature on the voter's certificate or the cure
781 affidavit matches the elector's signature in the registration
782 books or precinct register; however, in the case of a cure
783 affidavit, the supporting identification listed in subsection
784 (4) must also confirm the identity of the elector; or

785 (II) ~~b.~~ The cure affidavit contains a signature that does
786 not match the elector's signature in the registration books or
787 precinct register, but the elector has submitted a current and
788 valid Tier 1 identification pursuant to subsection (4) which
789 confirms the identity of the elector.

790 b. (I) The elector provided the last four digits of his or
791 her Florida driver license number, Florida identification card
792 number, or social security number on the voter's certificate
793 which matches the supervisor's records; however, in the case of
794 a cure affidavit, the supporting identification listed in
795 subsection (4) must also confirm the identity of the elector; or

796 (II) The cure affidavit does not contain the last four
797 digits of a Florida driver license number, Florida
798 identification card number, or social security number which
799 matches a number in the supervisor's records, but the elector
800 has submitted a current and valid Tier 1 identification pursuant

801 to subsection (4) which confirms the identity of the elector.

802

803 For purposes of this subparagraph, any canvassing board finding
804 that an elector's signatures do not match must be by majority
805 vote and beyond a reasonable doubt.

806 3.2. The ballot of an elector who casts a vote-by-mail
807 ballot shall be counted even if the elector dies on or before
808 election day, as long as, before the death of the voter, the
809 ballot was postmarked by the United States Postal Service, date-
810 stamped with a verifiable tracking number by a common carrier,
811 or already in the possession of the supervisor.

812 4.3. A vote-by-mail ballot is not considered illegal if
813 the signature of the elector does not cross the seal of the
814 certificate ~~mailing~~ envelope.

815 5.4. If any elector or candidate present believes that a
816 vote-by-mail ballot is illegal due to a defect apparent on the
817 voter's certificate or the cure affidavit, he or she may, at any
818 time before the ballot is removed from the certificate envelope,
819 file with the canvassing board a protest against the canvass of
820 that ballot, specifying the precinct, the voter's certificate or
821 the cure affidavit, and the reason he or she believes the ballot
822 to be illegal. A challenge based upon a defect in the voter's
823 certificate or cure affidavit may not be accepted after the
824 ballot has been removed from the certificate ~~mailing~~ envelope.

825 6.5. If the canvassing board determines that a ballot is

826 | illegal, a member of the board must, without opening the
 827 | certificate envelope, mark across the face of the envelope:
 828 | "rejected as illegal." The cure affidavit, if applicable, the
 829 | envelope, and the ballot therein shall be preserved in the
 830 | manner that official ballots are preserved.

831 | (4) (a) As soon as practicable, the supervisor shall, on
 832 | behalf of the county canvassing board, attempt to notify an
 833 | elector who has returned a vote-by-mail ballot that does not
 834 | include the elector's signature or contains a signature that
 835 | does not match the elector's signature in the registration books
 836 | or precinct register, that does not include the last four digits
 837 | of the elector's Florida driver license number, Florida
 838 | identification card number, or social security number, or on
 839 | which the number provided does not match the supervisor's
 840 | records, by:

- 841 | 1. Notifying the elector of the ~~signature~~ deficiency by e-
 842 | mail and directing the elector to the cure affidavit and
 843 | instructions on the supervisor's website;
- 844 | 2. Notifying the elector of the ~~signature~~ deficiency by
 845 | text message and directing the elector to the cure affidavit and
 846 | instructions on the supervisor's website; or
- 847 | 3. Notifying the elector of the ~~signature~~ deficiency by
 848 | telephone and directing the elector to the cure affidavit and
 849 | instructions on the supervisor's website.

850 |

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851 In addition to the notification required under subparagraph 1.,
852 subparagraph 2., or subparagraph 3., the supervisor must notify
853 the elector of the ~~signature~~ deficiency by first-class mail and
854 direct the elector to the cure affidavit and instructions on the
855 supervisor's website. Beginning the day before the election, the
856 supervisor is not required to provide notice of the ~~signature~~
857 deficiency by first-class mail, but shall continue to provide
858 notice as required under subparagraph 1., subparagraph 2., or
859 subparagraph 3.

860 Section 18. Effective January 1, 2024, subsections (2) and
861 (4) of section 101.6921, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

862 101.6921 Delivery of special vote-by-mail ballot to
863 certain first-time voters.—

864 (2) The supervisor shall enclose with each vote-by-mail
865 ballot three envelopes: a secrecy envelope, into which the
866 absent elector will enclose his or her marked ballot; the
867 certificate ~~an~~ envelope containing the Voter's Certificate, into
868 which the absent elector shall place the secrecy envelope; and a
869 mailing envelope, which shall be addressed to the supervisor and
870 into which the absent elector will place the certificate
871 envelope ~~containing the Voter's Certificate~~ and a copy of the
872 required identification.

873 (4) The certificate shall be arranged on the back of the
874 certificate envelope so that the line for the signature of the
875 absent elector is across the seal of the envelope.

876 Section 19. Effective January 1, 2024, section 101.6923,
 877 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

878 101.6923 Special vote-by-mail ballot instructions for
 879 certain first-time voters.—

880 (1) The provisions of this section apply to voters who are
 881 subject to the provisions of s. 97.0535 and who have not
 882 provided the identification or information required by s.
 883 97.0535 by the time the vote-by-mail ballot is mailed.

884 (2) A voter covered by this section shall be provided with
 885 printed instructions with his or her vote-by-mail ballot in
 886 substantially the following form:

887
 888 READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE MARKING YOUR
 889 BALLOT. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE
 890 YOUR BALLOT NOT TO COUNT.

891
 892 1. In order to ensure that your vote-by-mail ballot will
 893 be counted, it should be completed and returned as soon as
 894 possible so that it can reach the supervisor of elections of the
 895 county in which your precinct is located no later than 7 p.m. on
 896 the date of the election. However, if you are an overseas voter
 897 casting a ballot in a presidential preference primary or general
 898 election, your vote-by-mail ballot must be postmarked or dated
 899 no later than the date of the election and received by the
 900 supervisor of elections of the county in which you are

901 registered to vote no later than 10 days after the date of the
902 election.

903 2. Mark your ballot in secret as instructed on the ballot.
904 You must mark your own ballot unless you are unable to do so
905 because of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write.

906 3. Mark only the number of candidates or issue choices for
907 a race as indicated on the ballot. If you are allowed to "Vote
908 for One" candidate and you vote for more than one, your vote in
909 that race will not be counted.

910 4. Place your marked ballot in the enclosed secrecy
911 envelope and seal the envelope.

912 5. Insert the secrecy envelope into the enclosed envelope
913 bearing the Voter's Certificate. Seal the certificate envelope
914 and completely fill out the Voter's Certificate on the back of
915 the envelope.

916 a. You must sign your name on the line above (Voter's
917 Signature).

918 b. If you are an overseas voter, you must include the date
919 you signed the Voter's Certificate on the line above (Date) or
920 your ballot may not be counted.

921 c. A vote-by-mail ballot will be considered illegal and
922 will not be counted if the signature on the Voter's Certificate
923 does not match the signature on record. The signature on file at
924 the start of the canvass of the vote-by-mail ballots is the
925 signature that will be used to verify your signature on the

926 Voter's Certificate. If you need to update your signature for
927 this election, send your signature update on a voter
928 registration application to your supervisor of elections so that
929 it is received before your vote-by-mail ballot is received.

930 6. Unless you meet one of the exemptions in Item 7., you
931 must make a copy of one of the following forms of
932 identification:

933 a. Identification which must include your name and
934 photograph: United States passport; debit or credit card;
935 military identification; student identification; retirement
936 center identification; neighborhood association identification;
937 public assistance identification; veteran health identification
938 card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;
939 a Florida license to carry a concealed weapon or firearm; or an
940 employee identification card issued by any branch, department,
941 agency, or entity of the Federal Government, the state, a
942 county, or a municipality; or

943 b. Identification which shows your name and current
944 residence address: current utility bill, bank statement,
945 government check, paycheck, or government document (excluding
946 voter information card).

947 7. The identification requirements of Item 6. do not apply
948 if you meet one of the following requirements:

949 a. You are 65 years of age or older.

950 b. You have a temporary or permanent physical disability.

951 c. You are a member of a uniformed service on active duty
 952 who, by reason of such active duty, will be absent from the
 953 county on election day.

954 d. You are a member of the Merchant Marine who, by reason
 955 of service in the Merchant Marine, will be absent from the
 956 county on election day.

957 e. You are the spouse or dependent of a member referred to
 958 in paragraph c. or paragraph d. who, by reason of the active
 959 duty or service of the member, will be absent from the county on
 960 election day.

961 f. You are currently residing outside the United States.

962 8. Place the certificate envelope ~~bearing the Voter's~~
 963 ~~Certificate~~ into the mailing envelope addressed to the
 964 supervisor. Insert a copy of your identification in the mailing
 965 envelope. DO NOT PUT YOUR IDENTIFICATION INSIDE THE SECRECY
 966 ENVELOPE WITH THE BALLOT OR INSIDE THE CERTIFICATE ENVELOPE
 967 ~~WHICH BEARS THE VOTER'S CERTIFICATE~~ OR YOUR BALLOT WILL NOT
 968 COUNT.

969 9. Mail, deliver, or have delivered the completed mailing
 970 envelope. Be sure there is sufficient postage if mailed.

971 10. FELONY NOTICE. It is a felony under Florida law to
 972 accept any gift, payment, or gratuity in exchange for your vote
 973 for a candidate. It is also a felony under Florida law to vote
 974 in an election using a false identity or false address, or under
 975 any other circumstances making your ballot false or fraudulent.

976 Section 20. Effective January 1, 2024, subsection (3) of
 977 section 101.6925, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

978 101.6925 Canvassing special vote-by-mail ballots.—

979 (3) If the identification is not enclosed in the mailing
 980 envelope and the voter has not indicated that he or she is
 981 exempt from the identification requirements, the supervisor
 982 shall check the voter registration records to determine if the
 983 voter's identification was previously received or the voter had
 984 previously notified the supervisor that he or she was exempt.
 985 The certificate envelope ~~with the Voter's Certificate~~ shall not
 986 be opened unless the identification has been received or the
 987 voter has indicated that he or she is exempt. The ballot shall
 988 be treated as a provisional ballot until 7 p.m. on election day
 989 and shall not be canvassed unless the supervisor has received
 990 the required identification or written indication of exemption
 991 by 7 p.m. on election day.

992 Section 21. Section 102.091, Florida Statutes, is amended
 993 to read:

994 102.091 Duty of sheriff to watch for violations;
 995 appointment of special officers.—

996 (1) The sheriff shall exercise strict vigilance in the
 997 detection of any violations of the Florida Election Code
 998 ~~election laws~~ and in apprehending the violators.

999 (2) The Governor, in consultation with the executive
 1000 director of the Department of Law Enforcement, shall ~~may~~ appoint

1001 special officers to investigate alleged violations of the
 1002 Florida Election Code ~~election laws~~, when it is deemed necessary
 1003 to see that violators of the Florida Election Code ~~election laws~~
 1004 are apprehended and punished. A special officer must be a sworn
 1005 special agent employed by the Department of Law Enforcement. At
 1006 least one special officer must be designated in each operational
 1007 region of the Department of Law Enforcement to serve as a
 1008 dedicated investigator of alleged violations of the Florida
 1009 Election Code. Appointment as a special officer does not
 1010 preclude a sworn special agent from conducting other
 1011 investigations of alleged violations of law, provided that such
 1012 other investigations do not hinder or interfere with the
 1013 individual's ability to investigate alleged violations of the
 1014 Florida Election Code.

1015 Section 22. Section 102.101, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1016 to read:

1017 102.101 Sheriff and other officers not allowed in polling
 1018 place.—A ~~No~~ sheriff, a deputy sheriff, a police officer, a
 1019 special officer appointed pursuant to s. 102.091, or any other
 1020 officer of the law ~~is not shall be~~ allowed within a ~~the~~ polling
 1021 place without permission from the clerk or a majority of the
 1022 inspectors, except to cast his or her ballot. Upon the failure
 1023 of any such officer ~~of said officers~~ to comply with this section
 1024 provision, the clerk or the inspectors must ~~or any one of them~~
 1025 ~~shall~~ make an affidavit against the ~~such~~ officer for his or her

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1026 | arrest.

1027 | Section 23. Subsection (2) of section 104.0616, Florida
1028 | Statutes, is amended to read:

1029 | 104.0616 Vote-by-mail ballots and voting; violations.—

1030 | (2) Any person who distributes, orders, requests,
1031 | collects, delivers, or otherwise physically possesses more than
1032 | two vote-by-mail ballots per election in addition to his or her
1033 | own ballot or a ballot belonging to an immediate family member,
1034 | except as provided in ss. 101.6105-101.694, including supervised
1035 | voting at assisted living facilities and nursing home facilities
1036 | as authorized under s. 101.655, commits a felony ~~misdemeanor~~ of
1037 | the third ~~first~~ degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, ~~or~~
1038 | s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

1039 | Section 24. Subsection (2) of section 104.185, Florida
1040 | Statutes, is amended to read:

1041 | 104.185 Petitions; knowingly signing more than once;
1042 | signing another person's name or a fictitious name.—

1043 | (2) A person who signs another person's name or a
1044 | fictitious name to any petition to secure ballot position for a
1045 | candidate, a minor political party, or an issue commits a felony
1046 | ~~misdemeanor~~ of the third ~~first~~ degree, punishable as provided in
1047 | s. 775.082, ~~or~~ s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

1048 | Section 25. Section 104.186, Florida Statutes, is amended
1049 | to read:

1050 | 104.186 Initiative petitions; violations.—A person who

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1051 compensates a petition circulator as defined in s. 97.021 based
1052 on the number of petition forms gathered commits a felony
1053 ~~misdemeanor~~ of the third ~~first~~ degree, punishable as provided in
1054 s. 775.082, ~~or~~ s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. This section does not
1055 prohibit employment relationships that do not base payment on
1056 the number of signatures collected.

1057 Section 26. Subsection (2) of section 124.011, Florida
1058 Statutes, is amended to read:

1059 124.011 Alternate procedure for the election of county
1060 commissioners to provide for single-member representation;
1061 applicability.—

1062 (2)(a) All commissioners shall be elected for 4-year terms
1063 which shall be staggered so that, alternately, one more or one
1064 less than half of the commissioners elected from residence areas
1065 and, if applicable, one of the commissioners elected at large
1066 from the entire county are elected every 2 years, except that
1067 any commissioner may be elected to an initial term of less than
1068 4 years if necessary to achieve or maintain such system of
1069 staggered terms. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, at the
1070 general election immediately following redistricting directed by
1071 s. 1(e), Art. VIII of the State Constitution, each commissioner
1072 elected only by electors who reside in the district must be
1073 elected and terms thereafter shall be staggered as provided in
1074 s. 100.041.

1075 (b) The term of a commissioner elected under paragraph (a)
 1076 commences on the second Tuesday after such election.

1077 (c) This subsection does not apply to:

1078 1. Miami-Dade County.

1079 2. Any county the charter of which limits the number of
 1080 terms a commissioner may serve.

1081 3. Any county in which voters have never approved a
 1082 charter amendment limiting the number of terms a commissioner
 1083 may serve regardless of subsequent judicial nullification.

1084 Section 27. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
 1085 921.0022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1086 921.0022 Criminal Punishment Code; offense severity
 1087 ranking chart.—

1088 (3) OFFENSE SEVERITY RANKING CHART

1089 (a) LEVEL 1

1090

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
24.118(3) (a)	3rd	Counterfeit or altered state lottery ticket.
<u>104.0616(2)</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>Unlawfully distributing, ordering, requesting, collecting, delivering, or</u>

1091

1092

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1093			<u>possessing vote-by-mail</u> <u>ballots.</u>
1094	212.054 (2) (b)	3rd	Discretionary sales surtax; limitations, administration, and collection.
1095	212.15 (2) (b)	3rd	Failure to remit sales taxes, amount \$1,000 or more but less than \$20,000.
1096	316.1935 (1)	3rd	Fleeing or attempting to elude law enforcement officer.
1097	319.30 (5)	3rd	Sell, exchange, give away certificate of title or identification number plate.
1098	319.35 (1) (a)	3rd	Tamper, adjust, change, etc., an odometer.
1099	320.26 (1) (a)	3rd	Counterfeit, manufacture, or sell registration license plates or validation stickers.

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1100	322.212 (1) (a) - (c)	3rd	Possession of forged, stolen, counterfeit, or unlawfully issued driver license; possession of simulated identification.
1101	322.212 (4)	3rd	Supply or aid in supplying unauthorized driver license or identification card.
1102	322.212 (5) (a)	3rd	False application for driver license or identification card.
1103	414.39 (3) (a)	3rd	Fraudulent misappropriation of public assistance funds by employee/official, value more than \$200.
1104	443.071 (1)	3rd	False statement or representation to obtain or increase reemployment assistance benefits.
	509.151 (1)	3rd	Defraud an innkeeper, food or lodging value \$1,000 or more.

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1105	517.302 (1)	3rd	Violation of the Florida Securities and Investor Protection Act.
1106	713.69	3rd	Tenant removes property upon which lien has accrued, value \$1,000 or more.
1107	812.014 (3) (c)	3rd	Petit theft (3rd conviction); theft of any property not specified in subsection (2).
1108	815.04 (5) (a)	3rd	Offense against intellectual property (i.e., computer programs, data).
1109	817.52 (2)	3rd	Hiring with intent to defraud, motor vehicle services.
1110	817.569 (2)	3rd	Use of public record or public records information or providing false information to facilitate commission of a felony.

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1111	826.01	3rd	Bigamy.
1112	828.122 (3)	3rd	Fighting or baiting animals.
1113	831.04 (1)	3rd	Any erasure, alteration, etc., of any replacement deed, map, plat, or other document listed in s. 92.28.
1114	831.31 (1) (a)	3rd	Sell, deliver, or possess counterfeit controlled substances, all but s. 893.03(5) drugs.
1115	832.041 (1)	3rd	Stopping payment with intent to defraud \$150 or more.
1116	832.05 (2) (b) & (4) (c)	3rd	Knowing, making, issuing worthless checks \$150 or more or obtaining property in return for worthless check \$150 or more.
1117	838.15 (2)	3rd	Commercial bribe receiving.

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1118	838.16	3rd	Commercial bribery.
1119	843.18	3rd	Fleeing by boat to elude a law enforcement officer.
1120	847.011 (1) (a)	3rd	Sell, distribute, etc., obscene, lewd, etc., material (2nd conviction).
1121	849.09 (1) (a) - (d)	3rd	Lottery; set up, promote, etc., or assist therein, conduct or advertise drawing for prizes, or dispose of property or money by means of lottery.
1122	849.23	3rd	Gambling-related machines; "common offender" as to property rights.
1123	849.25 (2)	3rd	Engaging in bookmaking.
1124	860.08	3rd	Interfere with a railroad signal.
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- 1126 860.13(1) (a) 3rd Operate aircraft while under
the influence.
- 1127 893.13(2) (a) 2. 3rd Purchase of cannabis.
- 1128 893.13(6) (a) 3rd Possession of cannabis (more
than 20 grams).
- 1129 934.03(1) (a) 3rd Intercepts, or procures any
other person to intercept, any
wire or oral communication.

1130 Section 28. By January 1, 2023, the Department of State
 1131 shall submit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of
 1132 the House of Representatives a report detailing a plan to obtain
 1133 a Florida driver license number or Florida identification card
 1134 number, as applicable, and the last four digits of a social
 1135 security number from each registered voter who does not have
 1136 such numbers on file in the Florida Voter Registration System.
 1137 The plan must include, if needed, details on funding required to
 1138 implement the plan. The plan must provide for its completion by
 1139 December 31, 2023.

1140 Section 29. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
 1141 act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.