



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

LAUREL M. LEE
Secretary of State

MEMORANDUM

TO: Supervisors of Elections

FROM: Laurel M. Lee
Florida Secretary of State

DATE: October 6, 2020

SUBJECT: Directive 2020-02 – Extension of Florida Voter Registration Deadline

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1. As “chief election officer” I have the responsibility to “[o]btain and maintain uniformity in the interpretation and implementation of election laws,” § 97.012(1), Fla. Stat.; create, administer, and maintain a statewide voter registration system, *id.* §§ 97.012(9), (11), (15); establish and maintain an online voter registration website, *id.* § 97.0525(2); and “[p]rovide written direction . . . to the supervisors of elections on the performance of their official duties with respect to the Florida Election Code.” *Id.* § 97.012(16).
 2. More specifically, section 97.0525 of the Florida Statutes mandates that the State “establish a secure Internet website . . . that permits an applicant to . . . [s]ubmit a voter registration application.” The website “shall transmit” to the supervisor of elections all completed applications. § 97.0525(4)(b), Fla. Stat. Applicants themselves receive from the website “an immediate electronic confirmation that the supervisor of elections has received the application.” *Id.* § 97.0525(5), Fla. Stat.
 3. The Department of State’s online voter registration website encountered unprecedented volume and traffic the evening of October 5, 2020. Consequently, some Floridians planning to register to vote through the website before the book closing deadline under section 97.055(1)(a) may have experienced difficulties.
 4. Because of these difficulties, I issue the following directive: any applications received on Florida’s Online Voter Registration system today, October 6, 2020, before 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time, will be included in the registration for the November 3, 2020, General Election. Paper applications postmarked by today, October 6, 2020, will also be included.

Additionally, any applications received in person today, October 6, 2020, before 7:00 p.m. local time, through the following channels will be accepted:

- County Supervisors of Elections Offices
- Local Tax Collector's Offices
- Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' Driver's License Offices

Governor DeSantis and I will be working with these offices to discuss extending office hours today to further assist potential voter registrants. We encourage and appreciate your extra efforts to assist voters in these circumstances.