

## Second Worst: Voting by Mail and Returning the Ballot by Mail

Main problem: MAIL. First, it is important to understand that **MAIL BALLOTS SENT TO VOTERS ARE NEVER FORWARDED.** If a voter wants to vote by mail, it is critical to make sure that the request has been made (ongoing or well in advance of the election) and that the SoE has been provided the address, anywhere in the world, where the voter will be in the weeks leading up to the election (**mail ballots are scheduled to begin to be mailed out domestically on September 29**, so the critical time period begins then). An address other than the one on the voter's registration may be used for one-time or multiple mailings but **MUST BE PROVIDED TO THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS** in advance (any number of ways, including online or a phone call) or the ballot is likely not to be received by the voter. A voter who realizes that a ballot may have been sent to an unintended location may request another but time might be a problem. Under current rules, the deadline to request a mail ballot to be mailed out is 5 pm on the 10th day before the election but it is far preferable to make the request much earlier or to ask for and receive it in person at an SoE office.

Second, returning the ballot by mail is risky at this time. Voters may be tempted to use the postage-free envelope provided, but they are taking a risk. In Florida, **MAIL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY**, not mailed to, the supervisor of elections by **7 PM ON ELECTION DAY**. Even if mailed weeks earlier, there is the possibility the ballot will not be received in time and a late-received ballot does not count.

Third, all mail ballot envelopes must be signed and dated by the voter. If a signature is missing or unverifiable, the ballot will not count unless the problem is fixed or the ballot is treated as provisional and potentially counted after the election anyway. Voters are promptly notified, by phone or letter, by the SoE as soon as the ballot envelope is received (campaigns are also provided a list of people with unresolved envelope problems close to the election to try to track down and assist the voters). Ideally, this occurs early enough that the problem may readily be fixed. If the ballot is received close to the election, including on election day, the voter still has two days after the election to fix the problem.