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## Clay County Voter Registration Statistics

Republicans: 69,497  
 Democrats: 31,885  
 Others: 25,490

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Total 126,872

## We're Filled In - Are You? Five Keys to Voter Success in the 2012 Presidential Preference Primary Election

### Key 1: Prepare, prepare, prepare!

*"Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education." - Franklin D. Roosevelt*

The upcoming Presidential Preference Primary election on **January 31, 2012 will be open to registered Republicans only.** If you are registering to vote for the first time in Florida or would like to change your political party affiliation, you must do so by January 3, 2012.

If you are new to the area or just turning 18 years old, registering to vote has never been easier! You can visit [www.ClayElections.com](http://www.ClayElections.com) to register to vote online, register at the DMV while updating your Florida driver's license or at the Clay County Supervisor of Elections Office or many Clay County government offices.



It is very important to keep your voter information current at all times. It's always the right time to update your signature with the Elections Office! Because our signatures change over time, you should periodically update your signature by completing a voter registration application. If you have moved recently, don't wait until it is too late to update your address! Because your address dictates your elected representation and your polling place location, it is imperative to keep your address up to date. You may update your address in writing, over the phone, via e-mail or on [www.ClayElections.com](http://www.ClayElections.com) prior to Early Voting.

As a voter, it is your responsibility to research the candidates and issues prior to Election Day. Sample ballots will be posted in local newspapers and can be found on [www.ClayElections.com](http://www.ClayElections.com). Information about candidates and committees can also be found on the Supervisor of Elections' [website](#). You are encouraged to visit your local library, political clubs, forums and debates to learn more. To receive all of the latest information, follow the Clay County

Supervisor of Elections Office on Facebook (search "Clay County Supervisor of Elections") and Twitter (@ClayElections and #RUFilledIn2012).

To find out your polling location and representation information, pull out your voter information card. While your voter information card is a great resource with valuable information, it is not required to vote. You will simply need to bring a photo and signature ID to the polls with you.

### **Key 2: Vote by Mail**

Voting by mail has never been more secure, efficient and economical. One of the longest-standing election myths is that mail (absentee) ballots are not always counted.

Mail ballots are sent out to deployed military and overseas voters no later than 45 days before each election. All other requests will be mailed between the 35<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> day prior to Election Day. Before returning the ballot, the voter must sign the voter's certificate located on the backside of the envelope. Mail ballots can be returned using one first-class stamp or dropped off at any Early Voting location during the Early Voting period. Mail ballots must be returned to the Supervisor of Elections Office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day in order to be counted.

Once the ballot has been received by the Elections Office, the signature on the voter's certificate will be compared to the voter's signature found on the most current registration application on file with the Elections Office, which highlights the importance of periodically updating your signature. Upon verification, the voter receives voter history for voting in the election and the ballot remains sealed and secured under two-person control until the ballot is opened. If the signature is in question or not signed at all, the sealed envelope will be presented to the Canvassing Board (consisting of the Supervisor of Elections, the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners and a County Judge) for their determination. Once all ballots have been accounted for and confirmed, the ballots are processed and will remain stored on secured media until tabulated and released after 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

To take advantage of this convenient voting method, request your mail ballot today. Mail ballots can be requested in writing (including e-mail), in person, by phone at (904)269-6350 or online at [www.ClayElections.com](http://www.ClayElections.com).

### **Key 3: Vote Early**

Avoid the hectic rush and long lines on Election Day by voting early at one of five locations, including Saturday and Sunday for your convenience! Early Voting will be held Saturday, January 21 through Saturday, January 28, 2012 at the Fleming Island Library, the Orange Park Library, the Middleburg-Clay Hill Library, the Clay County Supervisor of Elections Office and the Keystone Heights Tax Collector's Office. Stop by to cast your vote at one of these locations between 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays, 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Sunday and 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Remember to bring your photo and signature ID!

### **Key 4: Vote on Election Day**

If you do not vote early or by mail, you still have the option to vote on Election Day. The polls will be open on January 31, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. You must vote at your assigned precinct with

your photo and signature ID. Your precinct location can be found on your voter information card or visit [www.ClayElections.com](http://www.ClayElections.com) and click "Where Do I Vote?" at the top of the page.

**Key 5: Visit [www.ClayElections.com](http://www.ClayElections.com) for Election Night Reporting**

Up-to-the-minute election results will be posted on [www.ClayElections.com](http://www.ClayElections.com) beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

By utilizing these five keys, you will be successful in taking part in this most important freedom - the freedom to vote. If you have any questions, please visit [www.ClayElections.com](http://www.ClayElections.com) or call (904) 269-6350. Remember, democracy is not a sideline sport.

I look forward to seeing each of you in the coming days and weeks as we prepare for yet another successful election season.

Kindest regards,

*Chris*

## **New Early Voting Days and Times for the Presidential Preference Primary Elections**

For your convenience, Early Voting days and times have changed. The new Early Voting schedule is as follows:

January 21, 2012 - January 28, 2012

Saturdays - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sundays - 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### Early Voting Locations

Fleming Island Library

Orange Park Library

Middleburg-Clay Hill Library

Keystone Heights Tax Collector's Office

Clay County Supervisor of Elections Office

## **Congratulations, Robin!**

Robin Conte, Administrative Assistant of the Clay County Supervisor of Elections office, has graduated as a Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA) through the Elections Center. This achievement is the highest designation available to elections officials. CERA designation is achieved only through a multi-year course of study conducted by The Elections Center's Professional Education Program and completion of twelve core courses taught by the Master's in Public Administration faculty of Auburn University including ethics, voter registration, elections law, strategic planning, communications, voter participation and many others. Robin was one

of 88 to earn the CERA certification this year. Of more than 21,000 elections and voter registration officials throughout the country, only 677 election officials have reached this great accomplishment. We are very proud of Robin for her dedication to Clay County elections and for her impressive achievement as a Certified Elections/ Registration Administrator.



### Poll Worker Points from Lisa



There are many changes that will take place during the 2012 Election Cycle! First, we have implemented the Adopt-A-Precinct program, a public/private partnership that encourages organizations and community groups in Clay County to "adopt" a precinct by providing the staff for their precinct. The program is being well-received in the community, with many precincts already

adopted.

The following precincts have been adopted:

128 - Calvary United Methodist Church

212 - Grove Park Elementary

216 - St. John's Country Day School

414 - Hibernia Baptist Church

500 - Pinewood Presbyterian Church

After the Presidential Preference Primary, we will reduce the number of precincts due to redistricting and consolidation of some precincts. I'm confident that with the support of the excellent poll workers in Clay County, these transitions will go very smoothly.

Lisa

## **Clay County Awarded Grant to Request, Mark and Track Absentee Ballots Electronically for Military and Overseas Voters**

A \$1.6 million grant to enhance the absentee voting process for military and overseas citizens has been awarded to Clay County and a coalition of twelve other Florida counties. The coalition, called *Our Mission: Your Vote*, has received the Electronic Absentee Systems for Elections (EASE) grant awarded by the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

Using the system, voters can request, mark and track their absentee ballots electronically. The system will be designed to provide greater online access, automation of absentee requests and expedite ballot delivery, making the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act voting process more seamless. Speeding up ballot delivery is expected to increase ballot request and return rates of military and overseas voters.

"As a military veteran, I am excited about the possibilities that this system presents in providing fast, secure, and most importantly, an accessible absentee ballot delivery system," said Chris Chambless, Clay County Supervisor of Elections.

The coalition has been named *Our Mission: Your Vote* to emphasize to those hardest to reach voters that we take their right to vote as seriously as they take their mission to defend our freedoms. Members of the *Our Mission: Your Vote* coalition include Baker, Bay, Bradford, Clay, Duval, Escambia, Leon, Nassau, Okaloosa, Pinellas, Putnam, Sarasota, and Wakulla Counties-serving nearly every major military installation in Florida. The coalition will begin transmitting ballots electronically to absent military voters and those living overseas during the 2012 election cycle.

**Happy Thanksgiving!**



The Clay County Supervisor of Elections would like to wish you and your family a wonderful, blessed Thanksgiving!

### Recipe of the Quarter - Maple Pumpkin Bread Pudding

1 Tbsp unsalted butter, softened  
1 (15-oz) loaf challah bread, cut into 1-inch cubes (8 cups)  
½ cup walnut pieces, coarsely chopped  
½ cup golden raisins or dried cranberries  
3 cups canned pumpkin puree  
2 cups heavy cream  
4 large eggs  
1 cup pure maple syrup  
¼ cup packed brown sugar  
1½ tsp ground cinnamon  
1½ tsp vanilla extract  
¼ tsp *each* ground nutmeg and allspice  
Vanilla ice cream (optional)



1. Grease a 13x9-inch baking dish with butter. Add bread to dish, then scatter with walnuts and raisins. Gently toss to mix,
2. In a large bowl, whisk next 9 ingredients until blended. Pour evenly over bread mixture to cover, gently pressing down on bread cubes to submerge. Let stand 30 minutes.
3. Heat oven to 325°F. Bake dish 1 hour or until a knife comes out clean when inserted near the center (a few moist spots in the middle are okay). Let cool in pan on a wire rack until just warm. Serve with ice cream, if desired. (Dish can be made a day ahead; reheat before serving.)

*Makes 12 servings.*

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