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ELECTIONS REFORM BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

Governor Scott signed House Bill 7013 into law on Tuesday afternoon. The 45-page elections reform bill includes many provisions to aid in reducing lines at the polls and increasing voter turnout.

“From the onset of the legislative session, the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE) was committed to Florida voters in focusing on all key aspects of this year’s election legislation. The FSASE was focused and worked tenaciously in the pursuit of advancing our legislative agenda to provide more flexibility to early voting, limit the number of words allowed in the language of ballot amendments and improve and protect many other aspects of the voting process in our great state.” said Chris Chambless, Clay County Supervisor of Elections.

Changes include:

- More flexibility in Early Voting days, times and locations.
- Limits amendments proposed by the legislature to 75 words.
- Allows voters who complete an in-state address change on Election Day to vote a regular ballot, instead of a provisional ballot, if the voter’s new county has electronic poll books.
- Requires that if an absentee ballot is requested to be mailed to an address other than the voter’s address on record that the request must be made in writing by the voter and include the voter’s signature. Uniformed service and overseas voters are exempt from this.
- Allows a voter who failed to sign the outside envelope of his or her absentee ballot to complete an affidavit and provide a copy of their current photo/signature ID by 5:00 p.m. the day before the election in order for the ballot to be opened and counted.
- Moves the date of the Primary Election to 10 weeks before the General Election.
- Moves the date of the Presidential Preference Primary to the first Tuesday that the rules of the major political parties allow for state delegation to be allocated without penalty.

The law takes effect on January 1, 2014.

For more information or questions, please call (904) 269-6350 or e-mail outreach@clayelections.com.

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