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A Compilation of
THE
ELECTION
LAWS
of the
State of Florida



Katherine Harris
Secretary of State

October 2001





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TITLE IX

ELECTORS AND ELECTIONS

CHAPTER 97

QUALIFICATION AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS

PART I GENERAL PROVISIONS (ss. 97.011-97.025)

PART II FLORIDA VOTER REGISTRATION ACT (ss. 97.032-97.105)

PART I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 97.011 Short title.
97.012 Secretary of State as chief election officer.
97.021 Definitions.
97.023 Procedures on complaints of violations.
97.025 Election Code; copies thereof.

97.011 Short title.—Chapters 97-106 inclusive shall be known and may be cited as “The Florida Election Code.”

History.—s. 1, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 65-60; s. 1, ch. 77-175.

97.012 Secretary of State as chief election officer. The Secretary of State is the chief election officer of the state, and it is his or her responsibility to:

- (1) Obtain and maintain uniformity in the application, operation, and interpretation of the election laws.
- (2) Provide uniform standards for the proper and equitable implementation of the registration laws.
- (3) Actively seek out and collect the data and statistics necessary to knowledgeably scrutinize the effectiveness of election laws.
- (4) Provide technical assistance to the supervisors of elections on voter education and election personnel training services.
- (5) Provide technical assistance to the supervisors of elections on voting systems.
- (6) Provide voter education assistance to the public.
- (7) Coordinate the state’s responsibilities under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.
- (8) Provide training to all affected state agencies on the necessary procedures for proper implementation of this chapter.
- (9) Ensure that all registration applications and forms prescribed or approved by the department are in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- (10) Coordinate with the United States Department of Defense so that armed forces recruitment offices administer voter registration in a manner consistent with the procedures set forth in this code for voter registration agencies.

- (11) Create and maintain a central voter file.
- (12) Maintain a voter fraud hotline and provide election fraud education to the public.

History.—s. 1, ch. 75-98; s. 21, ch. 84-302; s. 2, ch. 89-348; s. 1, ch. 90-315; s. 2, ch. 94-224; s. 1381, ch. 95-147; s. 34, ch. 97-13; s. 1, ch. 98-129.

97.021 Definitions.—For the purposes of this code, except where the context clearly indicates otherwise, the term:

(1) “Absent elector” means any registered and qualified voter who casts an absentee ballot.

(2) “Ballot” or “official ballot” when used in reference to:

(a) “Voting machines,” except when reference is made to write-in ballots, means that portion of the printed strips of cardboard, paper, or other material that is within the ballot frames containing the names of candidates, or a statement of a proposed constitutional amendment or other question or proposition submitted to the electorate at any election.

(b) “Paper ballots” means that printed sheet of paper containing the names of candidates, or a statement of proposed constitutional amendments or other questions or propositions submitted to the electorate at any election, on which sheet of paper an elector casts his or her vote.

(c) “Electronic or electromechanical devices” means a ballot which is voted by the process of punching or marking with a marking device for tabulation by automatic tabulating equipment or data processing equipment.

(3) “Candidate” means any person to whom any one or more of the following applies:

(a) Any person who seeks to qualify for nomination or election by means of the petitioning process.

(b) Any person who seeks to qualify for election as a write-in candidate.

(c) Any person who receives contributions or makes expenditures, or gives his or her consent for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures, with a view to bringing about his or her nomination or election to, or retention in, public office.

(d) Any person who appoints a treasurer and designates a primary depository.

(e) Any person who files qualification papers and subscribes to a candidate’s oath as required by law.

However, this definition does not include any candidate for a political party executive committee.

(4) "Central voter file" means a statewide, centrally maintained database containing voter registration information of all counties in this state.

(5) "Department" means the Department of State.

(6) "Division" means the Division of Elections of the Department of State.

(7) "Election" means any primary election, special primary election, special election, general election, or presidential preference primary election.

(8) "Election board" means the clerk and inspectors appointed to conduct an election.

(9) "Election costs" shall include, but not be limited to, expenditures for all paper supplies such as envelopes, instructions to voters, affidavits, reports, ballot cards, ballot booklets for absentee voters, postage, notices to voters; advertisements for registration book closings, testing of voting equipment, sample ballots, and polling places; forms used to qualify candidates; polling site rental and equipment delivery and pickup; data processing time and supplies; election records retention; and labor costs, including those costs uniquely associated with absentee ballot preparation, poll workers, and election night canvass.

(10) "Elector" is synonymous with the word "voter" or "qualified elector or voter," except where the word is used to describe presidential electors.

(11) "General election" means an election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the even-numbered years, for the purpose of filling national, state, county, and district offices and for voting on constitutional amendments not otherwise provided for by law.

(12) "Lists of registered electors" means copies of printed lists of registered electors, computer tapes or disks, or any other device used by the supervisor of elections to maintain voter records.

(13) "Member of the Merchant Marine" means an individual, other than a member of a uniformed service or an individual employed, enrolled, or maintained on the Great Lakes for the inland waterways, who is:

(a) Employed as an officer or crew member of a vessel documented under the laws of the United States, a vessel owned by the United States, or a vessel of foreign-flag registry under charter to or control of the United States; or

(b) Enrolled with the United States for employment or training for employment, or maintained by the United States for emergency relief service, as an officer or crew member of such vessel.

(14) "Minor political party" is any group as defined in this subsection which on January 1 preceding a primary election does not have registered as members 5 percent of the total registered electors of the state. Any group of citizens organized for the general purposes of electing to office qualified persons and determining public issues under the democratic processes of the United States may become a minor political party of this state by filing with the department a certificate showing the name of the organization, the names of its current officers, including the members of its executive committee, and a copy of its constitution or bylaws. It shall

be the duty of the minor political party to notify the department of any changes in the filing certificate within 5 days of such changes.

(15) "Newspaper of general circulation" means a newspaper printed in the language most commonly spoken in the area within which it circulates and which is readily available for purchase by all inhabitants in the area of circulation, but does not include a newspaper intended primarily for members of a particular professional or occupational group, a newspaper the primary function of which is to carry legal notices, or a newspaper that is given away primarily to distribute advertising.

(16) "Nominal value" means having a retail value of \$10 or less.

(17) "Nonpartisan office" means an office for which a candidate is prohibited from campaigning or qualifying for election or retention in office based on party affiliation.

(18) "Office that serves persons with disabilities" means any state office that takes applications either in person or over the telephone from persons with disabilities for any program, service, or benefit primarily related to their disabilities.

(19) "Overseas voter" means:

(a) Members of the uniformed services while in the active service who are permanent residents of the state and are temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia;

(b) Members of the Merchant Marine of the United States who are permanent residents of the state and are temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia; and

(c) Other citizens of the United States who are permanent residents of the state and are temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia,

who are qualified and registered to vote as provided by law.

(20) "Overvote" means that the elector marks or designates more names than there are persons to be elected to an office or designates more than one answer to a ballot question, and the tabulator records no vote for the office or question.

(21) "Persons with disabilities" means individuals who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

(22) "Polling place" is the building which contains the polling room where ballots are cast.

(23) "Polling room" means the actual room in which ballots are cast.

(24) "Primary election" means an election held preceding the general election for the purpose of nominating a party nominee to be voted for in the general election to fill a national, state, county, or district office. The first primary is a nomination or elimination election; the second primary is a nominating election only.

(25) "Provisional ballot" means a ballot issued to a voter by the election board at the polling place on election day for one of the following reasons:

(a) The voter's name does not appear on the precinct register and verification of the voter's eligibility cannot be determined; or

(b) There is an indication on the precinct register that the voter has requested an absentee ballot and there is no indication whether the voter has returned the absentee ballot.

(26) "Public assistance" means assistance provided through the food stamp program; the Medicaid program; the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children; and the WAGES Program.

(27) "Public office" means any federal, state, county, municipal, school, or other district office or position which is filled by vote of the electors.

(28) "Qualifying educational institution" means any public or private educational institution receiving state financial assistance which has, as its primary mission, the provision of education or training to students who are at least 18 years of age, provided such institution has more than 200 students enrolled in classes with the institution and provided that the recognized student government organization has requested this designation in writing and has filed the request with the office of the supervisor of elections in the county in which the institution is located.

(29) "Special election" is a special election called for the purpose of voting on a party nominee to fill a vacancy in the national, state, county, or district office.

(30) "Special primary election" is a special nomination election designated by the Governor, called for the purpose of nominating a party nominee to be voted on in a general or special election.

(31) "Supervisor" means the supervisor of elections.

(32) "Undervote" means that the elector does not properly designate any choice for an office or ballot question, and the tabulator records no vote for the office or question.

(33) "Uniformed services" means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, and the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(34) "Voter registration agency" means any office that provides public assistance, any office that serves persons with disabilities, any center for independent living, or any public library.

(35) "Voting booth" or "booth" means that booth or enclosure wherein an elector casts his or her ballot, be it a paper ballot, a voting machine ballot, or a ballot cast for tabulation by an electronic or electromechanical device.

(36) "Voting system" means a method of casting and processing votes that functions wholly or partly by use of mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic apparatus or by use of paper ballots and includes, but is not limited to, the procedures for casting and processing votes and the programs, operating manuals, tabulating cards, printouts, and other software necessary for the system's operation.

History.—s. 2, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 300; s. 1, ch. 8582, 1921; CGL 356; s. 1, ch. 13761, 1929; s. 1, ch. 18060, 1937; s. 1, ch. 19663, 1939; s. 1, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 1, ch. 61-370; s. 2, ch. 65-60; s. 1, ch. 67-32; s. 2, ch. 67-142; s. 2, ch. 67-386; s. 1, ch. 69-137; s. 1, ch. 69-280; s. 1, ch. 69-377; s. 1, ch. 70-269; s. 1, ch. 70-439; s. 1, ch. 71-206; s. 1, ch. 73-157; s. 31, ch. 73-333; s. 23, ch. 77-104; s. 1, ch. 77-175; s. 1, ch. 79-157; s. 24, ch. 79-400; s. 1, ch. 81-105; s. 15, ch. 82-143; s. 22, ch. 84-302; s. 1, ch. 87-184; ss. 5, 12, ch. 87-383; s. 1, ch. 89-338; s. 3, ch. 89-348; s. 2, ch. 90-315; s. 3, ch. 94-224; s. 1382, ch. 95-147; s. 1, ch. 96-57; s. 54, ch. 96-175; s. 1, ch. 96-327; s. 35, ch. 97-13; s. 3, ch. 98-129; ss. 2, 34, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Section 2, ch. 2001-40, amended subsections (2), (35), and (36), effective September 2, 2002, to read:

(2) "Ballot" or "official ballot" when used in reference to:

(a) "Paper ballots" means that printed sheet of paper, used in conjunction with an electronic or electromechanical vote tabulation voting system, containing the names of candidates, or a statement of proposed constitutional amendments or other questions or propositions submitted to the electorate at any election, on which sheet of paper an elector casts his or her vote.

(b) "Electronic or electromechanical devices" means a ballot that is voted by the process of electronically designating, including by touchscreen, or marking with a marking device for tabulation by automatic tabulating equipment or data processing equipment.

(35) "Voting booth" or "booth" means that booth or enclosure wherein an elector casts his or her ballot for tabulation by an electronic or electromechanical device.

(36) "Voting system" means a method of casting and processing votes that functions wholly or partly by use of electromechanical or electronic apparatus or by use of paper ballots and includes, but is not limited to, the procedures for casting and processing votes and the programs, operating manuals, tabulating cards, printouts, and other software necessary for the system's operation.

Note.—Former s. 102.02.

97.023 Procedures on complaints of violations.—

(1)(a) Any person who is aggrieved by a violation of either the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 or a voter registration or removal procedure under the Florida Election Code may file a written complaint with the department, which shall serve as notice to the Secretary of State.

(b) A complaint must state the alleged violation and the person or entity responsible, who must be the department, a voter registration agency, a supervisor, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, or an Armed Forces Recruitment Center. If the department determines that a complaint fails to allege both a violation and a person or entity responsible for the violation, the department shall inform the complainant that he or she has not given sufficient notice and the steps that must be taken in order to give proper notice.

(c) For the purposes of this section, a violation of either the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 or a voter registration or removal procedure under the Florida Election Code is the failure to perform an act required or the performance of an act prohibited by either the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 or a voter registration or removal procedure under the Florida Election Code.

(d) The department has primary jurisdiction over complaints filed under the provisions of this section.

(2) When a complaint is filed with the department, the parties to the complaint must be given the opportunity to resolve the complaint through an informal dispute resolution process to be established by the department. This process must provide for:

(a) A time limitation of 30 days on the process, unless the alleged violation occurred within 120 days before the date of an election, in which case there must be a time limitation of 20 days;

(b) A mediator provided by the department, who may be a department employee unless the department is alleged to be responsible for the violation, in which case the Governor must appoint a mediator who is not a department employee;

(c) Notice to a complainant;

(d) Notice to a respondent of the allegations filed against him or her in the complaint;

(e) An opportunity for the parties to submit written statements, present oral argument either in person or by telephone, and present evidence; and

(f) A written statement by the mediator to the department stating the outcome of the dispute resolution process.

(3) If an alleged violation occurred within 30 days before the date of a state or federal election and the alleged violation will affect the registrant's right to vote in that election, the complainant may immediately bring an action in the circuit court in the county where the alleged violation occurred. Otherwise, the following are conditions precedent for a complainant to bring an action for declaratory or injunctive relief in the circuit court in the county where the alleged violation occurred:

(a) The complainant gave proper written notice of the alleged violation to the Secretary of State;

(b) The complainant participated in the informal dispute resolution process; and

(c) An agreement is not reached or an alleged violation is not corrected within 90 days after receipt of notice or 20 days after receipt of notice if the alleged violation occurred within 120 days before the date of an election.

*History.—*s. 4, ch. 94-224; s. 1383, ch. 95-147.

97.025 Election Code; copies thereof.—A pamphlet of a reprint of the Election Code, adequately indexed, shall be prepared by the Department of State. It shall have a sufficient number of these pamphlets printed so that one may be given, upon request, to each candidate who qualifies with the department. A sufficient number may be sent to each supervisor, prior to the first day of qualifying, for distribution, upon request, to each candidate who qualifies with the supervisor and to each clerk of elections. The cost of printing the pamphlets shall be paid out of funds appropriated for conducting elections.

*History.—*s. 38, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 192; s. 69, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 253; RGS 297; CGL 353; s. 2, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 17, ch. 65-134; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 5, ch. 77-175; s. 2, ch. 79-365; s. 5, ch. 94-224.

*Note.—*Former s. 99.54; s. 98.251.

PART II

FLORIDA VOTER REGISTRATION ACT

- 97.032 Short title.
- 97.041 Qualifications to register or vote.
- 97.051 Oath upon registering.
- 97.052 Uniform statewide voter registration application.
- 97.053 Acceptance of voter registration applications.
- 97.055 Registration books; when closed for an election.
- 97.0555 Late registration.
- 97.057 Voter registration by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.
- 97.058 Voter registration agencies.
- 97.0583 Voter registration at qualifying educational institutions.
- 97.0585 Declinations to register; place of registration and registration information; confidentiality.
- 97.061 Special registration for electors requiring assistance.
- 97.071 Registration identification card.
- 97.073 Disposition of voter registration applications; cancellation notice.
- 97.1031 Notice of change of residence within the same county, change of name, or change of party.
- 97.105 Permanent single registration system established.
- 97.032 Short title.**—This part may be cited as the "Florida Voter Registration Act."
*History.—*s. 7, ch. 94-224.
- 97.041 Qualifications to register or vote.**—
- (1)(a) A person may become a registered voter only if that person:
1. Is at least 18 years of age;
 2. Is a citizen of the United States;
 3. Is a legal resident of the State of Florida;
 4. Is a legal resident of the county in which that person seeks to be registered; and
 5. Registers pursuant to the Florida Election Code.
- (b) A person who is otherwise qualified may preregister on or after that person's 17th birthday and may vote in any election occurring on or after that person's 18th birthday.
- (2) The following persons, who might be otherwise qualified, are not entitled to register or vote:
- (a) A person who has been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting in this or any other state and who has not had his or her right to vote restored pursuant to law.
- (b) A person who has been convicted of any felony by any court of record and who has not had his or her right to vote restored pursuant to law.
- (3) A person who is not registered may not vote.
*History.—*ss. 1, chs. 3850, 3879, 1889; RS 154; s. 1, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 170; RGS 215; s. 1, ch. 8583, 1921; CGL 248; s. 1, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 2, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 1, ch. 63-408; s. 3, ch. 65-60; s. 1, ch. 67-67; ss. 1, 4, ch. 71-108; s. 1, ch. 72-197; s. 2, ch. 73-157; s. 31, ch. 73-333; s. 1, ch. 74-5; s. 1, ch. 77-175; s. 2, ch. 89-338; s. 8, ch. 94-224.
*Note.—*Former s. 98.01.
- 97.051 Oath upon registering.**—A person registering to vote must subscribe to the following oath: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Florida, that I am qualified to register as an elector under the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, and that I am a citizen of the United States and a legal resident of Florida."
*History.—*s. 7, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 181; s. 8, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 178; RGS 222; CGL 257; s. 4, ch. 25383, 1949; s. 1, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 3, ch. 69-280; ss. 2, 4, ch. 71-108; s. 1, ch. 72-63; s. 2, ch. 77-175; s. 1, ch. 81-304; s. 9, ch. 94-224.
*Note.—*Former s. 98.11.
- 97.052 Uniform statewide voter registration application.**—
- (1) The department shall prescribe a uniform statewide voter registration application for use in this state.
- (a) The uniform statewide voter registration application must be accepted for any one or more of the following purposes:
1. Initial registration.
 2. Change of address.
 3. Change of party affiliation.

4. Change of name.
5. Replacement of voter registration identification card.
 - (b) The department is responsible for printing the uniform statewide voter registration application and the voter registration application form prescribed by the Federal Election Commission pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. The applications and forms must be distributed, upon request, to the following:
 1. Individuals seeking to register to vote.
 2. Individuals or groups conducting voter registration programs. A charge of 1 cent per application shall be assessed on requests for 10,000 or more applications.
 3. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.
 4. Voter registration agencies.
 5. Armed forces recruitment offices.
 6. Qualifying educational institutions.
 7. Supervisors, who must make the applications and forms available in the following manner:
 - a. By distributing the applications and forms in their offices to any individual or group.
 - b. By distributing the applications and forms at other locations designated by each supervisor.
 - c. By mailing the applications and forms to applicants upon the request of the applicant.
 - (c) The uniform statewide voter registration application may not be reproduced by any private individual or group.
 - (2) The uniform statewide voter registration application must be designed to elicit the following information from the applicant:
 - (a) Full name.
 - (b) Date of birth.
 - (c) Address of legal residence.
 - (d) Mailing address, if different.
 - (e) County of legal residence.
 - (f) Address of property for which the applicant has been granted a homestead exemption, if any.
 - (g) Race or ethnicity that best describes the applicant:
 1. American Indian or Alaskan Native.
 2. Asian or Pacific Islander.
 3. Black, not Hispanic.
 4. White, not Hispanic.
 5. Hispanic.
 - (h) Sex.
 - (i) Party affiliation.
 - (j) Whether the applicant needs assistance in voting.
 - (k) Name and address where last registered.
 - (l) Last four digits of the applicant's social security number.
 - (m) Florida driver's license number or the identification number from a Florida identification card issued under s. 322.051.
 - (n) Telephone number (optional).
 - (o) Signature of applicant under penalty for false swearing pursuant to s. 104.011, by which the person subscribes to the oath required by s. 3, Art. VI of the State Constitution and s. 97.051, and swears or affirms

that the information contained in the registration application is true.

(p) Whether the application is being used for initial registration, to update a voter registration record, or to request a replacement registration identification card.

(q) Whether the applicant is a citizen of the United States.

(r) That the applicant has not been convicted of a felony or, if convicted, has had his or her civil rights restored.

(s) That the applicant has not been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting or, if so adjudicated, has had his or her right to vote restored.

The registration form must be in plain language and designed so that convicted felons whose civil rights have been restored and persons who have been adjudicated mentally incapacitated and have had their voting rights restored are not required to reveal their prior conviction or adjudication.

(3) The uniform statewide voter registration application must also contain:

(a) The oath required by s. 3, Art. VI of the State Constitution and s. 97.051.

(b) A statement specifying each eligibility requirement under s. 97.041.

(c) The penalties provided in s. 104.011 for false swearing in connection with voter registration.

(d) A statement that, if an applicant declines to register to vote, the fact that the applicant has declined to register will remain confidential and may be used only for voter registration purposes.

(e) A statement that informs the applicant who chooses to register to vote or update a voter registration record that the office at which the applicant submits a voter registration application or updates a voter registration record will remain confidential and may be used only for voter registration purposes.

(f) A statement that informs the applicant that any person who has been granted a homestead exemption in this state, and who registers to vote in any precinct other than the one in which the property for which the homestead exemption has been granted, shall have that information forwarded to the property appraiser where such property is located, which may result in the person's homestead exemption being terminated and the person being subject to assessment of back taxes under s. 193.092, unless the homestead granted the exemption is being maintained as the permanent residence of a legal or natural dependent of the owner and the owner resides elsewhere.

(4) A supervisor may produce a voter registration application that has the supervisor's direct mailing address if the department has reviewed the application and determined that it is substantially the same as the uniform statewide voter registration application.

(5) The voter registration application form prescribed by the Federal Election Commission pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 or the federal postcard application must be accepted as an application for registration in this state if the completed application or postcard application contains the information required by the constitution and laws of this state.

History.—s. 5, ch. 25391, 1949; s. 2, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 59-231; s. 8, ch. 65-134; s. 1, ch. 67-170; s. 8, ch. 69-377; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 2, ch. 72-63; s. 5, ch. 77-175; s. 23, ch. 84-302; s. 6, ch. 89-338; s. 10, ch. 94-224; s. 2, ch. 96-327; s. 26, ch. 97-13; s. 4, ch. 98-129.

Note.—Former s. 97.05; s. 98.111.

97.053 Acceptance of voter registration applications.—

(1) Voter registration applications, changes in registration, and requests for a replacement registration identification card must be accepted in the office of any supervisor, the division, a driver license office, a voter registration agency, or an armed forces recruitment office when hand delivered by the applicant or a third party during the hours that office is open or when mailed.

(2) A completed voter registration application that contains the information necessary to establish an applicant's eligibility pursuant to s. 97.041 becomes the official voter registration record of that applicant when received by the appropriate supervisor.

(3) The registration date for a valid initial voter registration application that has been hand delivered is the date when received by a driver license office, a voter registration agency, an armed forces recruitment office, the division, or the office of any supervisor in the state.

(4) The registration date for a valid initial voter registration application that has been mailed and bears a clear postmark is the date of the postmark. If an initial voter registration application that has been mailed does not bear a postmark or if the postmark is unclear, the registration date is the date the registration is received by any supervisor or the division, unless it is received within 5 days after the closing of the books for an election, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, in which case the registration date is the book-closing date.

(5)(a) A voter registration application is complete if it contains:

1. The applicant's name.
2. The applicant's legal residence address.
3. The applicant's date of birth.
4. An indication that the applicant is a citizen of the United States.
5. The last four digits of the applicant's social security number.
6. An indication that the applicant has not been convicted of a felony or that, if convicted, has had his or her civil rights restored.
7. An indication that the applicant has not been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting or that, if so adjudicated, has had his or her right to vote restored.
8. Signature of the applicant swearing or affirming under the penalty for false swearing pursuant to s. 104.011 that the information contained in the registration application is true and subscribing to the oath required by s. 3, Art. VI of the State Constitution and s. 97.051.

(b) An applicant who fails to designate party affiliation must be registered without party affiliation. The supervisor must notify the voter by mail that the voter has been registered without party affiliation and that the voter may change party affiliation as provided in s. 97.1031.

History.—s. 11, ch. 94-224; s. 27, ch. 97-13; s. 5, ch. 98-129.

97.055 Registration books; when closed for an election.—

(1) The registration books must be closed on the 29th day before each election and must remain closed until after that election. If an election is called and there are fewer than 29 days before that election, the registration books must be closed immediately. When the registration books are closed for an election, voter registration and party changes must be accepted but only for the purpose of subsequent elections. However, party changes received between the book-closing date of the first primary election and the date of the second primary election are not effective until after the second primary election.

(2) In computing the 29-day period for the closing of the registration books, the day of the election is excluded and all other days are included. If the 29th day preceding an election falls on a Sunday or a legal holiday, the registration books must be closed on the next day that is not a Sunday or a legal holiday.

History.—s. 2, ch. 25391, 1949; s. 2, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 5, ch. 29934, s. 1, ch. 29761, 1955; s. 3, ch. 85-134; s. 2, ch. 87-530; s. 1, ch. 71-124; ss. 7, 8, ch. 72-63; s. 4, ch. 74-5; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 5, ch. 77-175; s. 7, ch. 80-292; s. 5, ch. 81-304; s. 1, ch. 83-25; s. 27, ch. 84-302; s. 11, ch. 85-80; s. 6, ch. 89-338; s. 12, ch. 94-224.

Note.—Former s. 97.02; s. 98.051.

97.0555 Late registration.—An individual or accompanying family member who has been discharged or separated from the uniformed services, Merchant Marine, or from employment outside the territorial limits of the United States, after the book closing for an election pursuant to s. 97.055 who is otherwise qualified, may register to vote in such election until 5 p.m. on the Friday before that election. Such persons must produce sufficient documentation showing evidence of qualifying for late registration pursuant to this section. The Department of State shall adopt rules specifying documentation that is sufficient to determine eligibility.

History.—s. 47, ch. 2001-40.

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

(1) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall provide the opportunity to register to vote or to update a voter registration record to each individual who comes to an office of that department to:

- (a) Apply for or renew a driver's license;
- (b) Apply for or renew an identification card pursuant to chapter 322; or
- (c) Change an address on an existing driver's license or identification card.

(2) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall:

- (a) Notify each individual, orally or in writing, that:
 1. Information gathered for the completion of a driver's license or identification card application, renewal, or change of address can be automatically transferred to a voter registration application;
 2. If additional information and a signature are provided, the voter registration application will be completed and sent to the proper election authority;
 3. Information provided can also be used to update a voter registration record;

4. All declinations will remain confidential and may be used only for voter registration purposes; and

5. The particular driver license office in which the person applies to register to vote or updates a voter registration record will remain confidential and may be used only for voter registration purposes.

(b) Require a driver's license examiner to inquire orally, or inquire in writing if the applicant is hearing impaired, and whether the applicant wishes to register to vote or update a voter registration record during the completion of a driver's license or identification card application, renewal, or change of address.

1. If the applicant chooses to register to vote or to update a voter registration record:

a. All applicable information received by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in the course of filling out the forms necessary under subsection (1) must be transferred to a voter registration application;

b. The additional necessary information must be obtained by the driver's license examiner and must not duplicate any information already obtained while completing the forms required under subsection (1); and

c. A voter registration application with all of the applicant's voter registration information must be presented to the applicant to sign.

2. If the applicant declines to register to vote, update the applicant's voter registration record, or change the applicant's address by either orally declining or by failing to sign the voter registration application, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must keep the declination for 2 years.

(3) For the purpose of this section, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, with the approval of the Department of State, shall prescribe:

(a) A voter registration application that is the same in content, format, and size as the uniform statewide voter registration application prescribed under s. 97.052; and

(b) A form that will inform applicants under subsection (1) of the information contained in paragraph (2)(a).

(4) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must forward completed voter registration applications within 5 days after receipt to the supervisor of the county where the office that processed or received that application is located.

(5) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must send, with each driver's license renewal extension application authorized pursuant to s. 322.18(8), a uniform statewide voter registration application, the voter registration application prescribed under paragraph (3)(a), or a voter registration application developed especially for the purposes of this subsection by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, with the approval of the Department of State, which must meet the requirements of s. 97.052.

(6) A person providing voter registration services for a driver license office may not:

(a) Seek to influence an applicant's political preference or party registration;

(b) Display any political preference or party allegiance;

(c) Make any statement to an applicant or take any action the purpose or effect of which is to discourage the applicant from registering to vote; or

(d) Disclose any applicant's voter registration information except as needed for the administration of voter registration.

(7) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall compile lists, by county, of those individuals whose names have been purged from its driver's license database because they have been licensed in another state and shall provide those lists annually to the appropriate supervisors.

(8) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall collect data determined necessary by the Department of State for program evaluation and reporting to the Federal Election Commission pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

(9) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must ensure that all voter registration services provided by driver license offices are in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

History.—s. 13, ch. 94-224.

97.058 Voter registration agencies.—

(1) Each voter registration agency must provide each applicant the opportunity to register to vote or to update a voter registration record, at the time the applicant applies for services or assistance from that agency, for renewal of such services or assistance, or for a change of address required with respect to the services or assistance.

(2) Each voter registration agency, other than a public library, must develop and provide each applicant with a form approved by the department containing all of the following:

(a) The questions:

1. "If you are not registered to vote where you live now, would you like to apply to register to vote today?"

2. "If you are registered to vote where you live now, would you like to update your voter registration record?"

(b) For agencies providing public assistance, the statement, "Applying to register or declining to register to vote will not affect the amount of assistance that you will be provided by this agency."

(c) Boxes for the applicant to check which indicate that:

1. The applicant would like to register to vote or update a current voter registration;

2. The applicant would like to decline to register to vote; or

3. The applicant is already registered to vote and does not need to update the voter registration,

together with the statement, "If you do not check any box, you will be considered to have decided not to register to vote or update a voter registration at this time."

(d) The statement, "If you would like help in filling out the voter registration application, we will help you. The decision whether to seek or accept help is yours. You may fill out the voter registration application in private."

(e) The statement, "If you believe that someone has interfered with your right to register or to decline to register to vote, your right to privacy in deciding whether to register or in applying to register to vote, or your right to choose your own political party or other political preference, you may file a complaint with the Secretary of State."

(f) The address and telephone number of the appropriate office in the department where a complaint may be filed.

(g) A statement that all declinations will remain confidential and may be used only for voter registration purposes.

(h) A statement that informs the applicant who chooses to register to vote or update a voter registration record that the office at which the applicant submits a voter registration application or updates a voter registration record will remain confidential and may be used only for voter registration purposes.

(3)(a) A voter registration agency may use the uniform statewide voter registration application or may create and use a voter registration application that meets the requirements of s. 97.052, with the approval of the department.

(b) A voter registration agency must provide to each applicant under subsection (1) the voter registration application that the agency decides to use pursuant to paragraph (a). An applicant who indicates a desire to register to vote or update a voter registration record must be provided the same degree of assistance with regard to the completion of that voter registration application as is provided by the agency with regard to the completion of its own forms, unless the applicant refuses that assistance.

(4) If a voter registration agency provides services to a person with a disability at the person's home, the agency must also provide voter registration services at the person's home.

(5) A voter registration agency must establish procedures for providing voter registration services to applicants who apply by telephone.

(6) A voter registration agency must forward completed voter registration applications within 5 days after receipt to the supervisor of the county where the agency that processed or received that application is located.

(7) A voter registration agency must retain declinations for a period of 2 years, during which time the declinations are not considered a record of the client pursuant to the laws governing the agency's records.

(8) A person providing voter registration services for a voter registration agency may not:

(a) Seek to influence an applicant's political preference or party registration;

(b) Display any political preference or party allegiance;

(c) Make any statement to an applicant or take any action the purpose or effect of which is to lead the applicant to believe that a decision to register or not to register has any bearing on the availability of services or benefits;

(d) Make any statement to an applicant or take any action the purpose or effect of which is to discourage the applicant from registering to vote; or

(e) Disclose any applicant's voter registration information except as needed for the administration of voter registrations.

(9) A voter registration agency must collect data determined necessary by the department for program evaluation and reporting to the Federal Election Commission pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

(10) Each state agency which contracts with a private provider that is also a voter registration agency as defined in s. 97.021 is responsible for contracting for voter registration services with that provider and for ensuring that the private provider complies with the provisions of this section.

(11) Each voter registration agency must ensure that all voter registration services provided by its offices are in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

History.—s. 14, ch. 94-224.

97.0583 Voter registration at qualifying educational institutions.—Each qualifying educational institution shall provide each student enrolled in that institution the opportunity to register to vote or to update a voter registration record on each campus at least once a year. Qualifying educational institutions are also encouraged to provide voter registration services at other times and places, such as upon application for financial aid, during admissions, at registration, upon issuance of student identifications, and at new-student orientation.

History.—s. 3, ch. 96-327.

97.0585 Declinations to register; place of registration and registration information; confidentiality.—

(1) All declinations to register to vote made pursuant to ss. 97.057 and 97.058 are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution and may be used only for voter registration purposes.

(2) Information relating to the place where a person registered to vote or where a person updated a voter registration is confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution; and a voter's signature, social security number, and telephone number may not be copied and are exempt for that purpose from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

History.—ss. 1, 2, ch. 94-345; s. 24, ch. 96-406.

97.061 Special registration for electors requiring assistance.—

(1) Any person who is eligible to register and who is unable to read or write or who, because of some disability, needs assistance in voting shall upon that person's request be registered by the supervisor under the procedure prescribed by this section and shall be entitled to receive assistance at the polls under the conditions prescribed by this section.

(2) If a person is qualified to register pursuant to this section, the supervisor shall note in that person's registration record that the person needs assistance in voting.

(3) Upon registering any person pursuant to this section, the supervisor must make a notation on the

registration books or records which are delivered to the polls on election day that such person is eligible for assistance in voting, and the supervisor may issue such person a special registration identification card or make some notation on the regular registration identification card that such person is eligible for assistance in voting. Such person shall be entitled to receive the assistance of two election officials or some other person of his or her own choice, other than the person's employer, the agent of the person's employer, or an officer or agent of the person's union, without the necessity of executing the "Declaration to Secure Assistance" prescribed in s. 101.051. Such person shall notify the supervisor of any change in his or her condition which makes it unnecessary for him or her to receive assistance in voting.

History.—s. 14, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 318; CGL 375; s. 3, ch. 25388, 1949; s. 6, ch. 25391, 1949; s. 1, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 3, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 1, ch. 59-446; s. 1, ch. 61-358; s. 4, ch. 65-60; s. 3, ch. 77-175; s. 1, ch. 79-366; s. 2, ch. 81-304; s. 1, ch. 84-302; s. 15, ch. 94-224; s. 1384, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former ss. 97.06 and 102.21.

97.071 Registration identification card.—

(1) A registration identification card must be furnished to all voters registering under the permanent single registration system and must contain:

- (a) Voter's registration number.
- (b) Date of registration.
- (c) Full name.
- (d) Party affiliation.
- (e) Date of birth.
- (f) Race or ethnicity, if provided by the applicant.
- (g) Sex, if provided by the applicant.
- (h) Address of legal residence.
- (i) Precinct number.
- (j) Signature of supervisor.
- (k) Place for voter's signature.
- (l) Other information deemed necessary by the department.

(2) A voter may receive a replacement of a registration identification card by providing a signed, written request for a replacement card to the supervisor. Upon verification of registration, the supervisor shall issue the voter a duplicate card without charge.

(3) In the case of a change of name, address, or party affiliation, the supervisor must issue the voter a new registration identification card. However, a registration identification card indicating a party affiliation change made between the book-closing date for the first primary election and the date of the second primary election may not be issued until after the second primary election.

History.—s. 13, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 167; s. 15, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 191, 192; RGS 235, 236; CGL 288, 289; s. 4, ch. 24203, 1947; s. 11, ch. 25035, 1949; s. 1, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 10, ch. 27991, 1953; s. 6, ch. 65-60; s. 8, ch. 69-377; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 18, ch. 94-224; s. 28, ch. 97-13; s. 7, ch. 98-129; s. 2, ch. 2000-250.

Note.—Former ss. 98.31 and 98.32.

97.073 Disposition of voter registration applications; cancellation notice.—

(1) The supervisor must notify each applicant of the disposition of the applicant's voter registration application. The notice must inform the applicant that the application has been approved, is incomplete, has been denied, or is a duplicate of a current registration. A registration identification card sent to an applicant constitutes notice of approval of registration. If the application is incomplete, the supervisor must request that the applicant supply the missing information in writing and sign a statement that the additional information is true and correct. A notice of denial must inform the applicant of the reason the application was denied.

(2) Within 2 weeks after approval of a voter registration application that indicates that the applicant was previously registered in another jurisdiction, the supervisor must notify the registration official in the prior jurisdiction that the applicant is now registered in the supervisor's county.

History.—s. 19, ch. 94-224; s. 62, ch. 2001-40.

97.1031 Notice of change of residence within the same county, change of name, or change of party.—

(1) When an elector moves from the address named on that person's voter registration record to another address within the same county, the elector must provide a signed, written notification of such move to the supervisor and obtain a registration identification card reflecting the new address of legal residence.

(2) When the name of an elector is changed by marriage or other legal process, the elector must provide a signed, written notification of such change to the supervisor and obtain a registration identification card reflecting the new name.

(3) When an elector seeks to change party affiliation, the elector must provide a signed, written notification of such intent to the supervisor and obtain a registration identification card reflecting the new party affiliation, subject to the issuance restriction in s. 97.071(3).

(4) The supervisor shall make the necessary changes in the elector's records as soon as practical upon receipt of such notice of a change of address of legal residence, name, or party affiliation and shall issue the new registration identification card as required by s. 97.071(3).

History.—s. 7, ch. 78-403; s. 5, ch. 80-292; s. 21, ch. 94-224; s. 29, ch. 97-13; s. 31, ch. 99-2; s. 3, ch. 2000-250.

97.105 Permanent single registration system established.—A permanent single registration system for the registration of electors to qualify them to vote in all elections is provided for the several counties and municipalities. This system shall be put into use by all municipalities and shall be in lieu of any other system of municipal registration. Electors shall be registered in pursuance of this system by the supervisor or by a deputy supervisor, and electors registered shall not thereafter be required to register or reregister except as provided by law.

History.—s. 1, ch. 25391, 1949; s. 2, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 59-237; s. 2, ch. 69-377; s. 1, ch. 73-155; s. 32, ch. 73-333; s. 5, ch. 77-175; s. 23, ch. 94-224.

Note.—Former s. 97.01; s. 98.041.

CHAPTER 98

REGISTRATION OFFICE, OFFICERS, AND PROCEDURES

- 98.015 Supervisor of elections; election, tenure of office, compensation, custody of books, office hours, successor, seal; appointment of deputy supervisors; duties.
- 98.045 Administration of voter registration.
- 98.055 Registration list maintenance forms.
- 98.065 Registration list maintenance programs.
- 98.075 Other registration list maintenance activities.
- 98.081 Names removed from registration books; restrictions on reregistering; recordkeeping; restoration of erroneously or illegally removed names.
- 98.093 Duty of officials to furnish lists of deceased persons, persons adjudicated mentally incapacitated, and persons convicted of a felony.
- 98.095 County registers open to inspection; copies.
- 98.097 Central voter file; administration by division; public access.
- 98.0977 Statewide voter registration database; development and maintenance.
- 98.0979 Statewide voter registration database open to inspection; copies.
- 98.101 Specifications for permanent registration binders, files, and forms.
- 98.181 Supervisor of elections to make up indexes or records.
- 98.212 Supervisors to furnish statistical and other information.
- 98.231 Supervisor of elections to furnish Department of State number of registered electors.
- 98.255 Voter education programs.
- 98.451 Registration; automation in processing.
- 98.461 Registration form, precinct register; contents.
- 98.471 Use of precinct register at polls.
- 98.481 Challenge to electors.
- 98.491 Alternative procedure.

98.015 Supervisor of elections; election, tenure of office, compensation, custody of books, office hours, successor, seal; appointment of deputy supervisors; duties.—

(1) A supervisor of elections shall be elected in each county at the general election in each year the number of which is a multiple of four for a 4-year term commencing on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January succeeding his or her election. Each supervisor shall, before performing any of his or her duties, take the oath prescribed in s. 5, Art. II of the State Constitution.

(2) The supervisor's compensation shall be paid by the board of county commissioners.

(3) The supervisor is the official custodian of the registration books and has the exclusive control of matters pertaining to registration of electors.

(4) At a minimum, the office of the supervisor must be open Monday through Friday, excluding legal holi-

days, for a period of not less than 8 hours per day, beginning no later than 9 a.m.

(5) The supervisor shall preserve statements and other information required to be filed with the supervisor's office pursuant to chapter 106 for a period of 10 years from date of receipt.

(6) The supervisor shall, upon leaving office, deliver to his or her successor immediately all records belonging to the office.

(7) Each supervisor is authorized to obtain for the office an impression seal approved by the department. An impression of the seal with a description thereof shall be filed with the department. The supervisor is empowered to attach an impression of the seal upon official documents and certificates executed over the supervisor's signature and take oaths and acknowledgments under the supervisor's seal in matters pertaining to the office. However, said seal need not be affixed to registration certificates.

(8) Each supervisor may select and appoint, subject to removal by the supervisor, as many deputy supervisors as are necessary, whose compensation must be paid by the supervisor and who shall have the same powers and whose acts shall have the same effect as the acts of the supervisor; except that the supervisor shall limit the power to appoint deputy supervisors to designated deputy supervisors. Each deputy supervisor shall, before entering office, take an oath in writing that he or she will faithfully perform the duties of the deputy supervisor's office, which oath must be acknowledged by the supervisor or a designated deputy supervisor and must be filed in the office of the supervisor.

(9) Each supervisor must make training in the proper implementation of voter registration procedures available to any individual, group, center for independent living, or public library in the supervisor's county.

(10) Each supervisor must ensure that all voter registration and list maintenance procedures conducted by such supervisor are in compliance with any applicable requirements for that county under the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

(11) Each supervisor of elections shall forward to the property appraiser for the county in which the homestead is claimed the name of the person and the address of the homestead of each person who registers to vote at an address other than that at which the person claims a homestead exemption, as disclosed on the uniform statewide voter registration application pursuant to s. 97.052.

History.—chs. 3700, 3704, 1887; s. 8, ch. 3679, 1889; RS 162; s. 9, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 179, 180; s. 1, ch. 5614, 1907; s. 1, ch. 9271, 1923; RGS 223, 224; CGL 258, 259; ss. 1, 2, ch. 22759, 1945; s. 2, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 10, ch. 65-134; ss. 10, 11, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 33, ch. 69-216; s. 5, ch. 77-175; s. 25, ch. 94-224; s. 1385, ch. 95-147; s. 17, ch. 98-34; s. 2, ch. 98-129.

Note.—Former ss. 98.13, 98.14, 98.17; s. 98.161.

98.045 Administration of voter registration.—

(1) Each supervisor must ensure that any eligible applicant for voter registration is registered to vote. Once a voter is registered, the name of that voter may

not be removed from the registration books except at the written request of the voter, by reason of the voter's conviction of a felony or adjudication as mentally incapacitated with respect to voting, by death of the voter, or pursuant to a registration list maintenance program or other registration list maintenance activity conducted pursuant to s. 98.065 or s. 98.075.

(2) Information received by a supervisor from an election official in another jurisdiction indicating that a voter in the supervisor's county has registered to vote in that other jurisdiction shall be considered as a written request from the voter to have the voter's name removed from the registration books of the supervisor's county.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 98.095 and 98.097, each supervisor shall maintain for at least 2 years, and make available for public inspection and copying, all records concerning implementation of registration list maintenance programs and activities conducted pursuant to ss. 98.065 and 98.075. The records must include lists of the name and address of each person to whom an address confirmation final notice was sent and information as to whether each such person responded to the mailing, but may not include any information that is confidential or exempt from public record requirements under this code.

History.—s. 26, ch. 94-224; s. 38, ch. 97-13.

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

(1) An "address confirmation request" that must contain:

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

(b) A request that the supervisor be informed if either the name or address of legal residence of the voter is incorrect.

(2) An "address confirmation final notice," which must be sent by forwardable mail and must contain a postage prepaid preaddressed return form and a statement that:

(a) If the voter has not changed address of legal residence or has changed address of legal residence within the county, the voter should return the return form within 30 days after the date of the notice.

(b) If the return form is not returned and the voter does not offer to vote by the second general election thereafter, the voter's name will be removed from the voter registration books.

(c) If the voter has changed address of legal residence to a location outside the county:

1. The voter should return the return form, which will serve as a request to be removed from the registration books; and

2. The voter will be provided with information on how to register in the new jurisdiction in order to be eligible to vote.

History.—s. 27, ch. 94-224.

98.065 Registration list maintenance programs.—

(1) The supervisor must conduct a general registration list maintenance program to protect the integrity of

the electoral process by ensuring the maintenance of accurate and current voter registration records. The program must be uniform, nondiscriminatory, and in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

(2) A supervisor must incorporate one or more of the following procedures in the supervisor's biennial registration list maintenance program under which:

(a) Change-of-address information supplied by the United States Postal Service through its licensees is used to identify registered voters whose addresses might have changed;

(b) Change-of-address information is identified from returned nonforwardable return-if-undeliverable mail sent to all registered voters in the county; or

(c) Change-of-address information is identified from returned nonforwardable return-if-undeliverable address confirmation requests mailed to all registered voters who have not voted in the last 2 years and who did not make a written request that their registration records be updated during that time.

(3) A registration list maintenance program must be conducted by each supervisor, at a minimum, in each odd-numbered year and must be completed not later than 90 days prior to the date of any federal election. A voter's name may not be removed from the registration books later than 90 days prior to the date of a federal election. However, nothing in this section shall preclude the removal of the name of a voter from the voter registration books, at any time and without prior notification, upon the written request of the voter, by reason of conviction of the voter of a felony, by reason of adjudication of the voter as mentally incapacitated with respect to voting, by reason of the death of the voter, or upon a determination of ineligibility as provided in s. 98.075(3).

(4) If the supervisor receives change-of-address information from the United States Postal Service or its licensees or from jury notices signed by the voter and returned to the courts, which indicates that:

(a) The voter has moved within the supervisor's county, the supervisor must change the registration records to show the new address and must send the voter a notice of the change by forwardable mail, including a postage prepaid preaddressed return form with which the voter may verify or correct the address information.

(b) The voter has moved outside the supervisor's county, or contains no forwarding address, the supervisor shall send an address confirmation final notice and remove the name of the voter from the registration record if that voter did not:

1. Return the postage prepaid preaddressed return form;

2. Appear to vote;

3. Change the voter's registration; or

4. Request an absentee ballot

during the period beginning on the date when the address confirmation final notice was sent and ending on the day after the date of the second general election thereafter.

(5) The supervisor must designate as inactive all voters who have been sent an address confirmation

final notice and who have not returned the postage prepaid preaddressed return form within 30 days. A voter on the inactive list must be allowed to vote and to change the voter's name or address of legal residence at the polls pursuant to s. 101.045. Names on the inactive list may not be used to calculate the number of signatures needed on any petition or the quantity of voting equipment needed.

History.—s. 28, ch. 94-224.

98.075 Other registration list maintenance activities.—

(1) The supervisor may send an address confirmation request to any voter whose name is on the list of drivers who have been removed by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles from its driver's license database by reason of being licensed in another state. If the address confirmation request is returned to the supervisor by the United States Postal Service with change-of-address information, the supervisor must proceed in accordance with the procedures in s. 98.065(4).

(2) The supervisor may send an address confirmation request to any voter whom the supervisor has reason to believe has moved from his or her legal residence. If the address confirmation request is returned to the supervisor by the United States Postal Service with change-of-address information, the supervisor must proceed in accordance with the procedures in s. 98.065(4).

(3)(a) When the supervisor believes that a voter is not at least 18 years of age, is not a citizen of the United States, is a fictitious person, or has listed a residence that is not his or her legal residence, the supervisor must notify the person at his or her last known address by certified mail. If there is evidence that the notice was not received, notice must be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the person was last registered or last known. The notice by publication must run one time. The notification must plainly state that the registration is allegedly invalid and must be in the form of a notice to show cause why the person's name should not be removed from the registration books. The notice must state a time and place for the person so notified to appear before the supervisor to show cause why his or her name should not be removed.

(b) Upon hearing all evidence in an administrative hearing, the supervisor must determine whether there is sufficient evidence to strike the person's name from the registration books. If the supervisor determines that there is sufficient evidence, he or she must strike the name.

(c) Appeal may be taken to the circuit court in and for the county where the person was registered. Notice of appeal must be filed within the time and in the manner provided by the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure and acts as supersedeas. Trial in the circuit court is de novo and governed by the rules of that court. Unless the person can show that his or her name was erroneously or illegally stricken from the registration books or that he or she is indigent, the person must bear the costs of the trial in the circuit court. Otherwise,

the cost of the appeal must be paid by the board of county commissioners.

History.—s. 29, ch. 94-224; s. 1388, ch. 95-147.

98.081 Names removed from registration books; restrictions on reregistering; recordkeeping; restoration of erroneously or illegally removed names.—

(1) Any person who requested that his or her name be removed from the registration books between the book-closing date of the first primary and the date of the second primary may not register in a different political party until after the date of the second primary election.

(2) When the name of any elector is removed from the registration books pursuant to s. 98.065, s. 98.075, or s. 98.093, the elector's original registration form shall be filed alphabetically in the office of the supervisor. As alternatives, registrations removed from the registration books may be microfilmed and such microfilms substituted for the original registration forms; or, when voter registration information, including the voter's signature, is maintained digitally or on electronic, magnetic, or optic media, such stored information may be substituted for the original registration form. Such microfilms or stored information shall be retained in the custody of the supervisor. In the event the original registration forms are microfilmed or maintained digitally or on electronic or other media, such originals may be destroyed in accordance with the schedule approved by the Bureau of Archives and Records Management of the Division of Library and Information Services of the department.

(3) When the name of any elector has been erroneously or illegally removed from the registration books, the name of the elector shall be restored by the supervisor upon satisfactory proof, even though the registration period for that election is closed.

History.—s. 8, ch. 25391, 1949; s. 2, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 61-86; s. 5, ch. 77-175; s. 1, ch. 78-102; s. 14, ch. 79-385; s. 8, ch. 80-292; s. 45, ch. 81-259; s. 18, ch. 81-304; s. 7, ch. 82-143; s. 3, ch. 90-315; s. 30, ch. 94-224; s. 1387, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former s. 97.08.

98.093 Duty of officials to furnish lists of deceased persons, persons adjudicated mentally incapacitated, and persons convicted of a felony.—

(1) The Department of Health shall furnish monthly to each supervisor of elections a list containing the name, address, date of birth, race, and sex of each deceased person 17 years of age or older who was a resident of such supervisor's county.

(2) Each clerk of the circuit court shall, at least once each month, deliver to each supervisor of elections a list stating the name, address, date of birth, race, and sex of each person convicted of a felony during the preceding calendar month who was a resident of that supervisor's county, a list stating the name, address, date of birth, race, and sex of each person adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting during the preceding calendar month who was a resident of that supervisor's county, and a list stating the name, address, date of birth, race, and sex of each person whose mental capacity with respect to voting has been restored who was a resident of that supervisor's county.

(3) Upon receipt of information from the United States Attorney, listing persons convicted of a felony in federal court, the department shall immediately forward such information to the supervisor of elections for the county where the offender resides.

(4) Upon receipt of any such list, the supervisor shall remove from the registration books the name of any person listed who is deceased, convicted of a felony, or adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting. A person who has had his or her mental capacity with respect to voting restored or who has had his or her right to vote restored after conviction of a felony shall be required to reregister to have his or her name restored to the registration books.

(5) Nothing in this section shall limit or restrict the supervisor in his or her duty to remove the names of such persons from the registration books after verification of information received from other sources.

History.—s. 3, ch. 14730, 1931; CGL 1936 Supp. 302(1); s. 10, ch. 24203, 1947; s. 11, ch. 25035, 1949; s. 2, ch. 26670, 1951; s. 1, ch. 29917; s. 9, ch. 29934, 1955; s. 33, ch. 73-333; s. 27, ch. 77-147; s. 5, ch. 77-175; s. 32, ch. 94-224; s. 1388, ch. 95-147; s. 7, ch. 99-8.

Note.—Former s. 98.41; s. 98.301.

98.095 County registers open to inspection; copies.—

(1)(a)1. The registration books of each county in this state are public records. Any citizen of the state is allowed to examine the registration books of any county while they are in the custody of the supervisor of that county, but is not allowed to make copies or extracts therefrom except as provided by this section.

2. Within 15 days of a request for voter registration information, the supervisor shall furnish any requested information, excluding only a voter's signature and social security number and such other information that is by statute specifically made confidential or is exempt from public records requirements, which the supervisor maintains pursuant to "The Florida Election Code."

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if after the most recent election there is a request for information relating to electors who voted in that election, within 15 days of the request the supervisor shall either provide the information or allow the persons, entities, or agents thereof, as authorized in this section, to personally extract or copy the information.

(c) Actual costs of duplication of information authorized by this section for release to the public shall be charged in accordance with the provisions of s. 119.07.

(2) The information provided by the supervisor pursuant to this section shall be furnished only to:

- (a) Municipalities;
- (b) Other governmental agencies;
- (c) Candidates, to further their candidacy;
- (d) Registered political committees, registered committees of continuous existence, and political parties or officials thereof, for political purposes only; and
- (e) Incumbent officeholders, to report to their constituents.

Such information shall not be used for commercial purposes. No person to whom a list of registered voters is made available pursuant to this section, and no person who acquires such a list, shall use any information con-

tained therein for purposes which are not related to elections, political or governmental activities, voter registration, or law enforcement.

(3) Any person who acquires a list of registered voters from the office of the supervisor shall take and subscribe to an oath which shall be in substantially the following form:

I hereby swear or affirm that I am a person authorized by s. 98.095, Florida Statutes, to acquire information on registered voters of _____ County, Florida; that the information acquired will be used only for the purposes prescribed in that section and for no other purpose; and that I will not permit the use or copying of such information by persons not authorized by the Election Code of the State of Florida.

(Signature of person acquiring list)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, (year) _____.

(Signature and title of person administering oath)

History.—s. 18, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 322; CGL 379; s. 4, ch. 25388, 1949; s. 2, ch. 26670, 1951; s. 8, ch. 29934, 1955; s. 1, ch. 57-810; s. 15, ch. 65-134; s. 5, ch. 77-175; s. 10, ch. 80-292; s. 46, ch. 81-259; s. 7, ch. 81-304; s. 3, ch. 87-363; s. 1, ch. 87-538; s. 4, ch. 91-235; s. 1, ch. 91-424; s. 33, ch. 94-224; ss. 37, 38, ch. 97-13; s. 6, ch. 99-6.

Note.—Former s. 102.25; s. 98.211.

98.097 Central voter file; administration by division; public access.—

(1) There is hereby established a central voter file, to be administered by the division, which shall be a statewide, centrally maintained database containing the voter registration information of all counties in this state.

(2) All voter registration records and other information in the central voter file, excluding any information that is confidential or exempt from public records requirements, shall be considered public records for the purposes of chapter 119.

(3) The central voter file shall be self-sustaining.

History.—s. 39, ch. 97-13.

98.0977 Statewide voter registration database; development and maintenance.—

(1) From the funds appropriated, the department may contract with the Florida Association of Court Clerks to analyze, design, develop, operate, and maintain a statewide, on-line voter registration database and associated website, to be fully operational statewide by June 1, 2002. The database shall contain voter registration information from each of the 67 supervisors of elections in this state and shall be accessible through an Internet website. The system shall provide functionality for ensuring that the database is updated on a daily basis to determine if a registered voter is ineligible to vote for any of the following reasons, including, but not limited to:

- (a) The voter is deceased;
- (b) The voter has been convicted of a felony and has not had his or her civil rights restored; or
- (c) The voter has been adjudicated mentally incompetent and his or her mental capacity with respect to voting has not been restored.

The database shall also allow for duplicate voter registrations to be identified.

(2) The Department of State shall not contract with any private entity other than the Florida Association of Court Clerks for the operation or maintenance of the statewide voter registration database.

(3) In administering the database, each supervisor of elections shall compare registration information provided by a voter with information held by the Department of Law Enforcement, the Board of Executive Clemency, the Office of Vital Statistics, and other relevant sources. If the supervisor of elections finds information that suggests that a voter is ineligible to register to vote, the supervisor of elections shall notify the voter by certified United States mail. The notification shall contain a statement as to the reason for the voter's potential ineligibility to register to vote and shall request information from the voter on forms provided by the supervisor of elections in order to make a final determination on the voter's eligibility. After reviewing the information requested by the supervisor of elections and provided by the voter, if the supervisor of elections determines that the voter is not eligible to vote under the laws of this state, the supervisor of elections shall notify the voter by certified United States mail that he or she has been found ineligible to register to vote in this state, shall state the reason for the ineligibility, and shall inform the voter that he or she will be removed from the voter registration rolls.

(4) To the maximum extent feasible, state and local government entities shall facilitate provision of information and access to data to the Florida Association of Court Clerks in order to compare information in the statewide voter registration database with available information in other computer databases, including, but not limited to, databases that contain reliable criminal records and records of deceased persons. State and local governmental agencies that provide such data shall do so without charge if the direct cost incurred by those agencies is not significant.

(5) The Division of Elections shall provide written quarterly progress reports on each phase of development of the voter registration database to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives beginning July 1, 2001, and continuing until the database is fully implemented.

(6) The duties of the supervisors of elections under this section shall be considered part of their regular registration list maintenance duties under this chapter, and any supervisor of elections who willfully refuses or willfully neglects to perform his or her duties under this section shall be in violation of s. 104.051(2).

History.—s. 70, ch. 2001-40.

¹Note.—Section 98.0975, which related to the central voter file, was repealed by s. 73, ch. 2001-40. Section 44, ch. 2001-254, amended s. 98.0975 to add subsection (5) "[i]n order to implement Specific Appropriation 2898B of the 2001-2002 General Appropriations Act." Section 98.0975(5), as enacted by s. 44, ch. 2001-254, reads:

(5)(a) For the 2001-2002 fiscal year only and notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), the division shall provide to each county supervisor of elections a list containing the name, address, date of birth, race, gender, and any other available identifying information of each person included in the central voter file as a registered voter in the supervisor's county whom the division believes may be ineligible to vote based on examination of data obtained from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Board of Executive Clemency, the Office of Vital Statistics, or any other source that indicates that the person is deceased, has been convicted of a felony and has not had his or her civil rights restored, or has been adjudicated mentally incompetent and whose mental capacity with respect to voting has not been restored.

(b) For the 2001-2002 fiscal year only and notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3), the division is not required to contract with a private entity to compare information.

(c) For the 2001-2002 fiscal year only and notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (4), upon receiving the list from the division, the supervisor must attempt to verify the information provided. If the supervisor determines that the information provided by the division is correct, the supervisor must remove from the registration books by the next election the name of any person whom the supervisor confirms is deceased, has been convicted of a felony and has not had his or her civil rights restored, or has been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting and has not had his or her mental capacity with respect to voting restored.

(d) This subsection expires July 1, 2002.

98.0979 Statewide voter registration database open to inspection; copies.—

(1)(a) The voter registration information of the state constitutes public records. Any citizen shall be allowed to examine the voter registration records, but may not make any copies or extract therefrom except as provided by this section.

(b) Within 15 days after a request for voter registration information, the division or supervisor of elections shall furnish any requested information, excluding only a voter's signature, social security number, and such other information that is by statute specifically made confidential or is exempt from public records requirements.

(c) Actual costs of duplication of information authorized by this section for release to the public shall be charged in accordance with the provisions of s. 119.07.

(2) The information provided by the division or supervisor of elections pursuant to this section shall be furnished only to:

- (a) Municipalities;
- (b) Other governmental agencies;
- (c) Political candidates, for the purpose of furthering their candidacies;
- (d) Registered political committees, certified committees of continuous existence, and political parties or officials thereof, for political purposes only; and
- (e) Incumbent officeholders, for the purpose of reporting to their constituents.

(3) Such information shall not be used for commercial purposes. No person to whom a list of registered voters is made available pursuant to this section, and no person who acquires such a list, shall use any information contained therein for purposes which are not related to elections, political or governmental activities, voter registration, or law enforcement.

(4) Any person who acquires a list of registered voters from the division or supervisor of elections shall take and subscribe to an oath which shall be in substantially the following form:

I hereby swear (or affirm) that I am a person authorized by s. 98.0979, Florida Statutes, to acquire information on the registered voters of Florida; that the information acquired will be used only for the purposes prescribed in that section and for no other purpose; and that I will not permit the use or copying of such information by persons not authorized by the Election Code of the State of Florida.

_____(Signature of person acquiring list)_____

Sworn and subscribed before me this ____ day of _____, (year)_____.

(Name of person providing list)
History.—s. 72, ch. 2001-40.

98.101 Specifications for permanent registration binders, files, and forms.—In the permanent registration system, visible record binders, files, and registration forms shall be used as registration books. The binders shall be visible record binders, metal bound with built-in shifts, to hold executed registration forms, with labelholders and followers for sheet protection as necessary. The registration forms shall consist of duplicates, both to be signed by the registrant. One of the original executed forms shall be used for the poll binders, which binders shall have a built-in lock to protect the forms. The poll binders shall be divided in a manner convenient for electors to vote. The other original form shall be used for the office copies and arranged alphabetically, in suitable filing cabinets, thus providing a master list of all electors in the county; however, any county may, as an alternate method, use electronic data processing equipment to fulfill the requirements of this chapter. As additional alternatives, registration forms used for office copies may be microfilmed and such microfilms substituted for the original registration forms; or, when voter registration information, including the voter's signature, is maintained digitally or on electronic, magnetic, or optic media, such stored information may be substituted for the original registration form. Such microfilms or stored information shall be retained in the custody of the supervisor of elections. In the event the original registration forms are microfilmed or maintained digitally or on electronic or other media, such originals may be destroyed in accordance with the schedule approved by the Bureau of Archives and Records Management of the Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State.

History.—s. 3, ch. 25391, 1949; s. 2, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 7, ch. 65-134; s. 4, ch. 73-155; s. 5, ch. 77-175; s. 4, ch. 90-315.

Note.—Former s. 97.03.

98.181 Supervisor of elections to make up indexes or records.—A set of indexes or records as the supervisor may direct shall be kept in each municipality of over 25,000 population, when such municipality is not the county seat, as will enable the supervisor, or the supervisor's deputy, to provide registration services to the electors in such municipality. Such set of indexes or records may be limited to cover those persons residing in such municipality and its environs. If there be two or more such municipalities in a county, then an additional set shall be kept, or such number of sets as may be required to serve each such municipality.

History.—ss. 12, 14, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 166, 168; ss. 14, 16, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 190, 195; RGS 234, 239; CGL 287, 292; ss. 3, 7, ch. 24203, 1947; s. 8, ch. 25383, 1949; s. 2, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 6, ch. 29934, 1955; s. 12, ch. 65-134; s. 5, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former ss. 98.30, 98.35.

98.212 Supervisors to furnish statistical and other information.—

(1)(a) Upon written request, supervisors shall, as promptly as possible, furnish to recognized public or private universities and senior colleges within the state, to state or county governmental agencies, and to recognized political party committees statistical information for the purpose of analyzing election returns and results.

(b) Supervisors may require reimbursement for any part or all of the actual expenses of supplying any information requested under paragraph (a). For the purposes of this subsection, supervisors may use the services of any research and statistical personnel that may be supplied.

(c) Lists of names submitted to supervisors for indication of registration or nonregistration or of party affiliation shall be processed at any time at cost, except that in no case shall the charge exceed 10 cents for each name on which the information is furnished.

(2) The supervisors shall provide information as requested by the department for program evaluation and reporting to the Federal Election Commission pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

(3) The supervisors shall provide information as requested by the department for the creation and maintenance of the central voter file.

History.—s. 2, ch. 57-810; s. 5, ch. 77-175; s. 26, ch. 79-400; s. 34, ch. 94-224; s. 40, ch. 97-13.

98.231 Supervisor of elections to furnish Department of State number of registered electors.—The supervisor of each county, within 15 days after the closing of registration books prior to the election, shall, for the county and for each legislative and congressional district in which such county or any portion thereof is located, advise the Department of State of the total number of registered electors of each political party in which any elector has registered and the number of electors registered as independents or without party affiliation.

History.—s. 17, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 321; CGL 378; s. 3, ch. 25379, 1949; s. 2, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 61-84; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 5, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 102.24.

98.255 Voter education programs.—

(1) By March 1, 2002, the Department of State shall adopt rules prescribing minimum standards for nonpartisan voter education. In developing the rules, the department shall review current voter education programs within each county of the state. The standards shall address, but are not limited to, the following subjects:

- (a) Voter registration;
- (b) Balloting procedures, absentee and polling place;
- (c) Voter rights and responsibilities;
- (d) Distribution of sample ballots; and
- (e) Public service announcements.

(2) Each county supervisor shall implement the minimum voter education standards, and shall conduct additional nonpartisan education efforts as necessary to ensure that voters have a working knowledge of the voting process.

(3)(a) By December 15 of each general election year, each supervisor of elections shall report to the Department of State a detailed description of the voter education programs implemented and any other information that may be useful in evaluating the effectiveness of voter education efforts.

(b) The Department of State, upon receipt of such information, shall prepare a public report on the effectiveness of voter education programs and shall submit

the report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 31 of each year following a general election.

(c) The Department of State shall reexamine the rules adopted pursuant to subsection (1) and consider the findings in the report as a basis for adopting modified rules that incorporate successful voter education programs and techniques, as necessary.

*History.—*s. 9, ch. 80-282; s. 1, ch. 83-16; s. 530, ch. 95-147; s. 59, ch. 2001-40.

98.451 Registration; automation in processing.—

For the purpose of providing a supplemental and alternative procedure for the registration of electors and for conducting elections, the supervisor of elections may require a system of automation in the processing of registration data, and may make use of computers and data processing equipment and records adaptable for efficiency in conducting elections.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 77-267.

98.461 Registration form, precinct register; contents.—

A registration form, approved by the Department of State, containing the information required in s. 97.052 shall be filed alphabetically in the office of the supervisor as the master list of electors of the county. However, the registration forms may be microfilmed and such microfilms substituted for the original registration forms; or, when voter registration information, including the voter's signature, is maintained digitally or on electronic, magnetic, or optic media, such stored information may be substituted for the original registration form. Such microfilms or stored information shall be retained in the custody of the supervisor of elections. In the event the original registration forms are microfilmed or maintained digitally or on electronic or other media, such originals may be destroyed in accordance with the schedule approved by the Bureau of Archives and Records Management of the Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State. As an alternative, the information from the registration form, including the signature, may be electronically reproduced and stored as provided in s. 98.451. A computer printout may be used at the polls as a precinct register in lieu of the registration books. The precinct register shall contain the date of the election, the precinct number, and the following information concerning each registered elector: last name, first name, and middle name or initial; party affiliation; residence address; registration number; date of birth; sex, if provided; race, if provided; whether the voter needs assistance in voting; and such other additional information as to readily identify the elector. The precinct register may also contain a list of the forms of identification, which must include, but is not limited to, a Florida driver's license, a Florida identification card issued under s. 322.051, or another form of picture identification approved by the Department of State. The precinct register may also contain a space for the elector's signa-

ture, a space for the initials of the witnessing clerk or inspector, and a space for the signature slip or ballot number.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 77-267; s. 1, ch. 86-200; s. 6, ch. 90-315; s. 36, ch. 94-224; s. 30, ch. 97-13; s. 9, ch. 98-129.

198.471 Use of precinct register at polls.—The precinct register, as prescribed in s. 98.461, may be used at the polls in lieu of the registration books for the purpose of identifying the elector at the polls prior to allowing him or her to vote. The clerk or inspector shall require each elector, upon entering the polling place, to present a Florida driver's license, a Florida identification card issued under s. 322.051, or another form of picture identification approved by the Department of State. The elector shall sign his or her name in the space provided, and the clerk or inspector shall compare the signature with that on the identification provided by the elector and enter his or her initials in the space provided and allow the elector to vote if the clerk or inspector is satisfied as to the identity of the elector. If the elector fails to furnish the required identification, or if the clerk or inspector is in doubt as to the identity of the elector, such clerk or inspector shall follow the procedure prescribed in s. 101.49. The precinct register may also contain the information set forth in s. 101.47(8) and, if so, the inspector shall follow the procedure required in s. 101.47, except that the identification provided by the elector shall be used for the signature comparison.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 77-267; s. 533, ch. 95-147; s. 10, ch. 98-129; s. 3, ch. 2001-40.

¹Note.—Section 3, ch. 2001-40, amended s. 98.471, effective September 2, 2002, to read:

98.471 Use of precinct register at polls.—The precinct register, as prescribed in s. 98.461, may be used at the polls in lieu of the registration books for the purpose of identifying the elector at the polls prior to allowing him or her to vote. The clerk or inspector shall require each elector, upon entering the polling place, to present a Florida driver's license, a Florida identification card issued under s. 322.051, or another form of picture identification approved by the Department of State. The elector shall sign his or her name in the space provided, and the clerk or inspector shall compare the signature with that on the identification provided by the elector and enter his or her initials in the space provided and allow the elector to vote if the clerk or inspector is satisfied as to the identity of the elector. If the elector fails to furnish the required identification, or if the clerk or inspector is in doubt as to the identity of the elector, such clerk or inspector shall follow the procedure prescribed in s. 101.49.

98.481 Challenge to electors.—In any county using a precinct register in lieu of registration books at the polls, the right to vote of any person who desires to vote may be challenged in accordance with the provisions of s. 101.111, except that the inspector shall compare information supplied by such person with that entered or described on the precinct register opposite the elector's name.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 77-267.

98.491 Alternative procedure.—The provisions of ss. 98.451, 98.461, 98.471, and 98.481 are not intended to repeal any of the other provisions of this code. These provisions are intended to provide an alternative procedure which may be followed at the discretion of the supervisor of elections.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 77-267.

CHAPTER 99

CANDIDATES, CAMPAIGN EXPENSES, AND CONTESTING ELECTIONS

- 99.012 Restrictions on individuals qualifying for public office.
- 99.021 Form of candidate oath.
- 99.061 Method of qualifying for nomination or election to federal, state, county, or district office.
- 99.063 Candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.
- 99.081 United States Senators elected in general election.
- 99.091 Representatives to Congress.
- 99.092 Qualifying fee of candidate; notification of Department of State.
- 99.093 Municipal candidates; election assessment.
- 99.095 Alternative method of qualifying.
- 99.0955 Candidates with no party affiliation; name on general election ballot.
- 99.096 Minor party candidates; names on ballot.
- 99.0965 Minor parties; selection of candidates.
- 99.09651 Signature requirements for ballot position in year of apportionment.
- 99.097 Verification of signatures on petitions.
- 99.103 Department of State to remit part of filing fees and party assessments of candidates to state executive committee.
- 99.121 Department of State to certify nominations to supervisors of elections.
- 99.012 Restrictions on individuals qualifying for public office.—**
- (1) As used in this section:
- (a) "Officer" means a person, whether elected or appointed, who has the authority to exercise the sovereign power of the state pertaining to an office recognized under the State Constitution or laws of the state. With respect to a municipality, the term "officer" means a person, whether elected or appointed, who has the authority to exercise municipal power as provided by the State Constitution, state laws, or municipal charter.
- (b) "Subordinate officer" means a person who has been delegated the authority to exercise the sovereign power of the state by an officer. With respect to a municipality, subordinate officer means a person who has been delegated the authority to exercise municipal power by an officer.
- (2) No person may qualify as a candidate for more than one public office, whether federal, state, district, county, or municipal, if the terms or any part thereof run concurrently with each other.
- (3)(a) No officer may qualify as a candidate for another public office, whether state, district, county, or municipal, if the terms or any part thereof run concurrently with each other, without resigning from the office he or she presently holds.
- (b) The resignation is irrevocable.
- (c) The written resignation must be submitted at least 10 days prior to the first day of qualifying for the office he or she intends to seek.
- (d) The resignation must be effective no later than the earlier of the following dates:
1. The date the officer would take office, if elected; or
 2. The date the officer's successor is required to take office.
- (e)1. An elected district, county, or municipal officer must submit his or her resignation to the officer before whom he or she qualified for the office he or she holds, with a copy to the Governor and the Department of State.
2. An appointed district, county, or municipal officer must submit his or her resignation to the officer or authority which appointed him or her to the office he or she holds, with a copy to the Governor and the Department of State.
3. All other officers must submit their resignations to the Governor with a copy to the Department of State.
- (f)1. With regard to an elective office, the resignation creates a vacancy in office to be filled by election. Persons may qualify as candidates for nomination and election as if the public officer's term were otherwise scheduled to expire.
2. With regard to an elective charter county office or elective municipal office, the vacancy created by the officer's resignation may be filled for that portion of the officer's unexpired term in a manner provided by the respective charter. The office is deemed vacant upon the effective date of the resignation submitted by the official in his or her letter of resignation.
- (g) Any officer who submits his or her resignation, effective immediately or effective on a date prior to the date of his or her qualifying for office, may then qualify for office as a nonofficeholder, and the provisions of this subsection do not apply.
- (4)(a) Any officer who qualifies for federal public office must resign from the office he or she presently holds if the terms or any part thereof run concurrently with each other.
- (b) The resignation is irrevocable.
- (c) The resignation must be submitted no later than the date upon which the officer qualifies for office.
- (d) The written resignation must be effective no later than the earlier of the following dates:
1. The date the officer would take office, if elected; or
 2. The date the officer's successor is required to take office.
- (e)1. An elected district, county, or municipal officer must submit his or her resignation to the officer before whom he or she qualified for the office he or she holds, with a copy to the Governor and the Department of State.
2. An appointed district, county, or municipal officer must submit his or her resignation to the officer or authority which appointed him or her to the office he or she holds, with a copy to the Governor and the Department of State.
3. All other officers must submit their resignations to the Governor with a copy to the Department of State.

(f)1. The failure of an officer who qualifies for federal public office to submit a resignation pursuant to this subsection constitutes an automatic irrevocable resignation, effective immediately, from the office he or she presently holds.

2. The Department of State shall send a notice of the automatic resignation to the Governor, and in the case of a district, county, or municipal officer, a copy to:

a. The officer before whom he or she qualified if the officer held an elective office; or

b. The person or authority who appointed the officer if the officer held an appointive office.

(g) The provisions of any special act to the contrary notwithstanding, with regard to an elective office, the resignation creates a vacancy in office to be filled by election, thereby permitting persons to qualify as candidates for nomination and election as if the officer's term were otherwise scheduled to expire. With regard to an elective charter county office or elective municipal office, the vacancy created by the officer's resignation may be filled for that portion of the officer's unexpired term in a manner provided by the respective charter. The office is deemed vacant upon the effective date of the resignation submitted by the official in his or her letter of resignation.

(5) A person who is a subordinate officer, deputy sheriff, or police officer must resign effective upon qualifying pursuant to this chapter if the person is seeking to qualify for a public office that is currently held by an officer who has authority to appoint, employ, promote, or otherwise supervise that person and who has qualified as a candidate for reelection to that office.

(6) The name of any person who does not comply with this section may be removed from every ballot on which it appears when ordered by a circuit court upon the petition of an elector or the Department of State.

(7) This section does not apply to:

(a) Political party offices.

(b) Persons serving without salary as members of an appointive board or authority.

(8) Nothing contained in subsections (3) and (4) relates to persons holding any federal office.

History.—s. 1, ch. 63-269; s. 2, ch. 65-378; s. 1, ch. 70-80; s. 10, ch. 71-373; s. 1, ch. 74-76; s. 3, ch. 75-196; s. 1, ch. 79-391; s. 47, ch. 81-259; s. 1, ch. 83-15; s. 28, ch. 84-302; s. 31, ch. 91-107; s. 534, ch. 95-147; s. 1, ch. 99-146; s. 1, ch. 2000-274.

99.021 Form of candidate oath.—

(1)(a) Each candidate, whether a party candidate, a candidate with no party affiliation, or a write-in candidate, in order to qualify for nomination or election to any office other than a judicial office as defined in chapter 105, shall take and subscribe to an oath or affirmation in writing. A printed copy of the oath or affirmation shall be furnished to the candidate by the officer before whom such candidate seeks to qualify and shall be substantially in the following form:

State of Florida
County of _____

Before me, an officer authorized to administer oaths, personally appeared (please print name as you wish it to appear on the ballot), to me well known, who, being sworn, says that he or she is a candidate for the office of _____; that

he or she is a qualified elector of _____ County, Florida; that he or she is qualified under the Constitution and the laws of Florida to hold the office to which he or she desires to be nominated or elected; that he or she has taken the oath required by ss. 876.05-876.10, Florida Statutes; that he or she has qualified for no other public office in the state, the term of which office or any part thereof runs concurrent with that of the office he or she seeks; and that he or she has resigned from any office from which he or she is required to resign pursuant to s. 99.012, Florida Statutes.

(Signature of candidate)

(Address)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, (year), at _____ County, Florida.

(Signature and title of officer administering oath)

(b) In addition, any person seeking to qualify for nomination as a candidate of any political party shall, at the time of subscribing to the oath or affirmation, state in writing:

1. The party of which the person is a member.

2. That the person is not a registered member of any other political party and has not been a candidate for nomination for any other political party for a period of 6 months preceding the general election for which the person seeks to qualify.

3. That the person has paid the assessment levied against him or her, if any, as a candidate for said office by the executive committee of the party of which he or she is a member.

(c) The officer before whom such person qualifies shall certify the name of such person to the supervisor of elections in each county affected by such candidacy so that the name of such person may be printed on the ballot. Each person seeking election as a write-in candidate shall subscribe to the oath prescribed in this section in order to be entitled to have write-in ballots cast for him or her counted.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) relating to the oath required of candidates, and the form of oath prescribed, shall apply with equal force and effect to, and shall be the oath required of, a candidate for election to a political party executive committee office, as provided by law. The requirements set forth in this section shall also apply to any person filling a vacancy on a political party executive committee.

History.—ss. 22, 23, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 326, 327; CGL 383, 384; s. 3, ch. 19663, 1939; s. 3, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 10, ch. 28158, 1953; s. 1, ch. 57-742; s. 1, ch. 61-128; s. 2, ch. 63-269; s. 1, ch. 63-66; s. 1, ch. 65-376; s. 1, ch. 67-149; s. 2, ch. 70-269; s. 19, ch. 71-355; s. 6, ch. 77-175; s. 3, ch. 79-365; s. 27, ch. 79-400; s. 2, ch. 81-105; s. 3, ch. 86-134; s. 535, ch. 95-147; s. 7, ch. 99-6; s. 8, ch. 99-318.

Note.—Former ss. 102.29, 102.30.

99.061 Method of qualifying for nomination or election to federal, state, county, or district office.—

(1) The provisions of any special act to the contrary notwithstanding, each person seeking to qualify for nomination or election to a federal, state, or multicounty district office, other than election to a judicial office as defined in chapter 105 or the office of school board member, shall file his or her qualification papers with, and pay the qualifying fee, which shall consist of the filing fee and election assessment, and party assess-

ment, if any has been levied, to, the Department of State, or qualify by the alternative method with the Department of State, at any time after noon of the 1st day for qualifying, which shall be as follows: the 120th day prior to the first primary, but not later than noon of the 116th day prior to the date of the first primary, for persons seeking to qualify for nomination or election to federal office; and noon of the 50th day prior to the first primary, but not later than noon of the 46th day prior to the date of the first primary, for persons seeking to qualify for nomination or election to a state or multicounty district office.

(2) The provisions of any special act to the contrary notwithstanding, each person seeking to qualify for nomination or election to a county office, or district or special district office not covered by subsection (1), shall file his or her qualification papers with, and pay the qualifying fee, which shall consist of the filing fee and election assessment, and party assessment, if any has been levied, to, the supervisor of elections of the county, or shall qualify by the alternative method with the supervisor of elections, at any time after noon of the 1st day for qualifying, which shall be the 50th day prior to the first primary or special district election, but not later than noon of the 46th day prior to the date of the first primary or special district election. However, if a special district election is held at the same time as the second primary or general election, qualifying shall be the 50th day prior to the first primary, but not later than noon of the 46th day prior to the date of the first primary. Within 30 days after the closing of qualifying time, the supervisor of elections shall remit to the secretary of the state executive committee of the political party to which the candidate belongs the amount of the filing fee, two-thirds of which shall be used to promote the candidacy of candidates for county offices and the candidacy of members of the Legislature.

(3)(a) Each person seeking to qualify for election to office as a write-in candidate shall file his or her qualification papers with the respective qualifying officer at any time after noon of the 1st day for qualifying, but not later than noon of the last day of the qualifying period for the office sought.

(b) Any person who is seeking election as a write-in candidate shall not be required to pay a filing fee, election assessment, or party assessment. A write-in candidate shall not be entitled to have his or her name printed on any ballot; however, space for the write-in candidate's name to be written in shall be provided on the general election ballot. No person may qualify as a write-in candidate if the person has also otherwise qualified for nomination or election to such office.

(4) At the time of qualifying for office, each candidate for a constitutional office shall file a full and public disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, and a candidate for any other office, including local elective office, shall file a statement of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145.

(5) The Department of State shall certify to the supervisor of elections, within 7 days after the closing date for qualifying, the names of all duly qualified candidates for nomination or election who have qualified with the Department of State.

(6) Notwithstanding the qualifying period prescribed in this section, if a candidate has submitted the necessary petitions by the required deadline in order to qualify by the alternative method as a candidate for nomination or election and the candidate is notified after the 5th day prior to the last day for qualifying that the required number of signatures has been obtained, the candidate is entitled to subscribe to the candidate's oath and file the qualifying papers at any time within 5 days from the date the candidate is notified that the necessary number of signatures has been obtained. Any candidate who qualifies within the time prescribed in this subsection is entitled to have his or her name printed on the ballot.

(7)(a) In order for a candidate to be qualified, the following items must be received by the filing officer by the end of the qualifying period:

1. A properly executed check drawn upon the candidate's campaign account in an amount not less than the fee required by s. 99.092 or, in lieu thereof, as applicable, the copy of the notice of obtaining ballot position pursuant to s. 99.095 or the undue burden oath authorized pursuant to s. 99.0955 or s. 99.096. If a candidate's check is returned by the bank for any reason, the filing officer shall immediately notify the candidate and the candidate shall, the end of qualifying notwithstanding, have 48 hours from the time such notification is received, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, to pay the fee with a cashier's check purchased from funds of the campaign account. Failure to pay the fee as provided in this subparagraph shall disqualify the candidate.

2. The candidate's oath required by s. 99.021, which must contain the name of the candidate as it is to appear on the ballot; the office sought, including the district or group number if applicable; and the signature of the candidate, duly acknowledged.

3. The loyalty oath required by s. 876.05, signed by the candidate and duly acknowledged.

4. If the office sought is partisan, the written statement of political party affiliation required by s. 99.021(1)(b).

5. The completed form for the appointment of campaign treasurer and designation of campaign depository, as required by s. 106.021.

6. The full and public disclosure or statement of financial interests required by subsection (4).

(b) If the filing officer receives qualifying papers that do not include all items as required by paragraph (a) prior to the last day of qualifying, the filing officer shall make a reasonable effort to notify the candidate of the missing or incomplete items and shall inform the candidate that all required items must be received by the close of qualifying. A candidate's name as it is to appear on the ballot may not be changed after the end of qualifying.

(8) Notwithstanding the qualifying period prescribed by this section, in each year in which the Legislature apportions the state, the qualifying period for persons seeking to qualify for nomination or election to federal office shall be between noon of the 57th day prior to the first primary, but not later than noon of the 53rd day prior to the first primary.

(9) The Department of State may prescribe by rule requirements for filing papers to qualify as a candidate under this section.

History.—ss. 25, 26, ch. 6489, 1913; RGS 329, 330; CGL 386, 387; ss. 4, 5, ch. 13761, 1929; s. 1, ch. 16990, 1935; CGL 1936 Supp. 386; ss. 1, chs. 19007, 19008, 19009, 1939; CGL 1940 Supp. 4769(3); s. 1, ch. 20619, 1941; s. 1, ch. 21851, 1943; s. 1, ch. 23008, 1945; s. 1, ch. 24163, 1947; s. 3, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 11, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 4, ch. 29938, 1955; s. 10, ch. 57-1; s. 1, ch. 59-84; s. 1, ch. 61-373 end s. 4, ch. 61-530; s. 1, ch. 63-502; s. 7, ch. 65-378; s. 2, ch. 67-531; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 5, ch. 69-281; s. 1, ch. 69-300; s. 1, ch. 70-42; s. 1, ch. 70-83; s. 1, ch. 70-439; s. 6, ch. 77-175; s. 1, ch. 78-188; s. 3, ch. 81-105; s. 2, ch. 83-15; s. 2, ch. 83-25; s. 1, ch. 83-251; s. 29, ch. 84-302; s. 1, ch. 86-7; s. 6, ch. 89-338; s. 8, ch. 90-315; s. 32, ch. 91-107; s. 536, ch. 95-147; s. 1, ch. 95-156; s. 9, ch. 99-318; s. 9, ch. 99-326; s. 3, ch. 2001-75.

Note.—Former ss. 102.32, 102.33, 102.351, 102.36, 102.66, 102.69.

99.063 Candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.—

(1) No later than 5 p.m. of the 9th day following the second primary election, each candidate for Governor shall designate a Lieutenant Governor as a running mate. Such designation must be made in writing to the Department of State.

(2) No later than 5 p.m. of the 9th day following the second primary election, each designated candidate for Lieutenant Governor shall file with the Department of State:

(a) The candidate's oath required by s. 99.021, which must contain the name of the candidate as it is to appear on the ballot; the office sought; and the signature of the candidate, duly acknowledged.

(b) The loyalty oath required by s. 876.05, signed by the candidate and duly acknowledged.

(c) If the office sought is partisan, the written statement of political party affiliation required by s. 99.021(1)(b).

(d) The full and public disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution.

(3) A designated candidate for Lieutenant Governor is not required to pay a separate qualifying fee or obtain signatures on petitions. Ballot position obtained by the candidate for Governor entitles the designated candidate for Lieutenant Governor, upon receipt by the Department of State of the qualifying papers required by subsection (2), to have his or her name placed on the ballot for the joint candidacy.

(4) In order to have the name of the candidate for Lieutenant Governor printed on the first or second primary election ballot, a candidate for Governor participating in the primary must designate the candidate for Lieutenant Governor, and the designated candidate must qualify no later than the end of the qualifying period specified in s. 99.061. If the candidate for Lieutenant Governor has not been designated and has not qualified by the end of the qualifying period specified in s. 99.061, the phrase "Not Yet Designated" must be included in lieu of the candidate's name on primary election ballots and on advance absentee ballots for the general election.

(5) Failure of the Lieutenant Governor candidate to be designated and qualified by the time specified in subsection (2) shall result in forfeiture of ballot position for the candidate for Governor for the general election.

History.—s. 1, ch. 99-140; s. 45, ch. 2001-40.

99.081 United States Senators elected in general election.—United States Senators from Florida shall be

elected at the general election held preceding the expiration of the present term of office, and such election shall conform as nearly as practicable to the methods provided for the election of state officers.

History.—s. 3, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 6, ch. 77-175; s. 7, ch. 89-338.
Note.—Former s. 106.01.

99.091 Representatives to Congress.—

(1) A Representative to Congress shall be elected in and for each congressional district at each general election.

(2) When Florida is entitled to additional representatives according to the last census, representatives shall be elected from the state at large and at large thereafter until the state is redistricted by the Legislature.

History.—ss. 2, 3, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 157; s. 4, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 3, ch. 4537, 1897; GS 174; RGS 218; CGL 253; s. 2, ch. 25383, 1949; s. 3, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 6, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 98.07.

99.092 Qualifying fee of candidate; notification of Department of State.—

(1) Each person seeking to qualify for nomination or election to any office, except a person seeking to qualify by the alternative method pursuant to s. 99.095, s. 99.0955, or s. 99.096 and except a person seeking to qualify as a write-in candidate, shall pay a qualifying fee, which shall consist of a filing fee and election assessment, to the officer with whom the person qualifies, and any party assessment levied, and shall attach the original or signed duplicate of the receipt for his or her party assessment or pay the same, in accordance with the provisions of s. 103.121, at the time of filing his or her other qualifying papers. The amount of the filing fee is 3 percent of the annual salary of the office. The amount of the election assessment is 1 percent of the annual salary of the office sought. The election assessment shall be deposited into the Elections Commission Trust Fund. The amount of the party assessment is 2 percent of the annual salary. The annual salary of the office for purposes of computing the filing fee, election assessment, and party assessment shall be computed by multiplying 12 times the monthly salary, excluding any special qualification pay, authorized for such office as of July 1 immediately preceding the first day of qualifying. No qualifying fee shall be returned to the candidate unless the candidate withdraws his or her candidacy before the last date to qualify. If a candidate dies prior to an election and has not withdrawn his or her candidacy before the last date to qualify, the candidate's qualifying fee shall be returned to his or her designated beneficiary, and, if the filing fee or any portion thereof has been transferred to the political party of the candidate, the Secretary of State shall direct the party to return that portion to the designated beneficiary of the candidate.

(2) The supervisor of elections shall, immediately after the last day for qualifying, submit to the Department of State a list containing the names, party affiliations, and addresses of all candidates and the offices for which they qualified.

History.—s. 24, ch. 6489, 1913; RGS 328; CGL 385; s. 3, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 12, ch. 29934, 1955; s. 4, ch. 65-378; s. 1, ch. 67-531; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 6, ch. 69-281; s. 1, ch. 74-119; s. 1, ch. 75-123; s. 1, ch. 75-247; s. 6, ch. 77-175; s. 26, ch. 79-400; s. 4, ch. 81-105; s. 1, ch. 83-242; s. 8, ch. 89-338; s. 1, ch. 91-107; s. 537, ch. 95-147; s. 11, ch. 97-13; s. 2, ch. 99-140; s. 10, ch. 99-318.

Note.—Former ss. 102.31, 99.031.

99.093 Municipal candidates; election assessment.—

(1) Each person seeking to qualify for nomination or election to a municipal office shall pay, at the time of qualifying for office, an election assessment. The election assessment shall be an amount equal to 1 percent of the annual salary of the office sought. Within 30 days after the close of qualifying, the qualifying officer shall forward all assessments collected pursuant to this section to the Department of State for deposit in the Elections Commission Trust Fund.

(2) Any person seeking to qualify for nomination or election to a municipal office who is unable to pay the election assessment without imposing an undue burden on personal resources or on resources otherwise available to him or her shall, upon written certification of such inability given under oath to the qualifying officer, be exempt from paying the election assessment.

*History.—*s. 9, ch. 89-338; s. 2, ch. 91-107; s. 538, ch. 95-147; s. 12, ch. 97-13.

99.095 Alternative method of qualifying.—

(1) A person seeking to qualify for nomination to any office may qualify to have his or her name placed on the ballot for the first primary election by means of the petitioning process prescribed in this section. A person qualifying by this alternative method shall not be required to pay the qualifying fee or party assessment required by this chapter. A person using this petitioning process shall file an oath with the officer before whom the candidate would qualify for the office stating that he or she intends to qualify by this alternative method for the office sought. If the person is running for an office which will be grouped on the ballot with two or more similar offices to be filled at the same election, the candidate must indicate in his or her oath for which group or district office he or she is running. The oath shall be filed at any time after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the year in which the first primary is held, but prior to the 21st day preceding the first day of the qualifying period for the office sought. The Department of State shall prescribe the form to be used in administering and filing such oath. No signatures shall be obtained by a candidate on any nominating petition until the candidate has filed the oath required in this section. If the person is running for an office which will be grouped on the ballot with two or more similar offices to be filled at the same election and the petition does not indicate the group or district office for which the person is running, the signatures obtained on such petition will not be counted.

(2) Upon receipt of a written oath from a candidate, the qualifying officer shall provide the candidate with petition forms in sufficient numbers to facilitate the gathering of signatures pursuant to this section. Such forms shall be prescribed by the Department of State.

(3) When a candidate has filed the oath prescribed in subsection (1), the candidate may begin to seek signatures on petitions supporting his or her candidacy. Only signatures of electors who are registered in the county, district, or other geographical entity represented by the office sought shall be counted toward obtaining the minimum numbers of signatures prescribed in this subsection. A candidate for an office

elected statewide shall obtain the signatures of a number of qualified electors equal to at least 1 percent of the total number of registered electors of Florida, as shown by the compilation by the Department of State for the last preceding general election. A candidate for any federal, state, county, or district office to be elected on less than a statewide basis shall obtain the signatures of a number of qualified electors of the district, county, or other geographical entity equal to at least 1 percent of the total number of registered voters of the district, county, or other geographical entity represented by the office sought, as shown by the compilation by the Department of State for the last preceding general election. A separate petition shall be circulated for each candidate availing himself or herself of the provisions of this section.

(4)(a) Each candidate for nomination to federal, state, or multicounty district office shall submit his or her petition prior to noon of the 21st day preceding the first day of the qualifying period for the office sought, to the supervisor of elections of the county for which the petition is circulated. Each supervisor of elections to whom a petition is submitted shall check the signatures on the petition to verify their status as electors of the county, district, or other geographical entity represented by the office being sought by the candidate. Prior to the first date for qualifying, the supervisor shall certify the number shown as registered electors of such county, district, or other geographical entity and submit such certification to the Department of State. The Department of State shall determine whether the required number of signatures has been obtained for the name of the candidate to be placed on the ballot and shall notify the candidate. If the required number of signatures has been obtained, the candidate shall, during the time prescribed for qualifying for office, submit a copy of the notice to, and file his or her qualifying papers and oath prescribed by s. 99.021 with, the Department of State. Upon receipt of the copy of the notice and the qualifying papers, the department shall certify the name of the candidate to the appropriate supervisor or supervisors of elections as having qualified for the office sought.

(b) Each candidate for nomination to a county office, or district office not covered by paragraph (a), shall submit his or her petition, prior to noon of the 21st day preceding the first day of the qualifying period for the office sought, to the supervisor of elections of the county for which the petition was circulated. The supervisor shall check the signatures on the petition to verify their status as electors of the county, district, or other geographical entity represented by the office being sought. Prior to the first date for qualifying, the supervisor shall determine whether the required number of signatures has been obtained for the name of the candidate to be placed on the ballot and shall notify the candidate. If the required number of signatures has been obtained, the candidate shall, during the time prescribed for qualifying for office, submit a copy of the notice and file his or her qualifying papers and oath prescribed by s. 99.021 with the supervisor of elections. Upon receipt of the copy of the notice and the qualifying

papers by the supervisor of elections, the candidate is entitled to have his or her name printed on the ballot.

History.—s. 2, ch. 74-119; s. 6, ch. 77-175; s. 29, ch. 79-400; s. 10, ch. 89-338; s. 9, ch. 90-315; s. 539, ch. 95-147; s. 3, ch. 99-140; s. 1, ch. 99-318.

99.0955 Candidates with no party affiliation; name on general election ballot.—

(1) Each person seeking to qualify for election as a candidate with no party affiliation shall file his or her qualification papers and pay the qualifying fee or qualify by the alternative method prescribed in subsection (3) with the officer and during the times and under the circumstances prescribed in s. 99.061. Upon qualifying, the candidate is entitled to have his or her name placed on the general election ballot.

(2) The qualifying fee for candidates with no party affiliation shall consist of a filing fee and an election assessment. The amount of the filing fee is 3 percent of the annual salary of the office sought. The amount of the election assessment is 1 percent of the annual salary of the office sought. The election assessment shall be deposited into the Elections Commission Trust Fund. Filing fees paid to the Department of State shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund of the state. Filing fees paid to the supervisor of elections shall be deposited into the general revenue fund of the county.

(3)(a) A candidate with no party affiliation may, in lieu of paying the qualifying fee, qualify for office by the alternative method prescribed in this subsection. A candidate using this petitioning process shall file an oath with the officer before whom the candidate would qualify for the office stating that he or she intends to qualify by this alternative method. If the person is running for an office that requires a group or district designation, the candidate must indicate the designation in his or her oath. The oath shall be filed at any time after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the year in which the election is held, but before the 21st day preceding the first day of the qualifying period for the office sought. The Department of State shall prescribe the form to be used in administering and filing the oath. Signatures may not be obtained by a candidate on any petition until the candidate has filed the oath required in this subsection. Upon receipt of the written oath from a candidate, the qualifying officer shall provide the candidate with petition forms in sufficient numbers to facilitate the gathering of signatures. If the candidate is running for an office that requires a group or district designation, the petition must indicate that designation or the signatures obtained on the petition will not be counted.

(b) A candidate shall obtain the signatures of a number of qualified electors in the geographical entity represented by the office sought equal to 1 percent of the registered electors of the geographical entity represented by the office sought, as shown by the compilation by the Department of State for the preceding general election.

(c) Each petition must be submitted before noon of the 21st day preceding the first day of the qualifying period for the office sought, to the supervisor of elections of the county for which such petition was circu-

lated. Each supervisor to whom a petition is submitted shall check the signatures on the petition to verify their status as electors in the county, district, or other geographical entity represented by the office sought. Before the first day for qualifying, the supervisor shall certify the number shown as registered electors.

(d)1. Certifications for candidates for federal, state, or multicounty district office shall be submitted to the Department of State. The Department of State shall determine whether the required number of signatures has been obtained for the name of the candidate to be placed on the ballot and shall notify the candidate.

2. For candidates for county or district office not covered by subparagraph 1., the supervisor of elections shall determine whether the required number of signatures has been obtained for the name of the candidate to be placed on the ballot and shall notify the candidate.

(e) If the required number of signatures has been obtained, the candidate shall, during the time prescribed for qualifying for office, submit a copy of the notice received under paragraph (d) and file his or her qualifying papers and the oath prescribed by s. 99.021 with the qualifying officer.

History.—s. 6, ch. 70-269; s. 1, ch. 70-439; s. 3, ch. 74-119; s. 7, ch. 77-175; s. 2, ch. 78-188; s. 11, ch. 89-338; s. 10, ch. 90-315; s. 540, ch. 95-147; s. 13, ch. 95-280; s. 4, ch. 99-140; s. 2, ch. 99-318.

Note.—Former s. 99.152.

99.096 Minor party candidates; names on ballot.—

(1) The executive committee of a minor political party shall, no later than noon of the third day prior to the first day of the qualifying period prescribed for federal candidates and no later than noon of the third day prior to the first day of the qualifying period for state candidates, submit to the Department of State the official list of the respective candidates nominated by that party to be on the ballot in the general election. The Department of State shall notify the appropriate supervisors of elections of the name of each minor party candidate eligible to qualify before such supervisor. The official list of nominated candidates may not be changed by the party after having been filed with the Department of State, except that candidates who have qualified may withdraw from the ballot pursuant to the provisions of this code, and vacancies in nominations may be filled pursuant to s. 100.111.

(2) Each person seeking to qualify for election as a candidate of a minor party shall file his or her qualification papers with, and pay the qualifying fee and, if one has been levied, the party assessment, or qualify by the alternative method prescribed in subsection (3), with the officer and at the times and under the circumstances provided in s. 99.061.

(3)(a) A minor party candidate may, in lieu of paying the qualifying fee and party assessment, qualify for office by the alternative method prescribed in this subsection. A candidate using this petitioning process shall file an oath with the officer before whom the candidate would qualify for the office stating that he or she intends to qualify by this alternative method. If the person is running for an office that requires a group or district designation, the candidate must indicate the designation in his or her oath. The oath must be filed at any time

after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the year in which the election is held, but before the 21st day preceding the first day of the qualifying period for the office sought. The Department of State shall prescribe the form to be used in administering and filing the oath. Signatures may not be obtained by a candidate on any petition until the candidate has filed the oath required in this section. Upon receipt of the written oath from a candidate, the qualifying officer shall provide the candidate with petition forms in sufficient numbers to facilitate the gathering of signatures. If the candidate is running for an office that requires a group or district designation, the petition must indicate that designation or the signatures on such petition will not be counted.

(b) A candidate shall obtain the signatures of a number of qualified electors in the geographical entity represented by the office sought equal to 1 percent of the registered electors in the geographical entity represented by the office sought, as shown by the compilation by the Department of State for the last preceding general election.

(c) Each petition shall be submitted prior to noon of the 21st day preceding the first day of the qualifying period for the office sought to the supervisor of elections of the county for which the petition was circulated. Each supervisor to whom a petition is submitted shall check the signatures on the petition to verify their status as electors in the county, district, or other geographical entity represented by the office sought. Before the first day for qualifying, the supervisor shall certify the number shown as registered electors.

(d)1. Certifications for candidates for federal, state, or multicounty district office shall be submitted to the Department of State. The Department of State shall determine whether the required number of signatures has been obtained for the name of the candidate to be placed on the ballot and shall notify the candidate.

2. For candidates for county or district office not covered by subparagraph 1., the supervisor of elections shall determine whether the required number of signatures has been obtained for the name of the candidate to be placed on the ballot and shall notify the candidate.

(e) If the required number of signatures has been obtained, the candidate shall, during the prescribed time for qualifying for office, submit a copy of the notice received under paragraph (d) and file his or her qualifying papers and the oath prescribed by s. 99.021 with the qualifying officer.

(4) A minor party candidate whose name has been submitted pursuant to subsection (1) and who has qualified for office is entitled to have his or her name placed on the general election ballot.

*History.—*s. 5, ch. 70-269; s. 1, ch. 70-439; s. 4, ch. 74-119; s. 8, ch. 77-175; s. 3, ch. 78-188; s. 12, ch. 89-338; s. 1, ch. 90-229; s. 11, ch. 90-315; s. 541, ch. 95-147; s. 3, ch. 99-318.

*Note.—*Former s. 101.261.

99.0965 Minor parties; selection of candidates.—A minor political party may provide for the designation of its official list of nominated candidates in any manner that it deems proper. The state executive committee of the party shall by resolution adopt a procedure for the

selection of candidates, a copy of which shall be submitted to the Department of State.

*History.—*s. 5, ch. 70-269; s. 1, ch. 70-439; s. 9, ch. 77-175; s. 11, ch. 99-318.
*Note.—*Former s. 101.263.

99.09651 Signature requirements for ballot position in year of apportionment.—

(1) In a year of apportionment, any candidate for representative to Congress, state Senate, or state House of Representatives seeking ballot position by the alternative method prescribed in s. 99.095, s. 99.0955, or s. 99.096 shall obtain at least the number of signatures equal to one-third of 1 percent of the ideal population for the district of the office being sought.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "ideal population" means the total population of the state based upon the most recent decennial census divided by the number of districts for representative to Congress, state Senate, or state House of Representatives. For the purposes of this section, ideal population shall be calculated as of July 1 of the year prior to apportionment. The ideal population for a state Senate district and a state representative district shall be calculated by dividing the total population of the state by 40 for a state Senate district and by dividing by 120 for a state representative district.

(3) Signatures may be obtained from any registered voter in Florida regardless of party affiliation or district boundaries.

(4) Petitions shall state the name of the office the candidate is seeking, but shall not include a district number.

(5) Except as otherwise provided in this section, all requirements and procedures relating to the petition process shall conform to the requirements and procedures in nonapportionment years.

*History.—*s. 3, ch. 91-107; s. 4, ch. 99-318.

99.097 Verification of signatures on petitions.—

(1) As determined by each supervisor, based upon local conditions, the checking of names on petitions may be based on the most inexpensive and administratively feasible of either of the following methods of verification:

(a) A name-by-name, signature-by-signature check of the number of authorized signatures on the petitions; or

(b) A check of a random sample, as provided by the Department of State, of names and signatures on the petitions. The sample must be such that a determination can be made as to whether or not the required number of signatures have been obtained with a reliability of at least 99.5 percent. Rules and guidelines for this method of petition verification shall be promulgated by the Department of State, which may include a requirement that petitions bear an additional number of names and signatures, not to exceed 15 percent of the names and signatures otherwise required. If the petitions do not meet such criteria, then the use of the verification method described in this paragraph shall not be available to supervisors.

(2) When a petitioner submits petitions which contain at least 15 percent more than the required number of signatures, the petitioner may require that the super-

visor of elections use the random sampling verification method in certifying the petition.

(3)(a) A name on a petition, which name is not in substantially the same form as a name on the voter registration books, shall be counted as a valid signature if, after comparing the signature on the petition with the signature of the alleged signer as shown on the registration books, the supervisor determines that the person signing the petition and the person who registered to vote are one and the same. In any situation in which this code requires the form of the petition to be prescribed by the division, no signature shall be counted toward the number of signatures required unless it is on a petition form prescribed by the division.

(b) If a voter signs a petition and lists an address other than the legal residence where the voter is registered, the supervisor shall treat the signature as if the voter had listed the address where the voter is registered.

(4) The supervisor shall be paid in advance the sum of 10 cents for each signature checked or the actual cost of checking such signature, whichever is less, by the candidate or, in the case of a petition to have an issue placed on the ballot, by the person or organization submitting the petition. However, if a candidate, person, or organization seeking to have an issue placed upon the ballot cannot pay such charges without imposing an undue burden on personal resources or upon the resources otherwise available to such candidate, person, or organization, such candidate, person, or organization shall, upon written certification of such inability given under oath to the supervisor, be entitled to have the signatures verified at no charge. In the event a candidate, person, or organization submitting a petition to have an issue placed upon the ballot is entitled to have the signatures verified at no charge, the supervisor of elections of each county in which the signatures are verified at no charge shall submit the total number of such signatures checked in the county to the Comptroller no later than December 1 of the general election year, and the Comptroller shall cause such supervisor of elections to be reimbursed from the General Revenue Fund in an amount equal to 10 cents for each name checked or the actual cost of checking such signatures, whichever is less. In no event shall such reimbursement of costs be deemed or applied as extra compensation for the supervisor. Petitions shall be retained by the supervisors for a period of 1 year following the election for which the petitions were circulated.

(5) The results of a verification pursuant to paragraph (1)(b) may be contested in the circuit court by the candidate; an announced opponent; a representative of a designated political committee; or a person, party, or other organization submitting the petition. The contestant shall file a complaint, together with the fees prescribed in chapter 28, with the clerk of the circuit court in the county in which the petition is certified or in Leon County if the petition covers more than one county within 10 days after midnight of the date the petition is certified; and the complaint shall set forth the grounds on which the contestant intends to establish his or her right to require a complete check of the names and sig-

natures pursuant to paragraph (1)(a). In the event the court orders a complete check of the petition and the result is not changed as to the success or lack of success of the petitioner in obtaining the requisite number of valid signatures, then such candidate, unless the candidate has filed the oath stating that he or she is unable to pay such charges; announced opponent; representative of a designated political committee; or party, person, or organization submitting the petition, unless such person or organization has filed the oath stating inability to pay such charges, shall pay to the supervisor of elections of each affected county for the complete check an amount calculated at the rate of 10 cents for each additional signature checked or the actual cost of checking such additional signatures, whichever is less.

History.—s. 2, ch. 76-233; s. 10, ch. 77-175; s. 2, ch. 80-20; s. 1, ch. 82-141; s. 13, ch. 89-338; s. 2, ch. 90-229; s. 12, ch. 90-315; s. 542, ch. 95-147; s. 21, ch. 97-13; s. 7, ch. 99-318.

99.103 Department of State to remit part of filing fees and party assessments of candidates to state executive committee.—

(1) If more than three-fourths of the full authorized membership of the state executive committee of any party was elected at the last previous election for such members and if such party is declared by the Department of State to have recorded on the registration books of the counties, as of the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January prior to the first primary in general election years, 5 percent of the total registration of such counties when added together, such committee shall receive, for the purpose of meeting its expenses, all filing fees collected by the Department of State from its candidates less an amount equal to 15 percent of the filing fees, which amount the Department of State shall deposit in the General Revenue Fund of the state.

(2) Not later than 20 days after the close of qualifying in even-numbered years, the Department of State shall remit 95 percent of all filing fees, less the amount deposited in general revenue pursuant to subsection (1), or party assessments that may have been collected by the department to the respective state executive committees of the parties complying with subsection (1). Party assessments collected by the Department of State shall be remitted to the appropriate state executive committee, irrespective of other requirements of this section, provided such committee is duly organized under the provisions of chapter 103. The remainder of filing fees or party assessments collected by the Department of State shall be remitted to the appropriate state executive committees not later than the date of the first primary.

History.—s. 1, ch. 29935, 1955; s. 24, ch. 57-1; s. 1, ch. 57-62; s. 4, ch. 57-166; s. 1, ch. 69-295; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 11, ch. 77-175; s. 2, ch. 83-251; s. 4, ch. 91-107; s. 14, ch. 97-13.

99.121 Department of State to certify nominations to supervisors of elections.—The Department of State shall certify to the supervisor of elections of each county affected by a candidacy for office the names of persons nominated to such office. The names of such persons shall be printed by the supervisor of elections upon the ballot in their proper place as provided by law.

History.—s. 30, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 10, ch. 4537, 1897; GS 215, 3824; s. 54, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 259, 358, 5885; CGL 315, 415, 8148; s. 11, ch. 26329, 1949; s.

3, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 5, ch. 57-166; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 11, ch. 77-175.
Note.—Former ss. 99.13, 102.51.

CHAPTER 100

GENERAL, PRIMARY, SPECIAL, BOND, AND REFERENDUM ELECTIONS

- 100.011 Opening and closing of polls, all elections; expenses.
- 100.021 Notice of general election.
- 100.025 Citizens residing overseas; notice of elections.
- 100.031 General election.
- 100.041 Officers chosen at general election.
- 100.051 Candidate's name on general election ballot.
- 100.061 First primary election.
- 100.081 Conducting primary elections; nomination of county commissioners.
- 100.091 Second primary election.
- 100.096 Special election at second primary election.
- 100.101 Special elections and special primary elections.
- 100.102 Cost of special elections and special primary elections to be incurred by the state.
- 100.111 Filling vacancy.
- 100.141 Notice of special election to fill any vacancy in office or nomination.
- 100.151 Special elections called by local governing bodies, notice.
- 100.161 Filling vacancy of United States Senators.
- 100.181 Determination of person elected.
- 100.191 General election laws applicable to special elections; returns.
- 100.201 Referendum required before issuing bonds.
- 100.211 Power to call bond referendum; notice required.
- 100.221 General election laws to govern bond referenda.
- 100.241 Freeholder voting; election; penalties for ineligible persons who vote as freeholders.
- 100.261 Holding bond referenda with other elections.
- 100.271 Inspectors, clerk, duties; return and canvass of referendum recorded.
- 100.281 Approval to issue bonds.
- 100.291 Record results of election prima facie evidence.
- 100.301 Refunding bonds excluded.
- 100.311 Local law governs bond election held by municipalities.
- 100.321 Test suit.
- 100.331 Referendum for defeated bond issue.
- 100.341 Bond referendum ballot.
- 100.342 Notice of special election or referendum.
- 100.351 Referendum election; certificate of results to Department of State.
- 100.3605 Conduct of municipal elections.
- 100.361 Municipal recall.
- 100.371 Initiatives; procedure for placement on ballot.

100.011 Opening and closing of polls, all elections; expenses.—

(1) The polls shall be open at the voting places at 7:00 a.m., on the day of the election, and shall be kept open until 7:00 p.m., of the same day, and the time shall be regulated by the customary time in standard use in the county seat of the locality. The inspectors shall make public proclamation of the opening and closing of the polls. During the election and canvass of the votes, the ballot box shall not be concealed.

(2) The time of opening and closing of the polls shall be observed in all elections held in this state, including municipal and school elections.

(3) The expenses of holding all elections for county and state offices necessarily incurred shall be paid out of the treasury of the county or state, as the case may be, in the same manner and by the same officers as in general elections.

(4)(a) The provisions of any special law to the contrary notwithstanding, the expenses of holding a special district or community development district election, or the district's proportionate share of regular election costs, as the case may be, shall be paid out of the district's treasury and in the same manner as in general elections. This subsection applies to any district, whether created by or pursuant to special or general law, which is a special district as defined in s. 200.001(8)(c) or a community development district as defined in s. 190.003(6).

(b) The provisions of any special law to the contrary notwithstanding, the supervisor of elections may impose an interest penalty on any amount due and owing to him or her from a special district or community development district if payment is not made within 30 days from receipt of the bill or within 10 working days of the required time authorized by interlocal agreement. The rate of such interest shall be the rate established pursuant to s. 55.03.

(c) The provisions of any special law to the contrary notwithstanding, all independent and dependent special district elections, with the exception of community development district elections, shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of ss. 189.405 and 189.4051.

*History.—*s. 23, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 177; s. 27, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 209; s. 8, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 253, 306; CGL 309, 362; ss. 1, 2, ch. 20409, 1941; ss. 1, 2, ch. 22739, 1945; s. 4, ch. 25384, 1949; s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 12, ch. 77-175; s. 6, ch. 87-363; s. 53, ch. 89-169; s. 543, ch. 95-147; s. 4, ch. 96-327.

*Note.—*Former ss. 99.07, 102.08.

100.021 Notice of general election.—The Department of State shall, in any year in which a general election is held, make out a notice stating what offices and vacancies are to be filled at the general election in the state, and in each county and district thereof. During the 30 days prior to the beginning of qualifying, the Department of State shall have the notice published two times in a newspaper of general circulation in each county; and, in counties in which there is no newspaper of general circulation, it shall send to the sheriff a notice of the offices and vacancies to be filled at such general

election by the qualified voters of the sheriff's county or any district thereof, and the sheriff shall have at least five copies of the notice posted in conspicuous places in the county.

History.—s. 5, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 159; s. 6, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 4, ch. 4537, 1897; GS 178; RGS 220; CGL 255; s. 1, ch. 25383, 1949; s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 12, ch. 77-175; s. 3, ch. 83-251; s. 544, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former s. 98.06.

100.025 Citizens residing overseas; notice of elections.—A citizen of this state who is residing overseas may notify the supervisor of elections in the county where he or she is registered of his or her overseas address; and, thereafter, the supervisor shall notify such citizen at least 90 days prior to regular primary and general elections and when possible prior to any special election so that such citizen may follow the procedures for absentee voting provided by law.

History.—s. 1, ch. 67-454; s. 8, ch. 69-280; s. 3, ch. 77-175; s. 16, ch. 81-304; s. 4, ch. 89-338; s. 16, ch. 94-224; s. 1389, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former s. 97.0631.

100.031 General election.—A general election shall be held in each county on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year to choose a successor to each elective federal, state, county, and district officer whose term will expire before the next general election and, except as provided in the State Constitution, to fill each vacancy in elective office for the unexpired portion of the term.

History.—s. 2, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 155; s. 2, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 1, ch. 4537, 1897; GS 171; RGS 216; CGL 251; s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 12, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 98.04.

100.041 Officers chosen at general election.—

(1) State senators shall be elected for terms of 4 years, those from odd-numbered districts in each year the number of which is a multiple of 4 and those from even-numbered districts in each even-numbered year the number of which is not a multiple of 4. Members of the House of Representatives shall be elected for terms of 2 years in each even-numbered year. In each county, a clerk of the circuit court, sheriff, superintendent of schools, property appraiser, and tax collector shall be chosen by the qualified electors at the general election in each year the number of which is a multiple of 4. The Governor and the administrative officers of the executive branch of the state shall be elected for terms of 4 years in each even-numbered year the number of which is not a multiple of 4. The terms of state offices other than the terms of members of the Legislature shall begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January after said election. The term of office of each member of the Legislature shall begin upon election.

(2)(a) Each county commissioner from an odd-numbered district shall be elected at the general election in each year the number of which is a multiple of 4, for a 4-year term commencing on the second Tuesday following such election, and each county commissioner from an even-numbered district shall be elected at the general election in each even-numbered year the number of which is not a multiple of 4, for a 4-year term commencing on the second Tuesday following such election.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the governing board of a charter county may provide by ordinance, to be approved by referendum, that the terms of its members shall commence on a date later than the second Tuesday following general elections, but in any case the date of commencement shall be uniform for all members and shall be no later than the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January following each member's election.

(3)(a) School board members shall be elected at a general election for terms of 4 years. The term of office of a school board member and of a superintendent of schools shall begin on the second Tuesday following the general election in which such member or superintendent is elected.

(b) In each school district which has five school board members, the terms shall be arranged so that three members are elected at one general election and two members elected at the next ensuing general election.

(4) The term of office of each county and each district officer not otherwise provided by law shall commence on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January following his or her election.

History.—s. 3, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 156; s. 3, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 2, ch. 4537, 1897; GS 172; s. 10, ch. 7838, 1919; RGS 217; CGL 252; s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 15, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 1, ch. 59-140; s. 1, ch. 63-479; s. 1, ch. 67-98; s. 1, ch. 67-510; s. 11, ch. 69-216; s. 1, ch. 69-300; (4) formerly s. 14, Art. XVIII of the Constitution of 1885, as amended; converted to statutory law by s. 10, Art. XII of the Constitution as revised in 1968; s. 1, ch. 73-47; s. 18, ch. 73-334; s. 1, ch. 77-102; s. 12, ch. 77-175; s. 1, ch. 78-321; s. 21, ch. 79-164; s. 14, ch. 85-226; s. 1, ch. 88-85; s. 14, ch. 89-338; s. 545, ch. 95-147; s. 11, ch. 98-129.

Note.—Former s. 98.05.

100.051 Candidate's name on general election ballot.—The supervisor of elections of each county shall print on ballots to be used in the county at the next general election the names of candidates who have been nominated by a political party, other than a minor political party, and the candidates who have otherwise obtained a position on the general election ballot in compliance with the requirements of this code.

History.—s. 53, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 357; CGL 414; s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 3, ch. 70-269; s. 1, ch. 70-439; s. 12, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 102.50.

100.061 First primary election.—In each year in which a general election is held, a first primary election for nomination of candidates of political parties shall be held on the Tuesday 9 weeks prior to the general election. Each candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast in each contest in the first primary election shall be declared nominated for such office. A second primary election shall be held as provided by s. 100.091 in every contest in which a candidate does not receive a majority.

History.—s. 5, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 303; CGL 359; s. 2, ch. 13761, 1929; s. 1, ch. 17897, 1937; s. 7, ch. 26329, 1949; s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 57-166; s. 1, ch. 59-4; s. 1, ch. 69-1745; s. 4, ch. 83-251.

Note.—Section 46, ch. 2001-40, provides that:

(1) Notwithstanding s. 100.061, Florida Statutes, for the year 2002, a primary election for nomination of candidates of political parties shall be held on the second Tuesday in September. The candidate receiving the highest number of the votes cast in each contest in the primary election shall be declared nominated for such office. If two or more persons receive an equal and highest number of votes for the same office, such persons shall draw lots to determine who shall receive the nomination.

(2) Notwithstanding s. 100.091, Florida Statutes, or any other provision of the Florida Election Code to the contrary, there shall be no second primary election between the effective date of this act and January 1, 2004.

(3)(a) No later than 5 p.m. of the 9th day following the primary election in 2002, each candidate for Governor shall designate a Lieutenant Governor as a running mate. Such designation must be made in writing to the Department of State.

"(b) No later than the time specified in paragraph (a), each designated candidate for Lieutenant Governor shall file with the Department of State the qualifying papers specified in s. 99.063, Florida Statutes.

"(4)(a) For the 2002 elections, following the last day of qualifying for office, reports pursuant to s. 106.07, Florida Statutes, shall be filed on the 32nd, 18th, and 4th days immediately preceding the primary election and on the 46th, 32nd, 18th, and 4th days immediately preceding the general election.

"(b) Following the last day of qualifying for office, any statewide candidate who has requested to receive contributions from the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund [the trust fund expired, effective November 4, 1996, by operation of s. 19(f), Art. III of the State Constitution] or any statewide candidate in a race with a candidate who has requested to receive contributions from the trust fund shall file reports on the 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, 32nd, 39th, 46th, and 53rd days prior to the general election.

"(5) For the 2002 elections, there shall be two elections for purposes of the contribution limits in s. 106.08, Florida Statutes."

Note.—Former s. 102.05.

100.081 Conducting primary elections; nomination of county commissioners.—The primary elections shall provide for the nomination of county commissioners by the qualified electors of such county at the time and place set for voting on other county officers.

History.—s. 63, ch. 8469, 1913; s. 10, ch. 6874, 1915; RGS 362; CGL 419; s. 18, ch. 13761, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 424(2); s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 11, ch. 69-216; s. 12, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 102.55.

100.091 Second primary election.—

(1) In each year in which a general election is held, a second primary election for nomination of candidates of political parties where nominations were not made in the first primary election shall be held on the Tuesday 5 weeks prior to the general election.

(2) The names of the candidates placing first and second in the first primary election shall be placed on the ballot in the second primary election for each contest in which no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast in the first primary election, subject to the following exceptions:

(a) In any contest in which there is a tie for first place in the first primary election, only the names of the candidates so tying shall be placed on the ballot in the second primary election.

(b) In any contest in which there is a tie for second place in the first primary election and the candidate placing first did not receive a majority of the votes cast, the name of the candidate placing first and the names of the candidates tying for second shall be placed on the ballot in the second primary election.

(3) The candidate who receives the highest number of votes cast for the office in the second primary election shall be declared nominated. In case two or more persons receive an equal and highest number of votes for the same office in the second primary, such persons shall draw lots to determine who will receive the nomination.

History.—s. 50, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 354; CGL 411; s. 14, ch. 13761, 1929; s. 2, ch. 17897, 1937; s. 4, ch. 19663, 1939; s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 2, ch. 57-166; s. 2, ch. 59-4; s. 1, ch. 65-240; s. 2, ch. 69-1745; s. 1, ch. 75-246; ss. 12, 66, ch. 77-175; s. 5, ch. 83-251.

Note.—Former s. 102.48.

100.096 Special election at second primary election.—Notwithstanding the provision of any local law, a special election which is required by local law to be held on the third Tuesday after the first primary election provided for in s. 100.061 may be held in conjunction with the second primary election on the date provided by general law for the second primary election.

History.—s. 5, ch. 78-188.

100.101 Special elections and special primary elections.—Except as provided in s. 100.111(2), a special election or special primary election shall be held in the following cases:

(1) If no person has been elected at a general election to fill an office which was required to be filled by election at such general election.

(2) If a vacancy occurs in the office of state senator or member of the state house of representatives.

(3) If it is necessary to elect presidential electors, by reason of the offices of President and Vice President both having become vacant.

(4) If a vacancy occurs in the office of member from Florida of the House of Representatives of Congress.

(5) If a vacancy occurs in nomination.

History.—s. 4, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 156; s. 5, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 175; RGS 219; CGL 254; s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 12, ch. 77-175; s. 3, ch. 83-15.

Note.—Former s. 98.08.

100.102 Cost of special elections and special primary elections to be incurred by the state.—Whenever any special election or special primary election is held as required in s. 100.101, each county incurring expenses resulting from such special election or special primary election shall be reimbursed by the state. Reimbursement shall be based upon actual expenses as filed by the supervisor of elections with the county governing body. The Department of State shall verify the expenses of each special election and each special primary election and authorize payment for reimbursement to each county affected.

History.—s. 2, ch. 74-120; s. 12, ch. 77-175.

100.111 Filling vacancy.—

(1)(a) If any vacancy occurs in any office which is required to be filled pursuant to s. 1(f), Art. IV of the State Constitution and the remainder of the term of such office is 28 months or longer, then at the next general election a person shall be elected to fill the unexpired portion of such term, commencing on the first Tuesday after the first Monday following such general election.

(b) If such a vacancy occurs prior to the first day set by law for qualifying for election to office at such general election, any person seeking nomination or election to the unexpired portion of the term shall qualify within the time prescribed by law for qualifying for other offices to be filled by election at such general election.

(c) If such a vacancy occurs prior to the first primary but on or after the first day set by law for qualifying, the Secretary of State shall set dates for qualifying for the unexpired portion of the term of such office. Any person seeking nomination or election to the unexpired portion of the term shall qualify within the time set by the Secretary of State. If time does not permit party nominations to be made in conjunction with the first and second primary elections, the Governor may call a special primary election, and, if necessary, a second special primary election, to select party nominees for the unexpired portion of such term.

(2)(a) If, in any state or county office required to be filled by election, a vacancy occurs during an election year by reason of the incumbent having qualified as a candidate for federal office pursuant to s. 99.061, no

special election is required. Any person seeking nomination or election to the office so vacated shall qualify within the time prescribed by s. 99.061 for qualifying for state or county offices to be filled by election.

(b) If such a vacancy occurs in an election year other than the one immediately preceding expiration of the present term, the Secretary of State shall notify the supervisor of elections in each county served by the office that a vacancy has been created. Such notice shall be provided to the supervisor of elections not later than the close of the first day set for qualifying for state or county office. The supervisor shall provide public notice of the vacancy in any manner the Secretary of State deems appropriate.

(3) Whenever there is a vacancy for which a special election is required pursuant to s. 100.101(1)-(4), the Governor, after consultation with the Secretary of State, shall fix the date of a special first primary election, a special second primary election, and a special election. Nominees of political parties other than minor political parties shall be chosen under the primary laws of this state in the special primary elections to become candidates in the special election. Prior to setting the special election dates, the Governor shall consider any upcoming elections in the jurisdiction where the special election will be held. The dates fixed by the Governor shall be specific days certain and shall not be established by the happening of a condition or stated in the alternative. The dates fixed shall provide a minimum of 2 weeks between each election. In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of state senator or member of the House of Representatives when the Legislature is in regular legislative session, the minimum times prescribed by this subsection may be waived upon concurrence of the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate. If a vacancy occurs in the office of state senator and no session of the Legislature is scheduled to be held prior to the next general election, the Governor may fix the dates for any special primary and for the special election to coincide with the dates of the first and second primary and general election. If a vacancy in office occurs in any district in the state Senate or House of Representatives or in any congressional district, and no session of the Legislature, or session of Congress if the vacancy is in a congressional district, is scheduled to be held during the unexpired portion of the term, the Governor is not required to call a special election to fill such vacancy.

(a) The dates for candidates to qualify in such special election or special primary election shall be fixed by the Department of State, and candidates shall qualify not later than noon of the last day so fixed. The dates fixed for qualifying shall allow a minimum of 14 days between the last day of qualifying and the special first primary election.

(b) The filing of campaign expense statements by candidates in such special elections or special primaries and by committees making contributions or expenditures to influence the results of such special primaries or special elections shall be not later than such dates as shall be fixed by the Department of State, and in fixing such dates the Department of State shall take

into consideration and be governed by the practical time limitations.

(c) The dates for a candidate to qualify by the alternative method in such special primary or special election shall be fixed by the Department of State. In fixing such dates the Department of State shall take into consideration and be governed by the practical time limitations. Any candidate seeking to qualify by the alternative method in a special primary election shall obtain 25 percent of the signatures required by s. 99.095, s. 99.0955, or s. 99.096, as applicable.

(d) The qualifying fees and party assessments of such candidates as may qualify shall be the same as collected for the same office at the last previous primary for that office. The party assessment shall be paid to the appropriate executive committee of the political party to which the candidate belongs.

(e) Each county canvassing board shall make as speedy a return of the result of such special elections and primaries as time will permit, and the Elections Canvassing Commission likewise shall make as speedy a canvass and declaration of the nominees as time will permit.

(4)(a) In the event that death, resignation, withdrawal, removal, or any other cause or event should cause a party to have a vacancy in nomination which leaves no candidate for an office from such party, the Governor shall, after conferring with the Secretary of State, call a special primary election and, if necessary, a second special primary election to select for such office a nominee of such political party. The dates on which candidates may qualify for such special primary election shall be fixed by the Department of State, and the candidates shall qualify no later than noon of the last day so fixed. The filing of campaign expense statements by candidates in special primaries shall not be later than such dates as shall be fixed by the Department of State. In fixing such dates, the Department of State shall take into consideration and be governed by the practical time limitations. The qualifying fees and party assessment of such candidates as may qualify shall be the same as collected for the same office at the last previous primary for that office. Each county canvassing board shall make as speedy a return of the results of such primaries as time will permit, and the Elections Canvassing Commission shall likewise make as speedy a canvass and declaration of the nominees as time will permit.

(b) If the vacancy in nomination occurs later than September 15, or if the vacancy in nomination occurs with respect to a candidate of a minor political party which has obtained a position on the ballot, no special primary election shall be held and the Department of State shall notify the chair of the appropriate state, district, or county political party executive committee of such party; and, within 7 days, the chair shall call a meeting of his or her executive committee to consider designation of a nominee to fill the vacancy. The name of any person so designated shall be submitted to the Department of State within 14 days of notice to the chair in order that the person designated may have his or her name printed or otherwise placed on the ballot of the ensuing general election, but in no event shall the

supervisor of elections be required to place on a ballot a name submitted less than 21 days prior to the election. If the vacancy occurs less than 21 days prior to the election, the person designated by the political party will replace the former party nominee even though the former party nominee's name will be on the ballot. Any ballots cast for the former party nominee will be counted for the person designated by the political party to replace the former party nominee. If there is no opposition to the party nominee, the person designated by the political party to replace the former party nominee will be elected to office at the general election. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "district political party executive committee" means the members of the state executive committee of a political party from those counties comprising the area involving a district office.

(c) When, under the circumstances set forth in the preceding paragraph, vacancies in nomination are required to be filled by committee nominations, such vacancies shall be filled by party rule. In any instance in which a nominee is selected by a committee to fill a vacancy in nomination, such nominee shall pay the same filing fee and take the same oath as the nominee would have taken had he or she regularly qualified for election to such office.

(d) Any person who, at the close of qualifying as prescribed in ss. 99.061 and 105.031, was qualified for nomination or election to or retention in a public office to be filled at the ensuing general election is prohibited from qualifying as a candidate to fill a vacancy in nomination for any other office to be filled at that general election, even if such person has withdrawn or been eliminated as a candidate for the original office sought. However, this paragraph does not apply to a candidate for the office of Lieutenant Governor who applies to fill a vacancy in nomination for the office of Governor on the same ticket or to a person who has withdrawn or been eliminated as a candidate and who is subsequently designated as a candidate for Lieutenant Governor under s. 99.063.

(5) In the event of unforeseeable circumstances not contemplated in these general election laws concerning the calling and holding of special primary elections and special elections resulting from court order or other unpredictable circumstances, the Department of State shall have the authority to provide for the conduct of orderly elections.

(6) In the event that a vacancy occurs which leaves less than 4 weeks for a candidate seeking to qualify by the alternative method to gather signatures for ballot position, the number of signatures required for ballot placement shall be 25 percent of the number of signatures required by s. 99.095, s. 99.0955, or s. 99.096, whichever is applicable.

History.—s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 16, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 1, ch. 28938, 1955; s. 1, ch. 57-91; s. 1, ch. 59-139; s. 2, ch. 65-240; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 1, ch. 73-191; s. 1, ch. 74-120; s. 12, ch. 77-175; s. 30, ch. 79-400; s. 4, ch. 83-15; s. 1, ch. 83-149; s. 15, ch. 89-338; s. 3, ch. 90-229; s. 13, ch. 90-315; s. 546, ch. 95-147; s. 1, ch. 95-197; s. 5, ch. 99-140; s. 12, ch. 99-318.

100.141 Notice of special election to fill any vacancy in office or nomination.—

(1) Whenever a special election is required to fill any vacancy in office or nomination, the Governor, after

consultation with the Secretary of State, shall issue an order declaring on what day the election shall be held and deliver the order to the Department of State.

(2) The Department of State shall prepare a notice stating what offices and vacancies are to be filled in the special election, the date set for each special primary election and the special election, the dates fixed for qualifying for office, the dates fixed for qualifying by the alternative method, and the dates fixed for filing campaign expense statements.

(3) The department shall deliver a copy of such notice to the supervisor of elections of each county in which the special election is to be held. The supervisor shall have the notice published two times in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at least 10 days prior to the first day set for qualifying for office. If such a newspaper is not published within the period set forth, the supervisor shall post at least five copies of the notice in conspicuous places in the county not less than 10 days prior to the first date set for qualifying.

History.—s. 6, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 160; s. 7, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 177; RGS 221; CGL 256; s. 3, ch. 25383, 1949; s. 1, ch. 26329, 1949; s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 12, ch. 77-175; s. 14, ch. 90-315; s. 13, ch. 99-318.

Note.—Former s. 98.10.

100.151 Special elections called by local governing bodies, notice.—County commissioners or the governing authority of a municipality shall not call any special election until notice is given to the supervisor of elections and his or her consent obtained as to a date when the registration books can be available.

History.—s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 2, ch. 65-60; s. 16, ch. 89-338; s. 547, ch. 95-147.

100.161 Filling vacancy of United States Senators. Should a vacancy happen in the representation of this state in the Senate of the United States, the Governor shall issue a writ of election to fill such vacancy at the next general election; and the Governor may make a temporary appointment until the vacancy is filled by election.

History.—s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 17, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 12, ch. 77-175.

100.181 Determination of person elected.—The person receiving the highest number of votes cast in a general or special election for an office shall be elected to the office. In case two or more persons receive an equal and highest number of votes for the same office, such persons shall draw lots to determine who shall be elected to the office.

History.—s. 7, ch. 20872, 1941; s. 4, ch. 26329, 1949; s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 24, ch. 77-104; s. 12, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 98.49.

100.191 General election laws applicable to special elections; returns.—All laws that are applicable to general elections are applicable to special elections or special primary elections to fill a vacancy in office or nomination, except that the canvass of returns by the county canvassing board of each county in which a special election is held shall be made on the day following the election, and the certificate of the result of the canvass shall be immediately forwarded to the Department of State. The Elections Canvassing Commission shall immediately, upon receipt of returns from the county in which a special election is held, proceed to canvass the returns and determine and declare the result thereof.

History.—s. 6, ch. 20872, 1941; s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 12, ch. 77-175.
Note.—Former s. 98.48.

100.201 Referendum required before issuing bonds.—Whenever any county, district, or municipality is by law given power to issue bonds which are required to be approved by referendum, such bonds shall be issued only after the same have been approved by the majority of votes cast by those persons eligible to vote in such referendum. The election costs of such referendum shall be paid in whole or in part, as the case may be, out of the county, district, or municipal treasury.

History.—s. 1, ch. 14715, 1931; CGL 1936 Supp. 457(1); s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 3, ch. 69-377; s. 12, ch. 77-175; s. 7, ch. 87-363.
Note.—Former s. 103.01.

100.211 Power to call bond referendum; notice required.—The board of county commissioners or the governing authority of any district or municipality may call a bond referendum under this code. In the event any referendum is called to decide whether a majority of the electors participating are in favor of the issuance of bonds in the county, district, or municipality, the board of county commissioners, or the governing authority of the municipality or district, shall by resolution order the bond referendum to be held in the county, district, or municipality and shall give notice of the election in the manner prescribed by s. 100.342.

History.—s. 2, ch. 14715, 1931; CGL 1936 Supp. 457(2); s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 4, ch. 69-377; s. 12, ch. 77-175.
Note.—Former s. 103.02.

100.221 General election laws to govern bond referenda.—The laws governing the holding of general elections are applicable to bond referenda, except as provided in ss. 100.201-100.351. The places for voting in a bond referendum shall be the same as the places for voting in general elections, when a bond referendum is held in the county or district; but when a bond referendum is held in a municipality, the polling places shall be the same as in other municipal elections.

History.—s. 8, ch. 14715, 1931; CGL 1936 Supp. 457(8); s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 12, ch. 77-175.
Note.—Former s. 103.08.

100.241 Freeholder voting; election; penalties for ineligible persons who vote as freeholders.—

(1) In any election or referendum in which only electors who are freeholders are qualified to vote, the regular registration books covering the precincts located within the geographical area in which the election or referendum is to be held shall be used.

(2) Qualification and registration of electors participating in such an election or referendum shall be the same as prescribed for voting in other elections under this code, and, in addition, each such elector shall submit proof by affidavit made before an inspector that the elector is a freeholder who is a qualified elector residing in the county, district, or municipality in which the election or referendum is to be held.

(3) Each registered elector who makes a sworn affidavit of ownership to the inspectors, giving either a legal description, address, or location of property in the elector's name which is not wholly exempt from taxation shall be entitled to vote in the election or referendum and shall be considered a freeholder.

(4) The actual costs of conducting such freeholders' election or referendum shall be paid by the county, district, or municipality requiring the same to be held.

(5) It is unlawful for any person to vote in any county, district, or other election or referendum which is limited to a vote of the electors who are freeholders, unless such person is a freeholder and a qualified elector. Any person who violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

History.—s. 1, ch. 8294, 1923; CGL 250; ss. 4, 6, 14, ch. 14715, 1931; CGL 1936 Supp. 457(4), (6), (14); s. 7, ch. 22858, 1945; s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 61-332; s. 5, ch. 65-240; s. 5, ch. 69-377; s. 12, ch. 77-175; s. 2, ch. 91-224; s. 548, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former ss. 98.03, 103.04, 103.06, 103.14.

100.261 Holding bond referenda with other elections.—Whenever any bond referendum is called, it shall be lawful for any county, district, or municipality to hold such bond referendum on the day of any state, county, or municipal primary or general election, or on the day of any election of such county, district, or municipality for any purpose other than the purpose of voting on such bonds. If such bond referendum is held concurrently with a regularly scheduled election, the county, district, or municipality shall pay only its pro rata share of election costs directly related to the bond referendum. However, nothing in this section shall prohibit the holding of a special or separate bond referendum.

History.—s. 1, ch. 22545, 1945; s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 19, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 12, ch. 77-175; s. 8, ch. 87-363.

Note.—Former s. 103.21.

100.271 Inspectors, clerk, duties; return and canvass of referendum recorded.—In any bond referendum, unless the referendum is held in connection with a regular or special state, county, or municipal election, at least two inspectors and one clerk shall be appointed and qualified, as in cases of general elections, and they shall canvass the vote cast and make due returns of same without delay. Any bond referendum held in a municipality shall be returned to and canvassed by the governing authority which called the referendum, but in any county or district the returns shall be made to the board of county commissioners. The board of county commissioners or, in the case of a municipality, the governing authority thereof, shall canvass the returns and declare the result and have same recorded in the minutes of the board of county commissioners, or, in the case of a district, the certificate of declaration of result shall be recorded in the minutes of the governing authority of such district, or, in the case of a municipality, the result shall be recorded in the minutes of the governing authority of the municipality. If any bond referendum is held in conjunction with any other election, however, the officials responsible for the canvass of such election shall also canvass the returns of the referendum and certify the same to the proper governing body.

History.—s. 10, ch. 14715, 1931; CGL 1936 Supp. 457(10); s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 12, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 103.10.

100.281 Approval to issue bonds.—Should a majority of the votes cast in a bond referendum be in favor of the issuance of bonds, then the issuance of

said bonds is deemed authorized in accordance with s. 12, Art. VII of the State Constitution. In the event less than a majority of those voting on the issue voted in favor of the issuance of the proposed bonds, then the issuance of those specified bonds shall be deemed to have failed of approval and it is unlawful to issue or attempt to issue said bonds.

History.—s. 12, ch. 14715, 1931; CGL 1936 Supp. 457(12); s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 15, ch. 69-216; s. 7, ch. 69-377; s. 12, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 103.12.

100.291 Record results of election prima facie evidence.—Whenever any bond referendum is called and held, and the minutes have been recorded as provided in s. 100.271 and also a separate finding as to the total number of votes cast in the referendum, both in favor and against the approval of bonds, then a duly certified copy of the finding shall be admissible as prima facie evidence in all state courts of the truth, including the regularity, of the call, conduct, and holding of the referendum at the time and place specified.

History.—s. 17, ch. 14715, 1931; CGL 1936 Supp. 457(15); s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 12, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 103.17.

100.301 Refunding bonds excluded.—Sections 100.201-100.351 shall not apply to refunding bonds, and wherever the word “bond” or “bonds” is used in these sections it shall be construed to exclude refunding bonds; but if the statute, ordinance, or resolution under which refunding bonds are authorized or are to be issued requires a referendum to determine whether such refunding bonds shall be issued, the referendum may be held as provided by ss. 100.201-100.351.

History.—s. 21½, ch. 14715, 1931; CGL 1936 Supp. 457(19); s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 12, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 103.20.

100.311 Local law governs bond election held by municipalities.—No section of this code controlling or regulating bond referenda shall be deemed to repeal or modify any provision contained in any local law relating to bond referenda held by any municipality, but ss. 100.201-100.351 shall be deemed additional and supplementary to any such local law.

History.—s. 21, ch. 14715, 1931; CGL 1936 Supp. 457(18); s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 12, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 103.19.

100.321 Test suit.—Any taxpayer of the county, district, or municipality wherein bonds are declared to have been authorized, shall have the right to test the legality of the referendum and of the declaration of the result thereof, by an action in the circuit court of the county in which the referendum was held. The action shall be brought against the county commissioners in the case of a county or district referendum, or against the governing authority of the municipality in the case of a municipal referendum. In case any such referendum or the declaration of results thereof shall be adjudged to be illegal and void in any such suit, the judgment shall have the effect of nullifying the referendum. No suit shall be brought to test the validity of any bond referendum unless the suit shall be instituted within 60 days after the declaration of the results of the referendum. In the event proceedings shall be filed in any court to validate the bonds, which have been voted

for, then any such taxpayer shall be bound to intervene in such validation suit and contest the validity of the holding of the referendum or the declaration of the results thereof, in which event the exclusive jurisdiction to determine the legality of such referendum or the declaration of the results thereof shall be vested in the court hearing and determining said validation proceedings. If said bonds in the validation proceedings shall be held valid on final hearing or an intervention by the taxpayer shall be interposed and held not to have been sustained, then the judgment in said validation proceedings shall be final and conclusive as to the legality and validity of the referendum and of the declaration of the results thereof, and no separate suit to test the same shall be thereafter permissible.

History.—s. 18, ch. 14715, 1931; CGL 1936 Supp. 457(16); s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 12, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 103.18.

100.331 Referendum for defeated bond issue.—If any bond referendum is called and held for approving the issuance of bonds for a particular purpose and such referendum does not result in the approval of the bonds, then no other referendum for the approval of bonds for the same purpose shall be called for at least 6 months.

History.—s. 13, ch. 14715, 1931; CGL 1936 Supp. 457 (13); s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 12, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 103.13.

100.341 Bond referendum ballot.—The ballots used in bond referenda shall include a printed description of the issuance of bonds to be voted on as prescribed by the authority calling the referendum. A separate statement of each issue of bonds to be approved, giving the amount of the bonds and interest rate thereon, together with other details necessary to inform the electors, shall be printed on the ballots in connection with the question “For Bonds” and “Against Bonds.”

History.—s. 11, ch. 14715, 1931; CGL 1936 Supp. 457(11); s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 12, ch. 77-175; s. 4, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 103.11.

100.342 Notice of special election or referendum. In any special election or referendum not otherwise provided for there shall be at least 30 days’ notice of the election or referendum by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, district, or municipality, as the case may be. The publication shall be made at least twice, once in the fifth week and once in the third week prior to the week in which the election or referendum is to be held. If there is no newspaper of general circulation in the county, district, or municipality, the notice shall be posted in no less than five places within the territorial limits of the county, district, or municipality.

History.—s. 1, ch. 59-335; s. 2, ch. 65-60; s. 12, ch. 77-175.

100.351 Referendum election; certificate of results to Department of State.—Whenever an election is held under a referendum provision of an act of the Legislature, the election officials of the governmental unit in which the election is held shall certify the results thereof to the Department of State, which shall enter such

results upon the official record of the act requiring such election on file in the office of the Department of State.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 25438, 1949; s. 4, ch. 26870, 1951; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 12, ch. 77-175.

*Note.—*Former s. 99.59.

100.3605 Conduct of municipal elections.—

(1) The Florida Election Code, chapters 97-106, shall govern the conduct of a municipality's election in the absence of an applicable special act, charter, or ordinance provision. No charter or ordinance provision shall be adopted which conflicts with or exempts a municipality from any provision in the Florida Election Code that expressly applies to municipalities.

(2) The governing body of a municipality may, by ordinance, change the dates for qualifying and for the election of members of the governing body of the municipality and provide for the orderly transition of office resulting from such date changes.

*History.—*s. 2, ch. 95-178.

100.361 Municipal recall.—

(1) **RECALL PETITION.**—Any member of the governing body of a municipality or charter county, hereinafter referred to in this section as "municipality," may be removed from office by the electors of the municipality. When the official represents a district and is elected only by electors residing in that district, only electors from that district are eligible to sign the petition to recall that official and are entitled to vote in the recall election. When the official represents a district and is elected at-large by the electors of the municipality, all electors of the municipality are eligible to sign the petition to recall that official and are entitled to vote in the recall election. Where used in this section, the term "district" shall be construed to mean the area or region of a municipality from which a member of the governing body is elected by the electors from such area or region. Members may be removed from office by the following procedure:

(a) A petition shall be prepared naming the person sought to be recalled and containing a statement of grounds for recall in not more than 200 words limited solely to the grounds specified in paragraph (b). If more than one member of the governing body is sought to be recalled, whether such member is elected by the electors of a district or by the electors of the municipality at-large, a separate recall petition shall be prepared for each member sought to be recalled.

1. In a municipality or district of fewer than 500 electors, the petition shall be signed by at least 50 electors or by 10 percent of the total number of registered electors of the municipality or district as of the preceding municipal election, whichever is greater.

2. In a municipality or district of 500 or more but fewer than 2,000 registered electors, the petition shall be signed by at least 100 electors or by 10 percent of the total number of registered electors of the municipality or district as of the preceding municipal election, whichever is greater.

3. In a municipality or district of 2,000 or more but fewer than 5,000 registered electors, the petition shall be signed by at least 250 electors or by 10 percent of the total number of registered electors of the municipality or district as of the preceding municipal election, whichever is greater.

4. In a municipality or district of 5,000 or more but fewer than 10,000 registered electors, the petition shall be signed by at least 500 electors or by 10 percent of the total number of registered electors of the municipality or district as of the preceding municipal election, whichever is greater.

5. In a municipality or district of 10,000 or more but fewer than 25,000 registered electors, the petition shall be signed by at least 1,000 electors or by 10 percent of the total number of registered electors of the municipality or district as of the preceding municipal election, whichever is greater.

6. In a municipality or district of 25,000 or more registered electors, the petition shall be signed by at least 1,000 electors or by 5 percent of the total number of registered electors of the municipality or district as of the preceding municipal election, whichever is greater.

Electors of the municipality or district making charges contained in the statement of grounds for recall and those signing the recall petition shall be designated as the "committee." A specific person shall be designated in the petition as chair of the committee to act for the committee. Electors of the municipality or district are eligible to sign the petition. Signatures and oaths of witnesses shall be executed as provided in paragraph (c). All signatures shall be obtained within a period of 30 days, and the petition shall be filed within 30 days after the date the first signature is obtained on the petition.

(b) The grounds for removal of elected municipal officials shall, for the purposes of this act, be limited to the following and must be contained in the petition:

1. Malfeasance;
 2. Misfeasance;
 3. Neglect of duty;
 4. Drunkenness;
 5. Incompetence;
 6. Permanent inability to perform official duties;
- and
7. Conviction of a felony involving moral turpitude.

(c) Each elector of the municipality signing a petition shall sign his or her name in ink or indelible pencil as registered in the office of the supervisor of elections and shall state on the petition his or her place of residence and voting precinct. Each petition shall contain appropriate lines for the signature, printed name, and street address of the elector and an oath, to be executed by a witness thereof, verifying the fact that the witness saw each person sign the counterpart of the petition, that each signature appearing thereon is the genuine signature of the person it purports to be, and that the petition was signed in the presence of the witness on the date indicated.

(d) The petition shall be filed with the auditor or clerk of the municipality or charter county, or his or her equivalent, hereinafter referred to as clerk, by the person designated as chair of the committee, and, when the petition is filed, the clerk shall submit such petition to the county supervisor of elections who shall, within a period of not more than 30 days after the petition is filed with the supervisor, determine whether the petition contains the required valid signatures. The petition cannot be amended after it is filed with the clerk. The

supervisor shall be paid by the persons or committee seeking verification the sum of 10 cents for each name checked.

(e) If it is determined that the petition does not contain the required signatures, the clerk shall so certify to the governing body of the municipality or charter county and file the petition without taking further action, and the matter shall be at an end. No additional names may be added to the petition, and the petition shall not be used in any other proceeding.

(f) If it is determined that the petition has the required signatures, then the clerk shall at once serve upon the person sought to be recalled a certified copy of the petition. Within 5 days after service, the person sought to be recalled may file with the clerk a defensive statement of not more than 200 words. The clerk shall, within 5 days, prepare a sufficient number of typewritten, printed, or mimeographed copies of the recall petition and defensive statement, as well as the names, addresses, and oaths on the original petition, and deliver them to the person who has been designated as chair of the committee and take his or her receipt therefor. Such prepared copies shall be entitled "Recall Petition and Defense" and shall contain lines and spaces for signatures and printed names of registered electors, place of residence, election precinct number, and date of signing, together with oaths to be executed by the witnesses which conform to the provisions of paragraph (c). The clerk shall deliver forms sufficient to carry the signatures of 30 percent of the registered electors.

(g) Upon receipt of the "Recall Petition and Defense," the committee may circulate them to obtain the signatures of 15 percent of the electors. Any elector who signs a recall petition shall have the right to demand in writing that his or her name be stricken from the petition. A written demand signed by the elector shall be filed with the clerk and upon receipt of the demand the clerk shall strike the name of the elector from the petition and place his or her initials to the side of the signature stricken. However, no signature may be stricken after the clerk has delivered the "Recall Petition and Defense" to the supervisor of elections for verification.

(h) Within 60 days after delivery of the "Recall Petition and Defense" to the chair, the chair shall file with the clerk the "Recall Petition and Defense" which bears the signatures of electors. The clerk shall assemble all signed petitions, check to see that each petition is properly verified by the oath of a witness, and submit such petitions to the county supervisor of elections, who shall determine the number of valid signatures, purge the names withdrawn, certify within 30 days whether 15 percent of the qualified electors of the municipality have signed the petitions, and report his or her findings to the governing body. The supervisor shall be paid by the persons or committee seeking verification the sum of 10 cents for each name checked.

(i) If the petitions do not contain the required signatures, the clerk shall report such fact to the governing body and file the petitions, the proceedings shall be terminated, and the petitions shall not again be used. If the signatures do amount to at least 15 percent of the

qualified electors, the clerk shall serve notice of that fact upon the person sought to be recalled and deliver to the governing body a certificate as to the percentage of qualified voters who signed.

(2) RECALL ELECTION.—If the person designated in the petition files with the clerk, within 5 days after the last-mentioned notice, his or her written resignation, the clerk shall at once notify the governing body of that fact, and the resignation shall be irrevocable. The governing body shall then proceed to fill the vacancy according to the provisions of the appropriate law. In the absence of a resignation, the chief judge of the judicial circuit in which the municipality is located shall fix a day for holding a recall election for the removal of those not resigning. Any such election shall be held not less than 30 days or more than 60 days after the expiration of the 5-day period last-mentioned and at the same time as any other general or special election held within the period; but if no such election is to be held within that period, the judge shall call a special recall election to be held within the period aforesaid.

(3) BALLOTS.—The ballots at the recall election shall conform to the following: With respect to each person whose removal is sought, the question shall be submitted: "Shall ___ be removed from the office of ___ by recall?" Immediately following each question there shall be printed on the ballots the two propositions in the order here set forth:

"_(name of person)_ should be removed from office."

"_(name of person)_ should not be removed from office."

Immediately to the right of each of the propositions shall be placed a square on which the electors, by making a crossmark (X), may vote either of the propositions. Voting machines or electronic or electromechanical equipment may be used.

(4) FILLING OF VACANCIES; SPECIAL ELECTIONS.—

(a) If an election is held for the recall of members elected only at-large, candidates to succeed them for the unexpired terms shall be voted upon at the same election and shall be elected in the same manner as provided by the appropriate law for the election of candidates at general elections. Candidates shall not be elected to succeed any particular member. If only one member is removed, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected to fill the vacancy. If more than one member is removed, candidates equal in number to the number of members removed shall be declared elected to fill the vacancies; and, among the successful candidates, those receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected for the longest terms. Cases of ties, and all other matters not herein specially provided for, shall be determined by the rules governing elections generally.

(b) If an election is held for the recall of members elected only from districts, candidates to succeed them for the unexpired terms shall be voted upon at a special election called by the chief judge of the judicial circuit in which the districts are located not less than 30 days or more than 60 days after the expiration of the recall election. The qualifying period, for purposes of this section,

that the committee which circulated the petition is no longer seeking to obtain ballot position.

(5) The Secretary of State shall determine from the verification certificates received from supervisors of elections the total number of verified valid signatures and the distribution of such signatures by congressional districts. Upon a determination that the requisite number and distribution of valid signatures have been obtained, the secretary shall issue a certificate of ballot position for that proposed amendment and shall assign a designating number pursuant to s. 101.161. A petition shall be deemed to be filed with the Secretary of State upon the date of the receipt by the secretary of a certificate or certificates from supervisors of elections indicating the petition has been signed by the constitutionally required number of electors.

(6) The Department of State shall have the authority to promulgate rules in accordance with s. 120.54 to carry out the provisions of this section.

*History.—*s. 15, ch. 79-365; s. 12, ch. 83-251; s. 30, ch. 84-302; s. 22, ch. 87-13.
*Note.—*The text as published here does not include an amendment by s. 22, ch. 97-13. Section 56, ch. 97-13, provides that the amendment to s. 100.371 by s. 22, ch. 97-13, "relating to signature verification periods and random sampling for proposed initiative amendments, shall take effect on the effective date of amendments to the State Constitution approved by the electors at the general election to be held in November 1998 which authorize, or remove impediment to, enactment by the Legislature of the provisions of that section." Other portions of the changes by s. 22, ch. 97-13, were apparently not subject to the contingency. No constitutional amendment relating to signature verification periods and random sampling for proposed initiative petitions passed at the 1998 general election. As amended by s. 22, ch. 97-13, the text of s. 100.371 reads:

100.371 Initiatives; procedure for placement on ballot.—

(1)(a) The sponsor of a constitutional amendment proposed by initiative must register as a political committee under s. 106.03 prior to taking or initiating any action with respect to that amendment.

(b) After registering as a political committee, the sponsor of a constitutional amendment proposed by initiative shall submit the text of the proposed initiative amendment and the petition format to the division for approval. The division shall promulgate rules pursuant to s. 120.54 prescribing the style and requirements of petition formats.

(2)(a) If the sponsor of a proposed initiative amendment intends to employ or contract with any person to gather voter signatures, the sponsor must, before employing or contracting with such person, file an affidavit with the division, the form of which shall be prepared by the division, giving notice of the intended use of paid petition circulators.

(b) A sponsor of a proposed initiative amendment who uses paid petition circulators shall provide to the division the name and address of each individual paid to gather petition signatures. Such information shall be filed at the time reports are filed pursuant to s. 106.07.

(c) Each paid petition circulator must place his or her name and address on each petition form for which he or she is gathering signatures on behalf of the sponsor of the proposed initiative amendment. The sponsor of a proposed initiative amendment is responsible for ensuring that the name and address of the paid circulator appear on the petition form prior to its submission to the supervisor for verification.

(d) A sponsor of a proposed initiative amendment who uses paid petition circulators may not file an oath of undue burden in lieu of paying the fee required by s. 99.097 for the verification of signatures gathered.

(3) No later than 5 p.m. on the 151st day prior to the general election at which the proposed initiative amendment is to be voted on for a name-by-name, signature-by-signature verification and no later than 5 p.m. on the 121st day prior to the general election at which the proposed initiative amendment is to be voted on for a random-sampling verification, the sponsor shall submit signed and dated petition forms for that petition to each appropriate supervisor for verification as to the number of voters whose valid signatures appear thereon. Each signature shall be dated when made and shall be valid for a period of 4 years following such date, provided all other requirements of law are complied with. The supervisor shall promptly verify the signatures upon payment of the fee or filing of the oath of undue burden required by s. 99.097. Upon completion of verification, which shall occur no later than the 91st day prior to the general election, the supervisor shall execute a certificate indicating the total number of signatures checked, the number of signatures verified as valid, and the distribution of signatures by congressional district. This certificate shall be immediately transmitted to the division. The supervisor shall retain the signed and dated petition forms for at least 1 year following the election in which the proposed initiative amendment appeared on the ballot or until the division notifies the supervisors that the committee which circulated the petition is no longer seeking to obtain ballot position.

(4) The division shall determine from the certificates received from the supervisors the total number of valid signatures and the distribution of such signatures by congressional district. Upon a determination that the requisite number and distribution of valid signatures have been obtained, the division shall issue a certificate of ballot position for that proposed initiative amendment and shall assign a designating number pursuant to s. 101.161. A petition is considered filed with the Secretary of State upon the date of the receipt by the division of a certificate or certificates from the supervisors indicating that the petition has been signed by the constitutionally required number of voters.

(5) Constitutional amendments proposed by initiative shall be placed on the ballot for the next general election held more than 90 days after the certification of ballot position by the division.

(6) The division may promulgate rules to carry out the provisions of this section.

CHAPTER 101

VOTING METHODS AND PROCEDURE

101.001	Precincts and polling places; boundaries.	101.39	Voting machines, sealing curtains.
101.002	Use of system by municipalities.	101.40	Voting machine out of order.
101.011	Voting by paper ballot.	101.43	Substitute ballot.
101.015	Standards for voting systems.	101.445	Write-in ballots.
101.017	Bureau of Voting Systems Certification.	101.45	Election board opening polls.
101.021	Elector to vote the primary ballot of the political party in which he or she is registered.	101.46	Instruction to electors before election.
		101.47	Requirements before elector enters voting machine booth.
101.031	Instructions for electors.	101.49	Procedure of election officers where signatures differ.
101.041	Secret voting.	101.51	Electors to occupy booth alone; time allowed.
101.045	Electors must be registered in precinct; provisions for residence or name change.	101.54	Tabulation of vote and proclamation of results, where voting machine used.
101.048	Provisional ballots.	101.545	Retention and destruction of certain election materials.
101.051	Electors seeking assistance in casting ballots; oath to be executed; forms to be furnished.	101.55	Certificate of results.
		101.56	Locking machine; returning write-in ballots.
101.111	Person desiring to vote may be challenged; challenger to execute oath; oath of challenged elector; determination of challenge.	101.5601	Short title.
		101.5602	Purpose.
101.131	Watchers at polls.	101.5603	Definitions relating to Electronic Voting Systems Act.
101.151	Specifications for ballots.	101.5604	Adoption of system; procurement of equipment; commercial tabulations.
101.161	Referenda; ballots.		Punch card type systems prohibited.
101.171	Copy of constitutional amendment to be posted.	101.5605	Examination and approval of equipment.
101.20	Publication of ballot form; sample ballots.	101.5606	Requirements for approval of systems.
101.21	Official ballots; number; printing; payment.	101.5607	Department of State to maintain voting system information; prepare software.
101.22	Voting procedure, paper ballots.	101.5608	Voting by electronic or electromechanical method; procedures.
101.23	Election inspector to keep list of those voting.		Inspection of ballot by election board.
101.24	Ballot boxes and ballots.	101.5610	Instructions to electors.
101.2515	Translation of ballot language.	101.5611	Testing of tabulating equipment.
101.252	Candidates entitled to have names printed on certain ballots; exception.	101.5612	Examination of equipment during voting.
101.253	When names not to be printed on ballot.	101.5613	Canvass of returns.
101.254	When nominated names to appear in groups or districts.	101.5614	Recounts and election contests.
101.27	Voting machine ballots.	101.5615	Public inspection of ballots.
101.28	Requirements for voting machines.	101.572	Supervising and observing registration and election processes.
101.29	Providing machines; payment for same.	101.58	Voting system audit.
101.292	Definitions; ss. 101.292-101.295.	101.591	Analysis and reports of voter error.
101.293	Competitive sealed bids and proposals required.	101.595	Short title.
101.294	Purchase and sale of voting equipment.	101.6101	Mail ballot elections; limitations.
101.295	Penalties for violation.	101.6102	Mail ballot election procedure.
101.32	Adoption of voting machines; powers incident to adoption.	101.6103	Challenge of votes.
		101.6104	Absentee voting.
101.33	Number of electors for each machine.	101.6105	Application of other election laws.
101.34	Custody of voting machines.	101.6106	Department of State to adopt rules.
101.341	Prohibited activities by voting machine custodians and deputy custodians.	101.6107	Request for absentee ballots.
101.35	Preparation of voting machines; notice of sealing and preelection test.	101.62	Distribution of blocks of printed ballots.
101.36	Voting machines or electronic or electromechanical voting; when used.	101.635	Delivery of absentee ballots; envelopes; form.
		101.64	Instructions to absent electors.
101.37	Location of voting machines.	101.65	Supervised voting by absent electors in certain facilities.
101.38	Disposition of voting machine keys immediately following an election.	101.655	Voting absentee ballots in person.
		101.657	Voting absentee ballots.
		101.661	

- 101.663 Electors; change of residence.
 101.665 Administration of oaths; military personnel, federal employees, and other absentee registrants.
 101.67 Safekeeping of mailed ballots; deadline for receiving absentee ballots.
 101.68 Canvassing of absentee ballot.
 101.69 Voting in person; return of absentee ballot.
 101.694 Mailing of ballots upon receipt of federal postcard application.
 101.6951 State write-in ballot.
 101.6952 Absentee ballots for overseas voters.
 101.697 Electronic transmission of election materials.
 101.698 Absentee voting in emergency situations.
 101.71 Polling place.
 101.715 Accessibility of polling places to the elderly and physically handicapped.
 101.72 Booths.
 101.731 Short title.
 101.732 Definitions relating to Elections Emergency Act.
 101.733 Election emergency; purpose; elections emergency contingency plan.
 101.74 Temporary change of polling place in case of emergency.
 101.75 Municipal elections; change of dates for cause.

101.001 Precincts and polling places; boundaries.

(1) The board of county commissioners in each county, upon recommendation and approval of the supervisor, shall alter or create precincts for voting in the county. Each precinct shall be numbered and, as nearly as practicable, composed of contiguous and compact areas. The supervisor shall designate a polling place at a suitable location within each precinct. The precinct shall not be changed thereafter except with the consent of the supervisor and a majority of the members of the board of county commissioners. The board of county commissioners and the supervisor may have precinct boundaries conform to municipal boundaries in accordance with the provisions of s. 101.002, but, in any event, the registration books shall be maintained in such a manner that there may be determined therefrom the total number of electors in each municipality.

(2) When in any election there are fewer than 25 registered electors of the only political party having candidates on the ballot at any precinct, such precinct may be combined with other adjoining precincts upon the recommendation of the supervisor and the approval of the county commissioners. Notice of the combination of precincts shall be given in the same manner as provided in s. 101.71(2).

(3) Each supervisor of elections shall maintain a suitable map drawn to a scale no smaller than 3 miles to the inch and clearly delineating all major observable features such as roads, streams, and railway lines and showing the current geographical boundaries of each precinct, representative district, and senatorial district, and other type of district in the county subject to the

elections process in this code. The supervisor of elections shall notify the Secretary of State in writing within 30 days of any reorganization of precincts and shall furnish a copy of the map showing the current geographical boundaries and designation of each new precinct.

(4) Within 10 days after there is any change in the division, number, or boundaries of the precincts, or the location of the polling places, the supervisor of elections shall make in writing an accurate description of any new or altered precincts, setting forth the boundary lines and shall identify the location of each new or altered polling place. A copy of the document describing such changes shall be posted at the supervisor's office.

History.—s. 10, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 164; s. 11, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 184; RGS 228; CGL 281; s. 2, ch. 24203, 1947; s. 6, ch. 25383, 1949; s. 2, ch. 26329, 1949; s. 2, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 4, ch. 28934, 1955; s. 3, ch. 57-168; s. 1, ch. 59-281; s. 1, ch. 67-169; s. 1, ch. 72-25; s. 3, ch. 73-155; s. 1, ch. 76-60; s. 1, ch. 76-121; s. 1, ch. 78-233; s. 4, ch. 77-175; s. 1, ch. 80-189; s. 11, ch. 80-292; s. 4, ch. 81-304; s. 26, ch. 84-302; s. 24, ch. 94-224; s. 1390, ch. 95-147; s. 54, ch. 97-13.

Note.—Former s. 98.23; s. 98.031.

101.002 Use of system by municipalities.—

(1) The board of county commissioners, with the concurrence of the supervisor of elections, may arrange the boundaries of the precincts in each municipality within the county to conform to the boundaries of the municipality, subject to the concurrence of the governing body of the municipality. All binders, files, and other equipment or materials necessary for the permanent registration system shall be furnished by the board of county commissioners.

(2) The supervisor of elections shall deliver the records required for a municipal election to the municipal elections boards or other appropriate elections officials before the election and collect them after the election. The municipality shall reimburse the county for the actual costs incurred.

(3) Any person who is a duly registered elector pursuant to this code and who resides within the boundaries of a municipality is qualified to participate in all municipal elections, the provisions of special acts or local charters notwithstanding. Electors who are not registered under the permanent registration system shall not be permitted to vote.

History.—s. 4, ch. 25391, 1949; s. 2, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 10, ch. 27991, 1953; s. 2, ch. 28761, 1955; s. 1, ch. 57-136; s. 1, ch. 63-268; s. 6, ch. 65-134; s. 2, ch. 73-155; s. 5, ch. 77-175; s. 31, ch. 94-224.

Note.—Former s. 97.04; s. 98.091.

101.011 Voting by paper ballot.—

(1) In counties where paper ballots are used, each elector shall be given a ballot by the inspector. Before delivering the ballot to the elector, one of the inspectors shall write his or her initials or name on the stub attached to the ballot; then the elector shall, without leaving the polling place, retire alone to a booth or compartment provided, and place an "X" mark after the name of the candidate of his or her choice for each office to be filled, and likewise mark an "X" after the answer he or she desires in case of a constitutional amendment or other question submitted to a vote.

(2) No paper ballot shall be voided or declared invalid in any election within the state by reason of the fact that the ballot is marked other than with an "X," so long as there is a clear indication thereon to the election

officials that the person marking such ballot has made a definite choice, and provided further, that the mark placed on the ballot with respect to any candidate by any such voter shall be located in the blank space on the ballot opposite such candidate's name.

(3) After preparing his or her paper ballot, the elector shall fold the ballot so as to conceal the face of the ballot and show the stub attached with the name or initials of the inspector and hand it to the receiving inspector, who shall detach the stub and return the ballot to the elector to deposit in the ballot box in the presence of the inspectors. The detached stubs shall be numbered consecutively and filed by the inspectors.

(4) If the elector marks more names than there are persons to be elected to an office, or if it is impossible to determine the elector's choice, his or her ballot shall not be counted for the office; but this shall not vitiate the ballot as to those names which are properly marked, and nothing in this code shall be construed to prevent any elector, at any general election, from voting for any qualified candidate other than one whose name is printed on the ballot.

(5) Any elector who shall, by mistake, spoil a ballot so he or she cannot vote the ballot may return it to the inspectors, who shall immediately detach the stub, destroy the ballot without examination, and give the elector another ballot. In no case shall an elector be furnished with more than three ballots or carry a ballot outside the polling room. The clerk shall keep a record of all ballots destroyed.

(6) At a general election an elector may vote for a write-in candidate by writing in the name of such person in the blank space provided.

*History.—*s. 46, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 3, ch. 4329, 1895; GS 230; RGS 275; CGL 331; s. 8, ch. 17888, 1937; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 28030, s. 20, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 1, ch. 59-334; s. 3, ch. 67-386; s. 13, ch. 77-175; s. 5, ch. 81-105; s. 3, ch. 82-143; s. 550, ch. 95-147; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

¹*Note.—*Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—*Former s. 99.29.

101.015 Standards for voting systems.—

(1) The Department of State shall adopt rules which establish minimum standards for hardware and software for electronic and electromechanical voting systems. Such rules shall contain standards for:

- (a) Functional requirements;
- (b) Performance levels;
- (c) Physical and design characteristics;
- (d) Documentation requirements; and
- (e) Evaluation criteria.

(2) Each odd-numbered year the Department of State shall review the rules governing standards and certification of voting systems to determine the adequacy and effectiveness of such rules in assuring that elections are fair and impartial.

(3) The Department of State shall adopt rules to achieve and maintain the maximum degree of correctness, impartiality, and efficiency of the procedures of voting, including write-in voting, and of counting, tabulating, and recording votes by voting systems used in this state.

(4)(a) The Department of State shall adopt rules establishing minimum security standards for voting systems.

(b) Each supervisor of elections shall establish written procedures to assure accuracy and security in his or her county, and such procedures shall be reviewed in each odd-numbered year by the Department of State.

(c) Each supervisor of elections shall submit any revisions to the security procedures to the Department of State at least 45 days before the first election in which they are to take effect.

(5)(a) The Department of State shall adopt rules which establish standards for provisional approval of hardware and software for innovative use of electronic and electromechanical voting systems. Such rules shall contain standards for:

1. Functional requirements;
2. Performance levels;
3. Physical and design characteristics;
4. Documentation requirements;
5. Evaluation criteria;
6. Audit capabilities; and
7. Consideration of prior use of a system.

(b) A voting system shall be provisionally approved for a total of no more than 2 years, and the Department of State has the authority to revoke such approval. Provisional approval of a system shall not be granted by the Department of State to supersede certification requirements of this section.

(c)1. No provisionally approved system may be used in any election, including any municipal election, without the authorization of the Department of State.

2. An application for use of a provisionally approved system shall be submitted at least 120 days prior to the intended use by the supervisor of elections or municipal elections official. Such application shall request authorization for use of the system in a specific election. Each application shall state the election, the number of precincts, and the number of anticipated voters for which the system is requested for use.

3. The Department of State shall authorize or deny authorization of the use of the provisionally approved system for the specific election and shall notify the supervisor of elections or municipal elections official in writing of the authorization or denial of authorization, along with the reasons therefor, within 45 days after receipt of the application.

(d) A contract for the use of a provisionally approved system for a specific election may be entered into with the approval of the Department of State. No contract for title to a provisionally approved system may be entered into.

(e) The use of any provisionally approved system shall be valid for all purposes.

(6) All electronic and electromechanical voting systems purchased on or after January 1, 1990, must meet the minimum standards established under subsection (1). All electronic and electromechanical voting systems in use on or after July 1, 1993, must meet the minimum standards established under subsection (1) or subsection (5).

(7) The Division of Elections shall review the voting systems certification standards and ensure that new technologies are available for selection by boards of county commissioners which meet the requirements for

voting systems and meet user standards. The Division of Elections shall continuously review the voting systems certification standards to ensure that new technologies are appropriately certified for all elections in a timely manner. The division shall also develop methods to determine the will of the public with respect to voting systems.

*History.—*s. 4, ch. 89-348; s. 16, ch. 90-315; s. 551, ch. 95-147; s. 6, ch. 2001-40.

101.017 Bureau of Voting Systems Certification.—There is created a Bureau of Voting Systems Certification within the Division of Elections of the Department of State which shall provide technical support to the supervisors of elections and which is responsible for voting system standards and certification. The positions necessary for the bureau to accomplish its duties shall be established through the budgetary process.

*History.—*s. 16, ch. 89-348; s. 20, ch. 90-315.

*Note.—*Former s. 102.1691.

101.021 Elector to vote the primary ballot of the political party in which he or she is registered.—In a primary election a qualified elector is entitled to vote the official primary election ballot of the political party designated in the elector's registration, and no other. It is unlawful for any elector to vote in a primary for any candidate running for nomination from a party other than that in which such elector is registered.

*History.—*s. 41, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 345; CGL 402; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 21, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 13, ch. 77-175; s. 552, ch. 95-147.

*Note.—*Former s. 102.40.

101.031 Instructions for electors.—

(1) The Department of State, or in case of municipal elections the governing body of the municipality, shall print, in large type on cards, instructions for the electors to use in voting. It shall provide not less than two cards for each voting precinct for each election and furnish such cards to each supervisor upon requisition. Each supervisor of elections shall send a sufficient number of these cards to the precincts prior to an election. The election inspectors shall display the cards in the polling places as information for electors. The cards shall contain information about how to vote and such other information as the Department of State may deem necessary. The cards must also include the list of rights and responsibilities afforded to Florida voters, as described in subsection (2).

(2) The supervisor of elections in each county shall have posted at each polling place in the county the Voter's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities in the following form:

VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

Each registered voter in this state has the right to:

1. Vote and have his or her vote accurately counted.
2. Cast a vote if he or she is in line when the polls are closing.
3. Ask for and receive assistance in voting.
4. Receive up to two replacement ballots if he or she makes a mistake prior to the ballot being cast.
5. An explanation if his or her registration is in question.

6. If his or her registration is in question, cast a provisional ballot.

7. Prove his or her identity by signing an affidavit if election officials doubt the voter's identity.

8. Written instructions to use when voting, and, upon request, oral instructions in voting from elections officers.

9. Vote free from coercion or intimidation by elections officers or any other person.

10. Vote on a voting system that is in working condition and that will allow votes to be accurately cast.

VOTER RESPONSIBILITIES

Each registered voter in this state has the responsibility to:

1. Study and know candidates and issues.
 2. Keep his or her voter address current.
 3. Know his or her precinct and its hours of operation.
 4. Bring proper identification to the polling station.
 5. Know how to operate voting equipment properly.
 6. Treat precinct workers with courtesy.
 7. Respect the privacy of other voters.
 8. Report problems or violations of election law.
 9. Ask questions when confused.
 10. Check his or her completed ballot for accuracy.
- (3) Nothing in this section shall give rise to a legal cause of action.

(4) In case any elector, after entering the voting booth, shall ask for further instructions concerning the manner of voting, two election officers who are not both members of the same political party, if present, or, if not, two election officers who are members of the same political party, shall give such instructions to such elector, but no officer or person assisting an elector shall in any manner request, suggest, or seek to persuade or induce any elector to vote for or against any particular ticket, candidate, amendment, question, or proposition. After giving the elector instructions and before the elector has voted, the officers or persons assisting the elector shall retire, and such elector shall vote in secret.

*History.—*s. 40, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 12, ch. 4537, 1897; GS 225; RGS 270; CGL 326; s. 1, ch. 25106, 1949; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 25, ch. 77-104; s. 13, ch. 77-175; s. 31, ch. 79-400; s. 60, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—*Former s. 99.24.

101.041 Secret voting.—In all elections held on any subject which may be submitted to a vote, and for all or any state, county, district, or municipal officers, the voting shall be by secret, official ballot printed and distributed as provided by this code, and no vote shall be received or counted in any election, except as prescribed by this code.

*History.—*s. 24, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 178; s. 28, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 210; RGS 254; CGL 310; s. 3, ch. 17898, 1937; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 13, ch. 77-175.

*Note.—*Former s. 99.08.

101.045 Electors must be registered in precinct; provisions for residence or name change.—

(1) No person shall be permitted to vote in any election precinct or district other than the one in which the person has his or her legal residence and in which the person is registered. However, a person temporarily residing outside the county shall be registered in the

precinct in which the main office of the supervisor, as designated by the supervisor, is located when the person has no permanent address in the county and it is the person's intention to remain a resident of Florida and of the county in which he or she is registered to vote. Such persons who are registered in the precinct in which the main office of the supervisor, as designated by the supervisor, is located and who are residing outside the county with no permanent address in the county shall not be registered electors of a municipality and therefore shall not be permitted to vote in any municipal election.

(2)(a) An elector who moves from the precinct within the county in which the elector is registered may be permitted to vote in the precinct to which he or she has moved his or her legal residence, provided such elector completes an affirmation in substantially the following form:

Change of Legal Residence of Registered Voter

Under penalties for false swearing, I, (Name of voter), swear (or affirm) that the former address of my legal residence was (Address of legal residence) in the municipality of _____, in _____ County, Florida, and I was registered to vote in the _____ precinct of _____ County, Florida; that I have not voted in the precinct of my former registration in this election; that I now reside at (Address of legal residence) in the Municipality of _____, in _____ County, Florida, and am therefore eligible to vote in the _____ precinct of _____ County, Florida; and I further swear (or affirm) that I am otherwise legally registered and entitled to vote.

(Signature of voter whose address of legal residence has changed)

(b) An elector whose name changes because of marriage or other legal process may be permitted to vote, provided such elector completes an affirmation in substantially the following form:

Change of Name of Registered Voter

Under penalties for false swearing, I, (New name of voter), swear (or affirm) that my name has been changed because of marriage or other legal process. My former name and address of legal residence appear on the registration books of precinct _____ as follows:

Name _____
 Address _____
 Municipality _____
 County _____
 Florida, Zip _____
 My present name and address of legal residence are as follows:
 Name _____
 Address _____
 Municipality _____
 County _____
 Florida, Zip _____

and I further swear (or affirm) that I am otherwise legally registered and entitled to vote.

(Signature of voter whose name has changed)

(c) Such affirmation, when completed and presented at the precinct in which such elector is entitled to vote, and upon verification of the elector's registration, shall entitle such elector to vote as provided in this subsection. If the elector's eligibility to vote cannot be determined, he or she shall be entitled to vote a provisional ballot, subject to the requirements and procedures in s. 101.048. Upon receipt of an affirmation certifying a change in address of legal residence or name, the supervisor shall as soon as practicable make the necessary changes in the registration records of the county to indicate the change in address of legal residence or name of such elector.

(d) Instead of the affirmation contained in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b), an elector may complete a voter registration application that indicates the change of name or change of address of legal residence.

(e) A request for an absentee ballot pursuant to s. 101.62 which indicates that the elector has had a change of address of legal residence from that in the supervisor's records shall be sufficient as the notice to the supervisor of change of address of legal residence required by this section. Upon receipt of such request for an absentee ballot from an elector who has changed his or her address of legal residence, the supervisor shall provide the elector with the proper ballot for the precinct in which the elector then has his or her legal residence.

(3) When an elector's name does not appear on the registration books of the election precinct in which the elector is registered, the elector may have his or her name restored if the supervisor is otherwise satisfied that the elector is validly registered, that the elector's name has been erroneously omitted from the books, and that the elector is entitled to have his or her name restored. The supervisor, if he or she is satisfied as to the elector's previous registration, shall allow such person to vote and shall thereafter issue a duplicate registration identification card.

History.—s. 13, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 167; s. 15, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 192; RGS 298; CGL 289; s. 4, ch. 24203, 1947; s. 11, ch. 25035, 1949; s. 1, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 4, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 7, ch. 65-60; s. 1, ch. 71-307; s. 3, ch. 77-175; s. 6, ch. 78-403; s. 4, ch. 80-292; s. 5, ch. 89-338; s. 20, ch. 94-224; s. 1391, ch. 85-147; s. 38, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 98.32; s. 97.091.

101.048 Provisional ballots.—

(1) At all elections, a voter claiming to be properly registered in the county and eligible to vote at the precinct in the election, but whose eligibility cannot be determined, shall be entitled to vote a provisional ballot. Once voted, the provisional ballot shall be placed in a secrecy envelope and thereafter sealed in a provisional ballot envelope. The provisional ballot shall be deposited in a ballot box. All provisional ballots shall remain sealed in their envelopes for return to the supervisor of elections.

(2)(a) The county canvassing board shall examine each provisional ballot to determine if the person voting that ballot was entitled to vote at the precinct in the election and that the person had not already cast a ballot in the election.

(b)1. If it is determined that the person was registered and entitled to vote at the precinct in the election, the canvassing board shall compare the signature on the provisional ballot envelope with the signature on the voter's registration and, if it matches, shall count the ballot.

2. If it is determined that the person voting the provisional ballot was not registered or entitled to vote at the precinct in the election, the provisional ballot shall not be counted and the ballot shall remain in the envelope containing the Provisional Ballot Voter's Certificate and the envelope marked "Rejected as Illegal."

(3) The Provisional Ballot Voter's Certificate shall be in substantially the following form:

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF _____

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that my name is _____; that my date of birth is _____; that I am registered to vote and at the time I registered I resided at _____, in the municipality of _____, in _____ County, Florida; that I am a qualified voter of the county and have not voted in this election.

(Signature of Voter)

(Current Address)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, (year).

(Clerk or Inspector of Election)

Additional information may be provided to further assist the supervisor of elections in determining eligibility. If known, please provide the place and date that you registered to vote.

(4) In counties where the voting system does not utilize a paper ballot, the supervisor of elections shall provide the appropriate provisional ballots to each polling place.
History.—s. 35, ch. 2001-40.

101.051 Electors seeking assistance in casting ballots; oath to be executed; forms to be furnished.—

(1) Any elector applying to vote in any election who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may request the assistance of two election officials or some other person of the elector's own choice, other than the elector's employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of his or her union, to assist the elector in casting his or her vote. Any such elector, before retiring to the voting booth, may have one of such persons read over to him or her, without suggestion or interference, the titles of the offices to be filled and the candidates therefor and the issues on the ballot. After the elector requests the aid of the two election officials or the person of the elector's choice, they shall retire to the voting booth for the purpose of casting the elector's vote according to the elector's choice.

(2) It is unlawful for any person to be in the voting booth with any elector except as provided in subsection (1).

(3) Any elector applying to cast an absentee ballot in the office of the supervisor, in any election, who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may request the assistance of some person of his or her own choice, other than the elector's employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of his or her union, in casting his or her absentee ballot.

(4) If an elector needs assistance in voting pursuant to the provisions of this section, the clerk or one of the inspectors shall require the elector requesting assistance in voting to take the following oath:

DECLARATION TO SECURE ASSISTANCE

State of Florida
County of _____
Date _____
Precinct _____

I, _____ (Print name), swear or affirm that I am a registered elector and request assistance from _____ (Print names) in voting at the _____ (name of election) held on _____ (date of election) for the following reason _____

(Signature of voter)

Sworn and subscribed to before me this _____ day of _____, (year).

(Signature of Official Administering Oath)

(5) The supervisor of elections shall deliver a sufficient number of these forms to each precinct, along with other election paraphernalia.

History.—s. 3, ch. 22018, 1943; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 2, ch. 59-446; s. 2, ch. 65-60; s. 1, ch. 65-380; s. 13, ch. 77-175; s. 2, ch. 79-366; s. 31, ch. 84-302; s. 12, ch. 85-226; s. 553, ch. 95-147; s. 8, ch. 99-6.
Note.—Former s. 100.36.

101.111 Person desiring to vote may be challenged; challenger to execute oath; oath of challenged elector; determination of challenge.—

(1) When the right to vote of any person who desires to vote is questioned by any elector or watcher, the challenge shall be reduced to writing with an oath as provided in this section, giving reasons for the challenge, which shall be delivered to the clerk or inspector. Any elector or authorized poll watcher challenging an elector at an election shall execute the oath set forth below:

OATH OF PERSON ENTERING CHALLENGE

State of Florida
County of _____

I do solemnly swear that my name is _____; that I am a member of the _____ party; that I am _____ years old; that I was born in the state of _____ or the country of _____; that my residence is on _____ street, in the municipality of _____; and that I have reason to believe that _____ is attempting to vote illegally and the reasons for my belief are set forth herein to wit: _____

(Signature of person challenging voter)

Sworn and subscribed to before me this ____ day of
____, (year).

(Clerk of election)

(2) Before a challenged elector is permitted to vote by any officer or person in charge of admission to the polling place, the challenged elector's right to vote shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of subsection (3). The clerk or inspector shall immediately deliver to the challenged elector a copy of the oath of the person entering the challenge and shall request the challenged elector to execute the following affidavit:

OATH OF CHALLENGED VOTER

State of Florida
County of _____

I do solemnly swear that my name is ____; that I am a member of the ____ party; that I am ____ years old; that I was born in the state of ____ or the country of ____; that my residence is on ____ street, in the municipality of ____, in this the ____ precinct of ____ county; that I personally made application for registration and signed my name and that I am a qualified voter, and I am not registered to vote in any other precinct other than the one in which I am presently seeking to vote.

(Signature of voter)

Sworn and subscribed to before me this ____ day of
____, (year).

(Clerk of election or inspector)

Any inspector or clerk of election may administer the oath.

(3) If the challenged person refuses to make and sign the affidavit, the clerk or inspector shall refuse to allow him or her to vote. If such person makes the affidavit, the inspectors and clerk of election shall compare the information in the affidavit with that entered on the registration books opposite the person's name, and, upon such comparison of the information and the person's signature and the taking of other evidence which may then be offered, the clerk and inspectors shall decide by a majority vote whether the challenged person may vote. If the challenged person is unable to write or sign his or her name, the clerk or inspector shall examine the precinct register to ascertain whether the person registered under the name of such person is represented to have signed his or her name. If the person is so represented, then he or she shall be denied permission to vote without further examination; but, if not, then the clerk or one of the inspectors shall place such person under oath and orally examine him or her upon the subject matter contained in the affidavit, and, if there is any doubt as to the identity of such person, the clerk or inspector shall compare the person's appearance with the description entered upon the precinct register opposite the person's name. The clerk or inspector shall then proceed as in other cases to determine whether the challenged person may vote.

History.—s. 43, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 227; s. 43, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 272, 347; CGL 328, 404; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 10, ch. 27991, 1953; s. 23, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 4, ch. 65-380; s. 13, ch. 77-175; s. 554, ch. 95-147; s. 9, ch. 99-8.

Note.—Former ss. 99.26, 102.42.

101.131 Watchers at polls.—

(1) Each political party and each candidate may have one watcher in each polling room at any one time during the election. No watcher shall be permitted to come closer to the officials' table or the voting booths than is reasonably necessary to properly perform his or her functions, but each shall be allowed within the polling room to watch and observe the conduct of electors and officials. The watchers shall furnish their own materials and necessities and shall not obstruct the orderly conduct of any election. Each watcher shall be a qualified and registered elector of the county in which he or she serves.

(2) Each party and each candidate requesting to have poll watchers shall designate, in writing, poll watchers for each precinct prior to noon of the second Tuesday preceding the election. The poll watchers for each precinct shall be approved by the supervisor of elections on or before the Tuesday before the election. The supervisor shall furnish to each precinct a list of the poll watchers designated and approved for such precinct.

(3) No candidate or sheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer, or other law enforcement officer may be designated as a poll watcher.

History.—s. 3D, ch. 22018, 1943; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 18, ch. 29934, 1955; s. 6, ch. 65-380; s. 13, ch. 77-175; s. 3, ch. 87-184; s. 14, ch. 87-363; s. 18, ch. 89-338; s. 555, ch. 95-147; s. 61, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 100.45.

101.151 Specifications for ballots.—

(1) Paper ballots shall be printed on paper of such thickness that the printing cannot be distinguished from the back.

(2)(a) The ballot shall have headings under which shall appear the names of the offices and names of duly nominated candidates for the respective offices in the following order: the heading "President and Vice President" and thereunder the names of the candidates for President and Vice President of the United States nominated by the political party that received the highest vote for Governor in the last general election of the Governor in this state. Then shall appear the names of other candidates for President and Vice President of the United States who have been properly nominated. Votes cast for write-in candidates for President and Vice President shall be counted as votes cast for the presidential electors supporting such candidates. Then shall follow the heading "Congressional" and thereunder the offices of United States Senator and Representative in Congress; then the heading "State" and thereunder the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Comptroller, Treasurer, Commissioner of Education, Commissioner of Agriculture, state attorney, and public defender, together with the names of the candidates for each office and the title of the office which they seek; then the heading "Legislative" and thereunder the offices of state senator and state representative; then the heading "County" and thereunder clerk of the circuit

court, clerk of the county court (when authorized by law), sheriff, property appraiser, tax collector, district superintendent of schools, and supervisor of elections. Thereafter follows: members of the board of county commissioners, and such other county and district offices as are involved in the general election, in the order fixed by the Department of State, followed, in the year of their election, by "Party Offices," and thereunder the offices of state and county party executive committee members. In addition to the names printed on the ballot, a blank space shall be provided under each heading for an office for which a write-in candidate has qualified. With respect to write-in candidates, if two or more candidates are seeking election to one office, only one blank space shall be provided.

(b) When more than one candidate is nominated for office, the candidates for such office shall qualify and run in a group or district, and the group or district number shall be printed beneath the name of the office. Each nominee of a political party chosen in a primary shall appear on the general election ballot in the same numbered group or district as on the primary election ballot.

(c) If in any election all the offices as set forth in paragraph (a) are not involved, those offices to be filled shall be arranged on the ballot in the order named.

(3)(a) The names of the candidates of the party that received the highest number of votes for Governor in the last election in which a Governor was elected shall be placed first under the heading for each office on the general election ballot, together with an appropriate abbreviation of party name; the names of the candidates of the party that received the second highest vote for Governor shall be second under the heading for each office, together with an appropriate abbreviation of the party name.

(b) Minor political party candidates and candidates with no party affiliation shall have their names appear on the general election ballot following the names of recognized political parties, in the same order as they were certified.

(4)(a) The names of candidates for each office shall be arranged alphabetically as to surnames on a primary election ballot.

(b) When two or more candidates running for the same office on a primary election ballot have the same or a similar surname, the word "incumbent" shall appear next to the incumbent's name.

(5) The primary election ballot shall be arranged so that the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor are joined in a single voting space to allow each elector to cast a single vote for the joint candidacies for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, if applicable.

(6) The general election ballot shall be arranged so that the offices of President and Vice President are joined in a single voting space to allow each elector to cast a single vote for the joint candidacies for President and Vice President and so that the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor are joined in a single voting space to allow each elector to cast a single vote for the joint candidacies for Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

(7) Except for justices or judges seeking retention, the names of unopposed candidates shall not appear on the general election ballot. Each unopposed candidate shall be deemed to have voted for himself or herself.

(8)(a) The Department of State shall adopt rules prescribing a uniform primary and general election ballot for each certified voting system. The rules shall incorporate the requirements set forth in this section and shall prescribe additional matters and forms that include, without limitation:

1. Clear and unambiguous ballot instructions and directions;
2. Individual race layout; and
3. Overall ballot layout.

(b) The department rules shall graphically depict a sample uniform primary and general election ballot form for each certified voting system.

History.—s. 35, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 219; s. 1, ch. 5612, 1907; RGS 264; CGL 320; s. 5, ch. 17898, 1937; ss. 2, 3, ch. 25187, 1949; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 3, ch. 29937, 1955; s. 1, ch. 57-235; s. 2, ch. 59-334; s. 8, ch. 65-380; s. 1, ch. 65-52; s. 2, ch. 65-60; s. 8, ch. 65-380; s. 4, ch. 67-388; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 8, ch. 69-281; s. 1, ch. 69-380; s. 37, ch. 73-333; s. 1, ch. 77-102; s. 13, ch. 77-175; s. 33, ch. 79-400; s. 6, ch. 81-105; s. 11, ch. 81-304; s. 9, ch. 82-143; s. 20, ch. 89-338; s. 556, ch. 95-147; s. 14, ch. 99-318; s. 11, ch. 99-326; s. 14, ch. 99-355; s. 7, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former ss. 99.18, 99.171.

101.161 Referenda; ballots.—

(1) Whenever a constitutional amendment or other public measure is submitted to the vote of the people, the substance of such amendment or other public measure shall be printed in clear and unambiguous language on the ballot after the list of candidates, followed by the word "yes" and also by the word "no," and shall be styled in such a manner that a "yes" vote will indicate approval of the proposal and a "no" vote will indicate rejection. The wording of the substance of the amendment or other public measure and the ballot title to appear on the ballot shall be embodied in the joint resolution, constitutional revision commission proposal, constitutional convention proposal, taxation and budget reform commission proposal, or enabling resolution or ordinance. Except for amendments and ballot language proposed by joint resolution, the substance of the amendment or other public measure shall be an explanatory statement, not exceeding 75 words in length, of the chief purpose of the measure. The ballot title shall consist of a caption, not exceeding 15 words in length, by which the measure is commonly referred to or spoken of.

(2) The substance and ballot title of a constitutional amendment proposed by initiative shall be prepared by the sponsor and approved by the Secretary of State in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to s. 120.54. The Department of State shall give each proposed constitutional amendment a designating number for convenient reference. This number designation shall appear on the ballot. Designating numbers shall be assigned in the order of filing or certification and in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of State. The Department of State shall furnish the designating number, the ballot title, and the substance of each amendment to the supervisor of elections of each county in which such amendment is to be voted on.

(3)(a) The ballot for the general election in the year 2000 must contain a statement allowing voters to determine whether circuit or county court judges will be selected by merit selection and retention as provided in s. 10, Art. V of the State Constitution. The ballot in each circuit must contain the statement in paragraph (c). The ballot in each county must contain the statement in paragraph (e).

(b) For any general election in which the Secretary of State, for any circuit, or the supervisor of elections, for any county, has certified the ballot position for an initiative to change the method of selection of judges, the ballot for any circuit must contain the statement in paragraph (c) or paragraph (d) and the ballot for any county must contain the statement in paragraph (e) or paragraph (f).

(c) In any circuit where the initiative is to change the selection of circuit court judges to selection by merit selection and retention, the ballot shall state: "Shall the method of selecting circuit court judges in the (number of the circuit) judicial circuit be changed from election by a vote of the people to selection by the judicial nominating commission and appointment by the Governor with subsequent terms determined by a retention vote of the people?" This statement must be followed by the word "yes" and also by the word "no."

(d) In any circuit where the initiative is to change the selection of circuit court judges to election by the voters, the ballot shall state: "Shall the method of selecting circuit court judges in the (number of the circuit) judicial circuit be changed from selection by the judicial nominating commission and appointment by the Governor with subsequent terms determined by a retention vote of the people to election by a vote of the people?" This statement must be followed by the word "yes" and also by the word "no."

(e) In any county where the initiative is to change the selection of county court judges to merit selection and retention, the ballot shall state: "Shall the method of selecting county court judges in (name of county) be changed from election by a vote of the people to selection by the judicial nominating commission and appointment by the Governor with subsequent terms determined by a retention vote of the people?" This statement must be followed by the word "yes" and also by the word "no."

(f) In any county where the initiative is to change the selection of county court judges to election by the voters, the ballot shall state: "Shall the method of selecting county court judges in (name of the county) be changed from selection by the judicial nominating commission and appointment by the Governor with subsequent terms determined by a retention vote of the people to election by a vote of the people?" This statement must be followed by the word "yes" and also by the word "no."

History.—s. 34, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 218; RGS 262; CGL 318; ss. 1-11, ch. 16180, 1933; s. 1, ch. 16677, 1935; s. 4, ch. 17898, 1937; s. 1, ch. 22626, 1945; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 1, ch. 73-7; s. 13, ch. 77-175; s. 16, ch. 79-365; s. 2, ch. 80-305; s. 32, ch. 84-302; s. 11, ch. 90-203; s. 10, ch. 99-355; s. 1, ch. 2000-361; s. 4, ch. 2001-75.

Note.—Former s. 99.16.

101.171 Copy of constitutional amendment to be posted.—Whenever any amendment to the State Con-

stitution is to be voted upon at any election, the Department of State shall have printed, and shall furnish to each supervisor of elections, a sufficient number of copies of the amendment, and the supervisor shall have a copy thereof conspicuously posted at each precinct upon the day of election.

History.—s. 1, ch. 5405, 1905; RGS 263; CGL 319; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 13, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 99.17.

101.20 Publication of ballot form; sample ballots.

(1) Two sample ballots shall be furnished to each polling place by the officer whose duty it is to provide official ballots. The sample ballots shall be in the form of the official ballot as it will appear at that polling place on election day. Sample ballots shall be open to inspection by all electors in any election, and a sufficient number of reduced-size ballots may be furnished to election officials so that one may be given to any elector desiring same.

(2) Upon completion of the list of qualified candidates, a sample ballot shall be published by the supervisor of elections in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, prior to the day of election. If the county has an addressograph or equivalent system for mailing to registered electors, a sample ballot may be mailed to each registered elector or to each household in which there is a registered elector, in lieu of publication, at least 7 days prior to any election.

History.—s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 8, ch. 57-166; s. 9, ch. 65-380; s. 1, ch. 75-174; s. 16, ch. 77-175.

101.21 Official ballots; number; printing; payment.

(1) In any county in which voting machines are not used, the supervisor of elections shall determine the actual number of ballots to be printed. The printing and delivery of ballots and cards of instruction shall, in a municipal election, be paid for by the municipality, and in all other elections by the county.

(2) In any county in which voting machines are used, one set of official ballots shall be provided for each machine plus a number of sets equal to 5 percent of the total number of machines; one set shall be inserted or placed in or upon each machine, and the remainder of the sets shall be retained in the custody of the supervisor, unless it shall become necessary during the election to make use of same upon or in the machines.

History.—ss. 29, 37, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 11, ch. 4537, 1897; GS 211, 222; RGS 255, 267; CGL 311, 323; s. 7, ch. 17898, 1937; s. 2, ch. 24088, 1947; s. 7, ch. 25384, 1949; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 10, ch. 65-380; s. 1, ch. 69-261; s. 20, ch. 71-355; s. 16, ch. 77-175; s. 34, ch. 79-400; s. 1, ch. 80-292; s. 48, ch. 81-259; s. 8, ch. 2001-40.

¹*Note.*—Section 8, ch. 2001-40, amended s. 101.21, effective September 2, 2002, to read:

101.21 Official ballots; number; printing; payment.—Where applicable, the supervisor of elections shall determine the actual number of ballots to be printed. The printing and delivery of ballots and cards of instruction shall, in a municipal election, be paid for by the municipality, and in all other elections by the county.

Note.—Former ss. 99.09, 99.21.

101.22 Voting procedure, paper ballots.—Before any paper ballot is delivered to an elector at the polls on election day, one of the inspectors shall affix his or her initials on the line provided on each of the two ballot stubs and the elector shall sign his or her name on the line on the top stub, or, if the elector is unable to write,

he or she shall sign his or her mark. The inspector shall compare the signature on the ballot stub with the signature on the elector's registration and, if necessary, require other identification. If the inspector is reasonably sure that the person is entitled to vote, the inspector shall detach and retain the upper stub, and the elector shall go to the booth and mark his or her ballot and, after the elector has marked the ballot, he or she shall fold it so as to leave the stub remaining attached visible so that it can be detached without unfolding. The inspector shall compare it with the stub he or she retained and, if it is the ballot the inspector delivered to the elector, the inspector shall detach and retain the remaining stub, and the elector shall then deposit the folded ballot in the ballot box. But, if the marked ballot returned proves to be a different one from the one delivered to the elector, the inspector shall search the elector, and, if the original ballot is found on the elector's person, the inspector shall take possession of the ballot and discharge the elector from the polling place without permitting him or her to vote. An inspector of elections, where paper ballots are used, is clothed with such police power as is necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

History.—s. 36, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 221; s. 42, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 266, 346, 5911; CGL 322, 403, 8175; s. 6, ch. 17898, s. 3, ch. 17901, 1937; s. 6, ch. 25187, s. 4, ch. 25388, 1949; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 16, ch. 77-175; s. 35, ch. 79-400; s. 558, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former ss. 99.20, 102.41.

101.23 Election inspector to keep list of those voting.—

(1) When any person has been admitted to vote, the person's name shall be checked by the clerk or one of the inspectors at the place indicated upon the registration books or voter history form provided by the supervisor. One of the inspectors shall, at the same time, keep a poll list containing names of electors who have voted or a list of registered electors, on which those electors who have voted are indicated. Such lists shall be available for inspection during regular voting hours by poll watchers designated and appointed pursuant to s. 101.131, except that the election inspector may regulate access to the lists so as to ensure that such inspection does not unreasonably interfere with the orderly operation of the polling place.

(2) The inspectors shall prevent any person from voting a second time when they have reason to believe that the person has voted. They shall refuse to allow any person to vote who is not a qualified elector or who has become disqualified to vote in the precinct, and may prevent any elector from consuming more than 5 minutes in voting.

History.—s. 58, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 236; RGS 281; CGL 337; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 24, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 11, ch. 65-380; s. 16, ch. 77-175; s. 559, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former s. 99.37.

101.24 Ballot boxes and ballots.—The supervisor of elections, except where voting machines are used, shall prepare for each polling place one ballot box of sufficient size to contain all the ballots of the particular precinct, and the ballot box shall be plainly marked with the name of the precinct for which it is intended. An additional ballot box, if necessary, may be supplied to any precinct. Before each election, the supervisor shall

place in the ballot box or ballot transfer container as many ballots as are required in s. 101.21. After securely sealing the ballot box or ballot transfer container, the supervisor shall send the ballot box or ballot transfer container to the clerk or inspector of election of the precinct in which it is to be used. The clerk or inspector shall be placed under oath or affirmation to perform his or her duties faithfully and without favor or prejudice to any political party.

History.—s. 26, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 180; s. 7, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 7, ch. 4537, 1897; GS 203; RGS 247; CGL 303; s. 1, ch. 17898, 1937; s. 1, ch. 24088, 1947; s. 11, ch. 25035, 1949; s. 1, ch. 25384, 1949; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 12, ch. 65-380; s. 16, ch. 77-175; s. 2, ch. 86-200; s. 560, ch. 95-147; s. 9, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Section 9, ch. 2001-40, amended s. 101.24, effective September 2, 2002, to read:

101.24 Ballot boxes and ballots.—The supervisor of elections shall prepare for each polling place one ballot box of sufficient size to contain all the ballots of the particular precinct, and the ballot box shall be plainly marked with the name of the precinct for which it is intended. An additional ballot box, if necessary, may be supplied to any precinct. Before each election, the supervisor shall place in the ballot box or ballot transfer container as many ballots as are required in s. 101.21. After securely sealing the ballot box or ballot transfer container, the supervisor shall send the ballot box or ballot transfer container to the clerk or inspector of election of the precinct in which it is to be used. The clerk or inspector shall be placed under oath or affirmation to perform his or her duties faithfully and without favor or prejudice to any political party.

Note.—Former s. 99.02.

101.2515 Translation of ballot language.—Upon the request of a supervisor of elections made no later than 60 days prior to the date of a general election, the Department of State shall provide a written translation of a statewide ballot issue in the language of any language minority group specified in the provisions of s. 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, as applicable to this state.

History.—s. 1, ch. 94-300.

101.252 Candidates entitled to have names printed on certain ballots; exception.—

(1) Any candidate for nomination who has qualified as prescribed by law is entitled to have his or her name printed on the official primary election ballot. However, when there is only one candidate of any political party qualified for an office, the name of the candidate shall not be printed on the primary election ballot, and such candidate shall be declared nominated for the office.

(2) Any candidate for party executive committee member who has qualified as prescribed by law is entitled to have his or her name printed on the first primary ballot. However, when there is only one candidate of any political party qualified for such an office, the name of the candidate shall not be printed on the first primary ballot, and such candidate shall be declared elected to the state or county executive committee.

History.—s. 27, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 331; CGL 388; s. 3, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 63-99; s. 5, ch. 65-378; s. 16, ch. 77-175; s. 21, ch. 89-338; s. 561, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former ss. 102.34, 99.041.

101.253 When names not to be printed on ballot.—

(1) No candidate's name, which candidate is required to qualify with a supervisor of elections for any primary or general election, shall be printed on the ballot if such candidate has notified the supervisor of elections in writing, under oath, on or before the 42nd day before the election that the candidate will not accept the nomination or office for which he or she filed qualification papers. The supervisor of elections may, in his or her discretion with the approval of the Department of

State, allow such a candidate to withdraw after the 42nd day before an election, upon receipt of written notice, sworn to under oath, that the candidate will not accept the nomination or office for which he or she qualified.

(2) No candidate's name, which candidate is required to qualify with the Department of State for any primary or general election, shall be printed on the ballot if such candidate has notified the Department of State in writing, under oath, on or before the 42nd day before the election that the candidate will not accept the nomination or office for which he or she filed qualification papers. The Department of State may in its discretion allow such a candidate to withdraw after the 42nd day before an election upon receipt of a written notice, sworn to under oath, that the candidate will not accept the nomination or office for which he or she qualified.

(3) In no case shall the supervisor be required to print on the ballot a name which is submitted less than 21 days prior to the election. In the event the ballots are printed 21 days or more prior to the election, the name of any candidate whose death, resignation, removal, or withdrawal created a vacancy in office or nomination shall be stricken from the ballot with a rubber stamp or appropriate printing device, and the name of the new nominee shall be inserted on the ballot in a like manner. The supervisor may, as an alternative, reprint the ballots to include the name of the new nominee.

History.—s. 30, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 10, ch. 4537, 1897; GS 213; RGS 257; CGL 313; s. 6, ch. 25384, 1949; s. 3, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 7, ch. 57-166; s. 1, ch. 61-363; s. 9, ch. 65-378; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 16, ch. 77-175; s. 2, ch. 83-149; s. 3, ch. 88-199; s. 22, ch. 89-338; s. 562, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former ss. 99.11, 99.141.

101.254 When nominated names to appear in groups or districts.—When an office requires the nomination of more than one candidate, as many groups or districts shall be numerically designated as there are vacancies to be filled by nomination. Each candidate shall indicate on his or her qualifying papers the group or district in which the candidate desires his or her name to appear on the ballot. In addition, any candidate qualifying by the petition method must indicate on his or her petition prior to circulating such petition, which group or district for which the candidate is attempting to qualify.

History.—s. 52, ch. 6469, 1913; s. 8, ch. 6874, 1915; RGS 356; CGL 413; s. 3, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 6, ch. 65-378; s. 16, ch. 77-175; s. 23, ch. 89-338; s. 563, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former ss. 102.49, 99.051.

101.27 Voting machine ballots.—

(1) All ballots for voting machines shall be printed on strips of white cardboard, paper, or other material of such size as will fill the ballot frames of the machine, in plain black type as large as the space will permit, so as to show the name of the candidate, statement of the proposed constitutional amendment, or other question or proposition submitted to the electorate at any election.

(2) The captions on the ballots for voting machines shall be placed so as to indicate to the elector what push knob, key, lever, or other device is used or operated in order to cast his or her vote for or against a candidate, proposed constitutional amendment, or other question or proposition submitted to the electorate at any election.

(3) The order in which the voting machine ballot is arranged shall as nearly as practicable conform to the requirements of the form of the paper ballot for that election. The names of the unopposed candidates shall not appear on the general election ballot; each unopposed candidate shall be deemed to have voted for himself or herself. If two or more write-in candidates are seeking election for one office, only one blank space shall be provided.

(4) If the official ballot is longer than the voting machine can accommodate, paper ballots may be used in conjunction with a voting machine, in which case the order of the offices on the voting machine ballot shall be the same as prescribed in ss. ²101.141(4) and ³101.151(3). Where the machine ballot is filled in this order, there shall be a continuation of the ballot in the same order on paper ballots, except that no state or federal opposed officer shall be placed upon a paper ballot. In any primary election, if the official ballot is longer than the voting machine can accommodate, paper ballots may be used in conjunction with a voting machine, in which case the order of the offices on the voting machine ballot shall be the same as prescribed in ²s. 101.141(4), except that no portion of a category of candidates as established in ²s. 101.141(4) shall be divided between the voting machine ballot and the paper ballot. In the event a category of candidates must be removed from the voting machine ballot because of the foregoing provision, the supervisor of elections in such county may complete the balance of the voting machine ballot with some whole portion of another category of candidates out of its proper sequence, except that no state or federal office shall be placed upon a paper ballot.

(5) In all primary elections, supervisors of elections may print voting machine ballots in shaded colors to group and identify the number of candidates in any or all races. Colors shall be light or pastel with candidates' names overprinted in plain black type. In no case shall any particular color or pattern of colors be used to identify any political party in the general election.

(6) Should the above directions for the complete preparation of the ballot be insufficient, the Department of State shall determine and prescribe any additional matter or form in which the ballot may be printed.

History.—s. 1, ch. 13893, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 337(1); s. 1, ch. 18405, 1937; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 13, ch. 65-380; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 1, ch. 71-266; s. 1, ch. 73-75; s. 1, ch. 74-129; s. 16, ch. 77-175; s. 36, ch. 79-400; s. 9, ch. 81-105; s. 12, ch. 81-304; s. 564, ch. 95-147; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

¹*Note.*—Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

²*Note.*—Repealed by s. 32, ch. 2001-40.

³*Note.*—Redesignated as s. 101.151(2) by s. 7, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 100.01.

101.28 Requirements for voting machines.—All voting machines purchased for use in this state shall meet the following minimum requirements:

- (1) Each voting machine shall:
 - (a) Secure to the elector secrecy in the act of voting.
 - (b) Provide facilities for voting for or against as many questions as may be submitted.
 - (c) Permit the elector to vote for the candidates of one or more parties.

(d) Permit the elector to vote for as many persons for an office as the elector is lawfully entitled to vote for, but no more.

(e) Prevent the elector from voting for the same person more than once for the same office.

(f) Permit the elector to vote for or against any question the elector may have the right to vote upon, but no other.

(g) Be so equipped that, when used in primary elections, the election officials can, by a single adjustment on the outside of the machine, lock out all races and questions except those in which the elector is entitled to vote.

(h) Correctly register or record, and accurately count, all votes cast for any and all persons and for or against any and all questions.

(i) Be provided with a "protective counter" or "protective device" whereby any operation of the machine before or after the election will be detected.

(j) Be provided with a counter which shall show at all times during any election how many persons have voted.

(k) Be provided with one device per machine for each party for voting for all presidential electors of that party by one operation (in connection with which there shall be provided on the ballot the words "Electors for President and Vice President" followed by the name of the party and thereafter by the names of the candidates thereof for the offices of President and Vice President) and a registering device which shall register the votes cast for such electors thus voted for collectively, as contemplated by s. 103.011.

(2) Each voting machine shall be furnished with an electric light, or a proper substitute for one, which will give sufficient light to enable electors while voting to read the ballots.

(3) Each voting machine used in any election shall be provided with a screen, hood, or curtain which shall be so made and adjusted as to conceal the elector and the elector's action while voting.

(4) Voting machines may be provided with a device or devices which will print a copy or copies of the count shown on the candidate and question counters, as registered both before the polls open and after the polls close.

*History.—*s. 2, ch. 13893, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 337(2); s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 25, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 14, ch. 65-380; s. 1, ch. 72-303; s. 18, ch. 73-156; s. 16, ch. 77-175; s. 3, ch. 84-302; s. 565, ch. 95-147; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—*Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—*Former s. 100.02.

101.29 Providing machines; payment for same.—

The authorities adopting the use of voting machines shall, as soon as practicable, provide for each polling place one or more voting machines in complete working order, and the authorities in charge of elections shall preserve and keep such machines repaired and have custody of same when not in use at any election. If it is impracticable to supply each election district with voting machines at any election, as many may be supplied as it is practicable to procure, and these may be used in the districts as the officers adopting the machine may direct. The board of county commissioners or the municipal authorities, on the adoption and rental or purchase of voting machines, shall provide for the payment for such machines.

*History.—*ss. 5, 6, ch. 13893, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 337(5),(6); s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 16, ch. 77-175; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—*Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—*Former ss. 100.05, 100.06.

101.292 Definitions; ss. 101.292-101.295.—As used in ss. 101.292-101.295, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Governing body" means the board of county commissioners of a county or any other governing body empowered by general or special act or local ordinance to purchase or sell voting equipment.

(2) "Voting equipment" means new or used voting machines and materials, parts, or other equipment necessary for the maintenance or improvement of voting machines, the individual or combined retail value of which is in excess of the threshold amount for CATEGORY TWO purchases provided in s. 287.017. The term "voting equipment" also includes electronic or electromechanical voting systems, voting devices, and automatic tabulating equipment as defined in s. 101.5603, as well as materials, parts, or other equipment necessary for the operation and maintenance of such systems and devices.

(3) "Purchase" means a contract for the purchase, lease, rental, or other acquisition of voting equipment.

*History.—*s. 2, ch. 72-303; s. 17, ch. 73-156; s. 15, ch. 77-175; s. 4, ch. 84-302; s. 5, ch. 89-348; s. 32, ch. 90-268; s. 10, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—*Section 10, ch. 2001-40, amended s. 101.292, effective September 2, 2002, to read:

101.292 Definitions; ss. 101.292-101.295.—As used in ss. 101.292-101.295, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Governing body" means the board of county commissioners of a county or any other governing body empowered by general or special act or local ordinance to purchase or sell voting equipment.

(2) "Voting equipment" means electronic or electromechanical voting systems, voting devices, and automatic tabulating equipment as defined in s. 101.5603, as well as materials, parts, or other equipment necessary for the operation and maintenance of such systems and devices, the individual or combined retail value of which is in excess of the threshold amount for CATEGORY TWO purchases provided in s. 287.017.

(3) "Purchase" means a contract for the purchase, lease, rental, or other acquisition of voting equipment.

101.293 Competitive sealed bids and proposals required.—

(1) Any purchase of voting equipment, the individual or combined retail value of which is in excess of the threshold amount for CATEGORY TWO purchases provided in s. 287.017, by a governing body shall be by means of competitive sealed bids or competitive sealed proposals from at least two bidders, except under the following conditions:

(a) If a majority of the governing body agrees by vote that an emergency situation exists in regard to the purchase of such equipment to the extent that the potential benefits derived from competitive sealed bids or competitive sealed proposals are outweighed by the detrimental effects of a delay in the acquisition of such equipment; or

(b) If a majority of the governing body finds that there is but a single source from which suitable equipment may be obtained.

If such conditions are found to exist, the chair of the governing body shall certify to the Division of Elections the situation and conditions requiring an exception to the competitive sealed bidding and competitive sealed proposal requirements of this section. Such certification shall be maintained on file by the division.

(2) The Division of Elections of the Department of State shall establish bidding procedures for carrying out the provisions and the intent of ss. 101.292-101.295, and each governing body shall follow the procedures so established.

*History.—*s. 2, ch. 72-303; s. 18, ch. 73-156; s. 38, ch. 73-333; s. 16, ch. 77-175; s. 5, ch. 84-302; s. 6, ch. 89-348; s. 1, ch. 90-268; s. 566, ch. 95-147.

101.294 Purchase and sale of voting equipment.—

(1) The Division of Elections of the Department of State shall adopt uniform rules for the purchase, use, and sale of voting equipment in the state. No governing body shall purchase or cause to be purchased any voting equipment unless such equipment has been certified for use in this state by the Department of State.

(2) Any governing body contemplating the purchase or sale of voting equipment shall notify the Division of Elections of such considerations. The division shall attempt to coordinate the sale of excess or outmoded equipment by one county with purchases of necessary equipment by other counties.

(3) The division shall inform the governing bodies of the various counties of the state of the availability of new or used voting equipment and of sources available for obtaining such equipment.

*History.—*s. 2, ch. 72-303; s. 19, ch. 73-156; s. 17, ch. 77-175; s. 6, ch. 84-302.

101.295 Penalties for violation.—Any member of a governing body which purchases or sells voting equipment in violation of the provisions of ss. 101.292-101.295, which member knowingly votes to purchase or sell voting equipment in violation of the provisions of ss. 101.292-101.295, is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, and shall be subject to suspension from office on the grounds of malfeasance.

*History.—*s. 2, ch. 72-303; s. 18, ch. 77-175.

101.32 Adoption of voting machines; powers incident to adoption.—

(1) The board of county commissioners or the governing body of a municipality may, if it so elects, submit to the electors of a county or municipality at a general or special election the question of whether it shall adopt voting machines; however, no special election shall be called for the sole purpose of determining this question.

(2) If a majority of the electors approve of same, the board of county commissioners of the county or governing body of the municipality shall adopt for use at elections any kind of voting machine that meets the requirements set forth in s. 101.28, and the machines shall be used at any and all elections held in the county or municipality or any part thereof for voting, registering, and counting votes cast at any election; except that the board of county commissioners or governing body of the municipality may purchase, install, and use not to exceed five voting machines for experimenting with same in districts or precincts without submission of the question to the electors of the county or municipality. Voting machines may be adopted for use in different districts in the same county or municipality.

(3) The provisions of this section relating to the submission of a question to the public with respect to the adoption of voting machines shall be construed as permissive.

(4) In every case in which the governing body of any municipality shall adopt and use at any precinct any voting machine, the governing body may do anything necessary which it deems to be requisite to a fair, honest, and satisfactory use of the machines.

*History.—*ss. 3, 28, ch. 13893, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 337(3), (27); s. 2, ch. 18405, 1937; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 59-116; s. 18, ch. 77-175; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

¹Note.—Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former ss. 100.03, 100.32.

101.33 Number of electors for each machine.—In any county in which voting machines are used, the board of county commissioners shall provide at least one voting machine for each 400 registered electors in the county, except that in any county in which 25 percent or more of the registered electors are 60 years of age or older, the board of county commissioners shall provide at least one machine for each 350 registered electors. The supervisor of elections shall determine the actual number of machines to be used in each precinct at each election. In determining the number of machines to be used in each precinct, the supervisor shall take into consideration the traditional voting patterns of such precinct and shall furnish the number of machines necessary to handle efficiently the number of anticipated voters in the precinct.

*History.—*s. 14, ch. 13893, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 337(14); s. 5, ch. 18405, 1937; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 15, ch. 65-380; s. 2, ch. 69-281; s. 1, ch. 69-1744; s. 18, ch. 77-175; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

¹Note.—Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 100.14.

101.34 Custody of voting machines.—The supervisor of elections shall be the custodian of voting machines in the county using them, and he or she shall appoint deputies necessary to prepare and supervise the machines prior to and during elections. The compensation for such deputies shall be paid by the supervisor of elections.

*History.—*s. 3A, ch. 22018, 1943; s. 4, ch. 24089, 1947; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 18, ch. 65-380; s. 18, ch. 77-175; s. 3, ch. 80-20; s. 567, ch. 95-147; s. 11, ch. 2001-40.

¹Note.—Section 11, ch. 2001-40, amended s. 101.34, effective September 2, 2002, to read:

101.34 Custody of voting system.—The supervisor of elections shall be the custodian of the voting system in the county, and he or she shall appoint deputies necessary to prepare and supervise the voting system prior to and during elections. The compensation for such deputies shall be paid by the supervisor of elections.

Note.—Former s. 100.42.

101.341 Prohibited activities by voting machine custodians and deputy custodians.—

(1) No voting machine custodian or deputy custodian or other employee of the supervisor of elections, which employee's duties are primarily involved with the preparation, maintenance, or repair of voting equipment, shall accept employment or any form of consideration from any person or business entity involved in the purchase, repair, or sale of voting equipment unless such employment has the prior written approval of the supervisor of elections of the county by which such person is employed.

(2) Any person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Such person shall also be subject to immediate discharge from his or her position.

*History.—*s. 3, ch. 72-303; s. 4, ch. 80-20; s. 568, ch. 95-147; s. 12, ch. 2001-40.

¹Note.—Section 12, ch. 2001-40, amended s. 101.341, effective September 2, 2002, to read:

101.341 Prohibited activities by voting system custodians and deputy custodians.—

(1) No voting system custodian or deputy custodian or other employee of the supervisor of elections, which employee's duties are primarily involved with the preparation, maintenance, or repair of voting equipment, may accept employment or any form of consideration from any person or business entity involved in the purchase, repair, or sale of voting equipment unless such employment has the prior written approval of the supervisor of elections of the county by which such person is employed.

(2) Any person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided by s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Such person shall also be subject to immediate discharge from his or her position.

101.35 Preparation of voting machines; notice of sealing and preelection test.—

(1) Where a voting machine is used, it shall be in proper order for use at any election at the polling place before the time fixed for opening of the polls, and the counters shall be set at zero. The supervisor shall appoint one or more deputies, to be known as "deputy custodians of voting machines," who shall be competent, thoroughly instructed, and sworn to perform their duties honestly and faithfully; they shall be instructed by the supervisor at least 30 days before the election and shall be considered as officers of election.

(2) The supervisor of elections or the municipal elections official may at the time of qualifying give written notice of the time and location of the preelection test of the voting equipment to each candidate qualifying with that office and obtain a signed receipt that such notice has been given. The supervisor of elections or the municipal elections official shall, at least 15 days prior to an election, insert a legal notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county and, by certified mail, send written notice to the county party chair of each political party and to all candidates for other than statewide office whose names appear on the ballot in the county and who did not receive written notification from the supervisor or municipal elections official at the time of qualifying, stating the time and place where the machines will be sealed and available for testing. If the election is to be a municipal, bond, or referendum election, or if there is no county party chair, the certified notice shall be sent to the chair of a local organization representing each opposing side.

(3) The Department of State shall give written notice to each statewide candidate at the time of qualifying, or immediately at the end of qualifying, that the voting equipment will be available for testing in each county and advising each such candidate to contact the county supervisor of elections as to the time and location of the pretest.

(4) At the time stated in the notice, representatives of each political party or opposing side and each candidate or his or her representatives may test the voting machines pursuant to this subsection to see that the machines are in proper condition and working order. Each such representative shall have written authorization from the candidate, group, or party that he or she represents and shall not interfere with, or assume any of, the deputy custodian's duties. All candidates and representatives who wish to test the machines shall appear at the place and time stated by the supervisor or municipal elections official. All such persons, by drawing lots, shall appoint one person who shall randomly select up to 5 percent of the voting machines in

the county to be used in the election, or 10 of those machines, whichever is greater. The candidates and representatives may test all of the selected machines by recording and verifying test votes until satisfied. If any of the selected machines is unsatisfactory, the supervisor shall allow the candidates or representatives to test such additional number of machines as is prescribed by the rules adopted by the Division of Elections. In addition, any such representative or candidate may otherwise check all the voting machines to make sure all the counters are set at zero and the ballots are in proper order.

(5) At the completion of this inspection and testing, the machines shall be sealed immediately; and any authorized representative may remain present and record the voting machine numbers, the protective counter numbers, and the seal numbers. The representative shall certify the number of machines and that the counters are set at zero and the numbers registered on the protective counters and on the seals. Upon completion of sealing the voting machines, the keys shall be delivered to the board of officials having charge of the election, together with a written report stating that such machines are properly prepared for the election. The machines shall be transferred to the polling place, and the local authorities shall provide protection against molestation or damage to such machines. The lantern or light fixtures shall be in good order before opening the polls. Any unsatisfactory machine shall be repaired, sealed, and made available for retesting, in accordance with the rules adopted by the Division of Elections, before it may be transferred to the polling place.

(6) The Division of Elections shall adopt rules in furtherance of the purpose of this section and may amend such rules as may be necessary.

History.—ss. 10, 11, ch. 13883, 1928; CGL 1936 Supp. 337(10), (11); s. 4, ch. 18405, 1937; s. 1, ch. 24089, 1947; s. 11, ch. 25035, 1949; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 19, ch. 29934, 1955; s. 17, ch. 65-380; s. 1, ch. 67-189; s. 1, ch. 75-174; s. 18, ch. 77-175; s. 1, ch. 81-29; s. 22, ch. 83-217; s. 569, ch. 95-147; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

¹Note.—Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former ss. 100.10, 100.11.

101.36 Voting machines or electronic or electromechanical voting; when used.—In counties that have adopted voting machines or electronic or electromechanical voting, the machines or voting devices shall be so arranged as to require individual voting for all offices. The order in which the ballot is arranged shall as nearly as practicable conform to the requirements of the form of the paper ballot. The voting machines or devices shall be used by the counties in all general, primary, and special elections. In counties above 260,000 population, according to the latest federal census, which have adopted the use of voting machines or electronic or electromechanical voting, it shall be mandatory for all municipalities in such counties to use such voting machines or devices in all elections, but in all counties of lesser population it shall be optional with each municipality as to whether it shall use ballots or voting machines or devices in its elections. Authority is hereby granted to the board of county commissioners of any county that has adopted voting machines or electronic or electromechanical voting to permit municipalities within the county to use county-owned voting machines or devices and to permit public

agencies, private organizations, and others to use such machines or devices on a rental basis, upon such terms and conditions as the board may determine.

History.—s. 12, ch. 18405, 1937; CGL 1940 Supp. 337(28-a); s. 3B, ch. 22018, 1943; s. 6, ch. 24994, 1948; s. 5, ch. 25187, 1949; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 28101, 1953; s. 4, ch. 29937, 1955; s. 1, ch. 61-481; s. 1, ch. 75-60; s. 18, ch. 77-175; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former ss. 99.191, 100.30, 100.43.

1101.37 Location of voting machines.—At all elections where voting machines are used, the arrangement of the polling room shall be as follows: The exterior of the voting machine and every part of the polling room shall be in plain view of the election officers; the voting machine shall be placed at least 1 foot from every wall or partition of the polling room and at least 4 feet from any table where any of the election officers may be engaged or seated. The voting machine shall be so placed that the ballots on the face of the machine can be plainly seen by the election officers and the party watchers when not in use by electors. The election officers shall not themselves be, or permit any other person to be in any position or near any position that will permit one to see or ascertain how an elector votes, or how an elector has voted. The election officer attending the machine shall inspect the face of the machine after each elector has cast his or her vote, to see that the ballots on the face of the machine are in proper places and that the machine has not been injured. During elections the door or other covering of the counter compartment of the machine shall not be unlocked or open, or the counters exposed except for good and sufficient reasons, a statement of which shall be made and signed by the election officers and shall be sent with the returns.

History.—s. 19, ch. 13893, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 337(19); s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 570, ch. 95-147; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 100.19.

1101.38 Disposition of voting machine keys immediately following an election.—The keys of the machine shall be enclosed in an envelope supplied by the custodian on which shall be written the number of the machine and the district where it has been used, which envelope shall be securely sealed and endorsed by the election officers and returned to the officer from whom the keys were received. The number on the seal and the number registered on the protective counter shall be written on the envelope containing the keys. All keys for voting machines shall be kept securely locked by officials having them in charge. It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to have in his or her possession any key of any voting machine, and all election officers or persons entrusted with the keys for election purposes, education, or display purposes, or in the preparation of the machines, shall not retain them longer than necessary to use them for such purposes. All machines shall be stored in a suitable place as soon as possible after the election.

History.—s. 25, ch. 13893, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 337(25); s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 18, ch. 65-380; s. 18, ch. 77-175; s. 571, ch. 95-147; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 100.27.

1101.39 Voting machines, sealing curtains.—Curtains on all voting machines shall be securely sealed or

fastened before being used in any election so that the clearance lever can not be operated without opening or closing curtains. And no voting machine, while in use, shall be concealed in any voting place, so as to hide or obscure the machine from public view.

History.—s. 3C, ch. 22018, 1943; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 100.44.

1101.40 Voting machine out of order.—In case any voting machine used in any precinct shall, during the time the polls are open, become inoperable, the election board shall substitute an operable machine, if possible, and, at the close of the polls, the records of votes shown on the counters of both machines shall be added together in ascertaining the results of the election. If no other machine can be prepared for use at the election, and the inoperable machine cannot be repaired in time for use, unofficial ballots made as nearly as possible like the official ballots may be used, received by election officers, and placed in a receptacle, in such case to be provided by said officers, and counted with votes registered on the voting machines, and the result shall be declared the same as though no machine had become inoperable. The ballots thus voted shall be preserved and returned with a certificate or statement setting forth how and why same were voted.

History.—s. 16, ch. 13893, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 337(16); s. 6, ch. 18405, 1937; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 18, ch. 77-175; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 100.16.

1101.43 Substitute ballot.—When voting machines are used and the required official ballots for a precinct are not delivered in time to be used on election day, or after delivery, are lost, destroyed or stolen, the clerk or other officials whose duty it is to provide ballots for use at such election, in lieu of the official ballots, shall have substitute ballots prepared, conforming as nearly as possible to the official ballots, and the board of election shall substitute these ballots to be used in the same manner as the official ballots would have been used at the election.

History.—s. 15, ch. 13893, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 337(15); s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 13, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Section 13, ch. 2001-40, amended s. 101.43, effective September 2, 2002, to read:

101.43 Substitute ballot.—When the required official ballots for a precinct are not delivered in time to be used on election day, or after delivery, are lost, destroyed or stolen, the clerk or other officials whose duty it is to provide ballots for use at such election, in lieu of the official ballots, shall have substitute ballots prepared, conforming as nearly as possible to the official ballots, and the board of election shall substitute these ballots to be used in the same manner as the official ballots would have been used at the election.

Note.—Former s. 100.15.

1101.445 Write-in ballots.—In counties in which voting machines are used, write-in ballots shall be deposited, written, or affixed in or upon the receptacle or device provided for that purpose. Each write-in ballot shall be cast in its appropriate place on the machine or it is void and shall not be counted. When a write-in ballot is cast, it shall not be necessary to use the (X) mark.

History.—s. 10, ch. 81-105; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

1101.45 Election board opening polls.—

(1) The election board of each precinct shall attend the polling place by 6 a.m. of the day of the election and

shall arrange the furniture, stationery, and voting machines. The keys to the machines shall be delivered to the election officers by 6 a.m. of the day of the election in a sealed envelope on which shall be written or printed the number and location of the machine, the number of the seal, and the number registered on the protective counter or device, as reported by the custodian. The said envelope shall not be opened until at least one member of the board from each of two political parties is present and shall have examined the envelope to see that same has not been opened. Before opening the envelope, the election officers present shall examine the number on the seal on the machine, also the number registered on the protective counter, and see if they are the same as the number written on the envelope. If they are not the same, the custodian or an authorized person must be present when the machine is opened to reexamine such machine and certify that it is properly arranged. If the numbers are found to agree with those on the envelope, the election officer shall proceed to open the doors concealing the counters and each officer shall carefully examine every counter and see that it registers zero, and same is subject to the inspection of official watchers. The machine shall remain locked against voting until the polls are opened, and only electors shall operate same.

(2) If any counter is found not to register at zero, the board of election shall immediately notify the custodian, who shall adjust such counters at zero, but if it is impracticable for the custodian to arrive in time to adjust such counters, the election officers shall immediately make a written statement of the designating letter and number of such counter, together with the number registered thereon, and shall sign and post same upon the wall of the polling room, and it shall remain throughout election day. In filling out the statement of canvass, they shall subtract such number from the total then registered thereon.

(3) If the machine is equipped with a device or devices which produce a printed record of the register shown on the candidate and amendment counters, the board of elections of each precinct shall take the necessary steps to secure such printed record from each machine. In the event any counter is found not to register at zero, and if, upon notification, it is impracticable for the custodian to arrive in time to adjust such counter, the board of elections shall post the printed record from such machine in a conspicuous place in such precinct. In filling out the statement of canvass, they shall subtract such number from the total then registered thereon.

History.—s. 17, ch. 13893, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 337(17); s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 21, ch. 65-380; s. 3, ch. 69-281; s. 18, ch. 77-175; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 100.17.

101.46 Instruction to electors before election.—The authorities in charge of elections, where voting machines are used, shall designate suitable and adequate times and places for giving instructions to electors who apply, and the machines shall contain a sample ballot showing the title of offices to be filled, and, so far as practicable, the names of candidates to be voted

on at the next election. No voting machine which is to be assigned for use in an election shall be used for instruction after having been prepared and sealed for the election. During the public exhibition of any voting machine for any instruction, the counting mechanism shall be concealed, but the doors may be temporarily opened when authorized by the supervisor of elections.

History.—s. 12, ch. 13893, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 337(12); s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 18, ch. 77-175; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 100.12.

101.47 Requirements before elector enters voting machine booth.—

(1) Whenever voting machines are used, each elector desiring to vote shall identify himself or herself to the clerk or an inspector of the election as a duly qualified elector at such election by signing his or her signature, in ink or indelible pencil, to an identification blank or slip which is in substantially the form provided by this code.

(2) The clerk or inspector shall compare the signature with the signature of the elector upon the registration books, and, if satisfied that the signature is the same, the clerk or inspector then shall initial the slip in the place provided and the initials shall constitute an oath or affirmation of the fact stated by the clerk or inspector above his or her initials.

(3) The supervisor shall supply sufficient containers for each precinct, each container to be securely sealed. Each container shall have a slot large enough to receive the identification slips. Before the polls open, the clerk, in the presence of all inspectors and the public, shall open the container and ascertain that it is empty and, while empty, shall securely seal same, leaving a slot open without breaking or removing the seal; and the clerk or inspectors shall sign their names upon the seal. Printed forms of seals shall be furnished with each container, containing a statement over the place for the signature that the container was opened, emptied, and sealed while empty before the polls were opened; the signing of the certificate shall constitute the clerk's or inspector's certificate to the facts.

(4) No person shall be admitted to a voting machine unless the person presents to the clerk or inspector an identification slip as provided in subsections (1) and (2).

(5) Before the elector enters a voting machine he or she shall deliver his or her identification slip duly signed to the clerk or inspector operating the machine. The clerk or inspector shall also initial the slip, and his or her initials shall constitute an oath or affirmation as to the printed facts set forth above his or her initials; then the clerk or inspector shall deposit the slip through the slot in the locked or sealed container.

(6) The identification slip, when signed by any person as an elector and initialed by the clerk or inspector comparing the person's signature and by the clerk or inspector admitting the person to the voting machine and depositing slip in the container, shall be prima facie evidence that the person whose name appears thereon as an elector was admitted to the voting machine and that the person voted.

(7) The clerk and inspectors shall return all unused signature identification blanks to the supervisor imme-

diately on the closing of the polls and shall seal the slot of the container with a seal signed by all the election officials in that precinct, and the clerk shall deliver same to the supervisor. The supervisor shall destroy all unused signature identification slips as soon as practicable.

(8) The identification slip shall be in substantially the following form:

No. _____
SIGNATURE IDENTIFICATION SLIP _____ **ELECTION**
 Held in _____ County, Florida, on the _____ day of _____,
 A. D. _____ (year).

I affix my signature hereto in the place and at the time of voting for the purpose of identifying myself as a duly registered and qualified voter in this election.

 (Signature of voter)

I hereby certify that the foregoing signature was signed in my presence during voting hours at this voting precinct and by me compared with that on the registration books and approved for voting in precinct No. _____.

 (Initials of clerk or inspector)

I hereby certify that I admitted the person who signed this identification slip to the voting machine; that said voter was personally known to me, or told me that he or she signed it; and that the number of the voting machine is _____.

 (Initials of official operating machine)

(9) The supervisor of elections shall prepare and deliver to each precinct the same number of signature identification slips as there are qualified electors for such precinct. In being prepared, the slips shall either be numbered consecutively beginning with number (1) and continued to such number as there are qualified electors for the county or be uniquely numbered for each elector. In preparing the identification slips, the appropriate information to designate the date, name of county, and kind of election (general, special, or primary) shall be printed in at the appropriate blank spaces appearing in the form. The supervisor shall preserve for 1 year a record in his or her office showing the number of signature identification slips which he or she delivered to each precinct, designating on such record the precinct number and address and numbers of slips so delivered.

(10) Any certificate signed by any clerk or inspector of any election certifying to the result of the election in or for any precinct is admissible in evidence in the trial of any cause, either civil or criminal, in any court in the state and, when admitted, shall constitute prima facie evidence that it was signed by the persons whose names are signed thereto and conclusive proof that any person who signed the certificate as clerk or inspector of election was duly appointed and qualified to act throughout the election and in the capacity indicated upon said certificate, unless the contrary is disclosed thereby.

(11) The identification slips and all other election materials required to be delivered to each precinct shall be delivered by enclosing and locking same in the voting machine or a sealed container, along with an itemized list with a receipt in the form: "I hereby certify that

I have checked the items listed hereon and acknowledge receipt thereof," which receipt shall be signed by the clerk of the precinct and deposited in the container provided for identification slips.

(12) It shall be unlawful for any person, other than the printer while printing and delivering the slips to the supervisor of elections, the supervisor and the supervisor's agents in placing the slips in the voting machine or a sealed container for delivery to the voting precincts, the clerks and inspectors, and qualified electors while acting inside of polling places during the election, to have in his or her possession any signature identification slip or other slip containing the same or substantially the same wording as the signature identification slip; and it shall be unlawful for any person or official to deliver any official slip or other slip containing the same or substantially the same wording as the signature identification slip to any person other than as provided in this section.

(13) All signature identification slips where voting machines are used shall be preserved by the clerk and inspectors of election, but, in those instances where an affidavit has been made in addition to the identification slip, such affidavits and slips bearing the signature of the same persons shall be placed together in a separate envelope and kept separate from the remaining slips. All such slips and affidavits preserved shall be returned to the supervisor whose duty it is to preserve them for at least 1 year.

History.—s. 1, ch. 18407, 1937; CGL 1940 Supp. 337(28-c); s. 1, ch. 22018, 1943; s. 3, ch. 24089, 1947; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 29, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 22, ch. 65-380; s. 1, ch. 67-41; ss. 1, 2, ch. 70-105; s. 18, ch. 77-175; s. 37, ch. 78-400; s. 572, ch. 95-147; s. 10, ch. 99-6; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 100.34.

101.49 Procedure of election officers where signatures differ.—

(1) Whenever any clerk or inspector, upon a just comparison of the signature, shall doubt that the handwriting affixed to a signature identification slip of any elector who presents himself or herself at the polls to vote is the same as the signature of the elector affixed in the registration book, the clerk or inspector shall deliver to the person an affidavit which shall be in substantially the following form:

STATE OF FLORIDA,
 COUNTY OF _____.

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that my name is _____; that I am _____ years old; that I was born in the State of _____; that I am registered to vote, and at the time I registered I resided on _____ Street, in the municipality of _____, County of _____, State of Florida; that I am a qualified voter of the county and state aforesaid and have not voted in this election.

 (Signature of voter)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, A. D. _____ (year).

 (Clerk or inspector of election)

Precinct No. _____
 County of _____.

(2) The person shall fill out, in his or her own handwriting or with assistance from a member of the election

board, the form and make an affidavit to the facts stated in the filled-in form; such affidavit shall then be sworn to and subscribed before one of the inspectors or clerks of the election who is authorized to administer the oath. Whenever the affidavit is made and filed with the clerk or inspector, the person shall then be admitted to the voting machine to cast his or her vote, but if the person fails or refuses to make out or file such affidavit, then he or she shall not be permitted to vote.

*History.—*s. 2, ch. 18407, 1937; CGL 1940 Supp. 337(28-d); s. 2, ch. 22018, 1943; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 18, ch. 77-175; s. 573, ch. 95-147; s. 11, ch. 99-6; s. 14, ch. 2001-40.

¹*Note.—*Section 14, ch. 2001-40, amended s. 101.49, effective September 2, 2002, to read:

101.49 Procedure of election officers where signatures differ.—

(1) Whenever any clerk or inspector, upon a just comparison of the signatures, doubts that the signature of any elector who presents himself or herself at the polls to vote is the same as the signature of the elector affixed in the registration book, the clerk or inspector shall deliver to the person an affidavit which shall be in substantially the following form:

STATE OF FLORIDA,
COUNTY OF _____

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that my name is _____; that I am _____ years old; that I was born in the State of _____; that I am registered to vote, and at the time I registered I resided on _____ Street, in the municipality of _____ County of _____ State of Florida; that I am a qualified voter of the county and state aforesaid and have not voted in this election.

(Signature of voter)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____ A. D. _____ (year) _____
(Clerk or inspector of election)

Precinct No. _____
County of _____

(2) The person shall fill out, in his or her own handwriting or with assistance from a member of the election board, the form and make an affidavit to the facts stated in the filled-in form; such affidavit shall then be sworn to and subscribed before one of the inspectors or clerks of the election who is authorized to administer the oath. Whenever the affidavit is made and filed with the clerk or inspector, the person shall then be admitted to cast his or her vote, but if the person fails or refuses to make out or file such affidavit, then he or she shall not be permitted to vote.

¹*Note.—*Former s. 100.35.

101.51 Electors to occupy booth alone; time allowed.—

(1) When the elector presents himself or herself to vote, the election official shall ascertain whether the elector's name is upon the register of electors, and, if the elector's name appears and no challenge interposes, or, if interposed, be not sustained, one of the election officials stationed at the entrance shall announce the name of the elector and permit him or her to enter the booth or compartment to cast his or her vote, allowing only one elector at a time to pass through to vote. No elector, while casting his or her ballot, shall occupy a booth or compartment longer than 5 minutes or be allowed to occupy a booth or compartment already occupied or to speak with anyone, except as provided by s. 101.051, while in the polling place.

(2) If an elector requires longer than 5 minutes, then upon a sufficient reason he or she may be granted a longer period of time by the election officials in charge. After casting his or her vote, the elector shall at once leave the polling room by the exit opening and shall not be permitted to reenter on any pretext whatever. After the elector has voted, or declined or failed to vote within 5 minutes, he or she shall immediately withdraw from the polling place. If the elector refuses to leave after the lapse of 5 minutes, he or she shall be removed by the election officials.

*History.—*ss. 44, 45, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 228, 229; RGS 273, 274; CGL 329, 330; s. 20, ch. 13893, 1929; 1936 Supp. 337(20); s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 25, ch. 65-380; s. 18, ch. 77-175; s. 574, ch. 95-147.

¹*Note.—*Former ss. 99.27, 99.28, 100.20.

101.54 Tabulation of vote and proclamation of results, where voting machine used.—

(1) As soon as the polls are closed, the inspectors of election shall immediately lock and seal the voting machines against voting. The inspectors then shall sign a certificate stating: that the machines have been locked against voting and sealed; the number of electors as shown on the public counters; the number on the seal; the number registered on the protective counter, if one is provided; and that the voting machines are closed and locked. The inspectors then shall open the counting compartments in the presence of the watchers and all other persons who may be lawfully within the polling place, giving full view of all the counter numbers. The clerk of the board of elections shall then read and announce in distinct tones the designating number and letter on each counter for each candidate's name and the results as shown by the counter numbers; the clerk shall then read, announce, and record the votes cast for each write-in candidate who has qualified. The clerk shall also read and announce the vote on each constitutional amendment, proposition, or other question. The results shall be announced four times by the following procedure. While the clerk is announcing the results, one inspector shall stand by his or her side and check the clerk's announcements. The vote as registered shall be entered on the certificate of returns by two inspectors of different political affiliation, whenever practicable, but not including the clerk, in the same order on the space which has the same designating number and letter, after which the figures shall be verified by being called off from the counters of the machine by the inspector standing near the clerk. While the inspector is announcing the results, the clerk shall stand by his or her side and check the inspector's announcement. After the results are announced by the clerk and the inspector, they shall exchange positions with the two inspectors who are tabulating the results. The same procedure as used by the clerk and inspector shall again be followed by the two inspectors in announcing the results. The tabulation shall then be filled out, which shall show the total number of votes cast for each candidate, as shown on the candidate's counter, and the number of votes for persons not nominated or elected. The counter compartment of the voting machine shall remain open until the official returns and all other reports have been fully completed and verified by the board of elections. Any candidate or duly accredited watcher who may desire to be present shall be admitted to the polling place from the closing of the polls until count and tabulation are complete. The proclamation of the result of the votes cast shall be deliberately announced in a distinct voice by the clerk who shall read the name of each candidate, with the designating number and letter of the candidate's counter and the vote registered on such counter and also the vote cast for and against each question submitted. During each proclamation, ample opportunity shall be given to any person lawfully present to compare the results so announced with the counter dials of the machine, and any necessary corrections shall immediately be made by the board, after which the doors of the voting

machine shall be closed and locked. Before adjourning, the board shall, with the seal provided therefor, so seal the operating lever of the machines that the voting and counting mechanism will be prevented from operating. The same procedure shall be followed for each machine in the precinct, and a final proclamation shall be made of the total vote received by each candidate. As each vote is read and announced, it shall be recorded on two statements by two other members of the board and, when completed, compared with the numbers on the counters of the machine. If found correct, the result shall be announced by the clerk, and the tabulation of votes, after being duly certified and sworn to, shall be filed as provided for filing election returns.

(2) Write-in ballots, enclosed in a properly sealed package properly endorsed, shall be filed with the original statement of returns. The inspector filing the returns shall deliver to the supervisor the keys of the voting machine, enclosed in a sealed envelope having endorsed thereon a certificate of the inspectors stating the number of the machine or machines, the precinct where it has been used, the number on the seal, and the number on the protective counter, if any.

(3) If the machine is provided with a device or devices which produce a printed record of the votes cast on the candidate and amendment counters, the inspectors of elections shall take the necessary steps to secure such printed record from each machine. Such printed record shall be deemed the official statement or certificate of returns for that machine and shall be properly endorsed, delivered and filed as previously required. If the precinct has more than one machine equipped with a device or devices which produce a printed record of the votes cast on the candidate and amendment counters, the inspectors of elections shall secure such printed record from each machine and shall make a final proclamation of the total votes on the certificate of returns as provided under s. 101.55.

History.—s. 23, ch. 13893, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 337(23); s. 7, ch. 18405, 1937; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 28, ch. 65-380; s. 19, ch. 77-175; s. 11, ch. 81-105; s. 575, ch. 95-147; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.
Note.—Former s. 100.23.

101.545 Retention and destruction of certain election materials.—All ballots, forms, and other election materials shall be retained in the custody of the supervisor of elections in accordance with the schedule approved by the Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State. All unused ballots, forms, and other election materials may, with the approval of the Department of State, be destroyed by the supervisor after the election for which such ballots, forms, or other election materials were to be used.

History.—s. 20, ch. 77-175; s. 15, ch. 2001-60.

101.55 Certificate of results.—In precincts where voting machines are used, certificates of results shall be printed to conform with the type of machines used, on a form approved by the Department of State. The designating number and letter on the counter for each candidate shall be printed next to the candidate's name on the certificate of the result. The form of such certificate shall also provide for the entry of the total number of votes cast for each candidate and upon each ques-

tion. Three of such certificates shall be made in each precinct, of which one shall be sent to the supervisor of the county, another sent to the chair of the county canvassing board, and another publicly posted at the polling place in which the precinct is situated.

History.—s. 8, ch. 18405, 1937; CGL 1940 Supp. 337(23-a); s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 19, ch. 73-334; s. 21, ch. 77-175; s. 576, ch. 95-147; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 100.24.

101.56 Locking machine; returning write-in ballots.—The election officers shall, as soon as the count is completed and ascertained, lock the counter compartment of the machine, and it shall so remain for a period of not less than 10 days, unless another election is to be held within 3 weeks, in which event the machine shall remain locked for 5 days, except in either event it may be opened by the canvassing board or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction. Whenever write-in ballots have been cast and counted by the election officers, the election officers shall return such ballots in a secured package labeled "write-in ballots" and file such package with the original statement of the result of the election made by them.

History.—s. 24, ch. 13893, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 337(24); s. 10, ch. 18405, 1937; s. 2, ch. 24089, 1947; s. 11, ch. 25035, 1949; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 21, ch. 77-175; s. 12, ch. 81-105; s. 23, ch. 83-217; s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Repealed September 2, 2002, by s. 33, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 100.26.

101.5601 Short title.—Sections 101.5601 through 101.5615 shall be known as the "Electronic Voting Systems Act."

History.—s. 1, ch. 73-156.

101.5602 Purpose.—The purpose of this act is to authorize the use of electronic and electromechanical voting systems in which votes are registered electronically or are tabulated on automatic tabulating equipment or data processing equipment.

History.—s. 2, ch. 73-156; s. 21, ch. 77-175; s. 7, ch. 84-302.

101.5603 Definitions relating to Electronic Voting Systems Act.—As used in this act, the term:

(1) "Automatic tabulating equipment" includes apparatus necessary to automatically examine, count, and record votes.

(2) "Ballot" means the card, tape, or other vehicle upon which the elector's choices are recorded.

(3) "Ballot information" means the material containing the names of offices and candidates and the questions to be voted on.

(4) "Electronic or electromechanical voting system" means a system of casting votes by use of voting devices or marking devices and counting ballots by employing automatic tabulating equipment or data processing equipment.

(5) "Marking device" means either an approved apparatus used for the piercing of ballots by the voter or any approved device for marking a ballot with ink or other substance which will enable the ballot to be tabulated by means of automatic tabulating equipment.

(6) "Secrecy envelope" means an opaque device, used for enclosing a marked ballot, which conceals the voter's choices.

(7) "Software" means the programs and routines used to employ and control the capabilities of data processing hardware, including, without limitation, operating systems, compilers, assemblers, utilities, library routines, maintenance routines, applications, and computer networking programs.

(8) "Voting device" means either an apparatus in which ballots are inserted and used in connection with a marking device for the piercing of ballots by the voter or an apparatus by which votes are registered electronically.

History.—s. 3, ch. 73-156; s. 21, ch. 77-175; s. 8, ch. 84-302; s. 6, ch. 89-348; s. 15, ch. 2001-40.

¹Note.—Section 15, ch. 2001-40, amended subsections (4), (5), and (8), effective September 2, 2002, to read:

(4) "Electronic or electromechanical voting system" means a system of casting votes by use of voting devices or marking devices and counting ballots by employing automatic tabulating equipment or data processing equipment, and the term includes touchscreen systems.

(5) "Marking device" means any approved device for marking a ballot with ink or other substance which will enable the ballot to be tabulated by means of automatic tabulating equipment.

(8) "Voting device" means an apparatus by which votes are registered electronically.

101.5604 Adoption of system; procurement of equipment; commercial tabulations.—The board of county commissioners of any county, at any regular meeting or a special meeting called for the purpose, may, upon consultation with the supervisor of elections, adopt, purchase or otherwise procure, and provide for the use of any electronic or electromechanical voting system approved by the Department of State in all or a portion of the election precincts of that county. Thereafter the electronic or electromechanical voting system may be used for voting at all elections for public and party offices and on all measures and for receiving, registering, and counting the votes thereof in such election precincts as the governing body directs. Any such board may contract for the tabulation of votes at a location within the county when there is no suitable tabulating equipment available which is owned by the county.

History.—s. 4, ch. 73-156; s. 21, ch. 77-175; s. 16, ch. 2001-40.

¹Note.—Section 16, ch. 2001-40, amended s. 101.5604, effective September 2, 2002, to read:

101.5604 Adoption of system; procurement of equipment; commercial tabulations.—The board of county commissioners of any county, at any regular meeting or a special meeting called for the purpose, may, upon consultation with the supervisor of elections, adopt, purchase or otherwise procure, and provide for the use of any electronic or electromechanical voting system approved by the Department of State in all or a portion of the election precincts of that county. Thereafter the electronic or electromechanical voting system may be used for voting at all elections for public and party offices and on all measures and for receiving, registering, and counting the votes thereof in such election precincts as the governing body directs. A county must use an electronic or electromechanical precinct-count tabulation voting system.

101.56042 Punch card type systems prohibited.—Effective September 2, 2002, a voting system that uses an apparatus or device for the piercing of ballots by the voter may not be used in this state.

History.—s. 17, ch. 2001-40.

101.5605 Examination and approval of equipment.

(1) The Department of State shall publicly examine all makes of electronic or electromechanical voting systems submitted to it and determine whether the systems comply with the requirements of s. 101.5606.

(2)(a) Any person owning or interested in an electronic or electromechanical voting system may submit

it to the Department of State for examination. The vote counting segment shall be certified after a satisfactory evaluation testing has been performed according to electronic industry standards. This testing shall include, but is not limited to, testing of all software required for the voting system's operation; the ballot reader; the rote processor, especially in its logic and memory components; the digital printer; the fail-safe operations; the counting center environmental requirements; and the equipment reliability estimate. For the purpose of assisting in examining the system, the department shall employ or contract for services of at least one individual who is expert in one or more fields of data processing, mechanical engineering, and public administration and shall require from the individual a written report of his or her examination.

(b) The person submitting a system for approval or the board of county commissioners of any county seeking approval of a given system shall reimburse the Department of State in an amount equal to the actual costs incurred by the department in examining the system. Such reimbursement shall be made whether or not the system is approved by the department.

(c) Neither the Secretary of State nor any examiner shall have any pecuniary interest in any voting equipment.

(d) The Department of State shall approve or disapprove any voting system submitted to it within 90 days after the date of its initial submission.

(3)(a) Within 30 days after completing the examination and upon approval of any electronic or electromechanical voting system, the Department of State shall make and maintain a report on the system, together with a written or printed description and drawings and photographs clearly identifying the system and the operation thereof. As soon as practicable after such filing, the department shall send a notice of certification and, upon request, a copy of the report to the governing bodies of the respective counties of the state. Any voting system that does not receive the approval of the department shall not be adopted for or used at any election.

(b) After a voting system has been approved by the Department of State, any change or improvement in the system is required to be approved by the department prior to the adoption of such change or improvement by any county. If any such change or improvement does not comply with the requirements of this act, the department shall suspend all sales of the equipment or system in the state until the equipment or system complies with the requirements of this act.

(4) The Department of State may at any time reexamine any system, or any part thereof, which has previously been approved for the purpose of updating the certification of the system.

History.—s. 5, ch. 73-156; s. 21, ch. 77-175; s. 9, ch. 84-302; s. 12, ch. 85-80; s. 9, ch. 89-348; s. 577, ch. 95-147.

101.5606 Requirements for approval of systems. No electronic or electromechanical voting system shall be approved by the Department of State unless it is so constructed that:

(1) It permits and requires voting in secrecy.

(2) It permits each elector to vote at any election for all persons and offices for whom and for which the elector is lawfully entitled to vote, and no others; to vote for as many persons for an office as the elector is entitled to vote for; and to vote for or against any question upon which the elector is entitled to vote.

(3) The automatic tabulating equipment will be set to reject all votes for any office or measure when the number of votes therefor exceeds the number which the voter is entitled to cast or when the voter is not entitled to cast a vote for the office or measure.

(4) It is capable of correctly counting votes.

(5) It permits each voter at a primary election to vote only for the candidates seeking nomination by the political party in which such voter is registered, for any candidate for nonpartisan office, and for any question upon which the voter is entitled to vote.

(6) At presidential elections it permits each elector, by one operation, to vote for all presidential electors of a party or for all presidential electors of candidates for President and Vice President with no party affiliation.

(7) It provides a method for write-in voting.

(8) It is capable of accumulating a count of the specific number of ballots tallied for a precinct, accumulating total votes by candidate for each office, and accumulating total votes for and against each question and issue of the ballots tallied for a precinct.

(9) It is capable of tallying votes from ballots of different political parties from the same precinct, in the case of a primary election.

(10) It is capable of automatically producing precinct totals in printed, marked, or punched form, or a combination thereof.

(11) If it is of a type which registers votes electronically, it will permit each voter to change his or her vote for any candidate or upon any question appearing on the official ballot up to the time that the voter takes the final step to register his or her vote and to have the vote computed.

(12) It is capable of providing records from which the operation of the voting system may be audited.

*History.—*s. 6, ch. 73-156; s. 21, ch. 77-175; s. 10, ch. 84-302; s. 10, ch. 89-348; s. 578, ch. 95-147; s. 17, ch. 99-318; s. 18, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—*Section 18, ch. 2001-40, amended s. 101.5606, effective September 2, 2002, to read:

101.5606 Requirements for approval of systems.—No electronic or electromechanical voting system shall be approved by the Department of State unless it is so constructed that:

(1) It permits and requires voting in secrecy.

(2) It permits each elector to vote at any election for all persons and offices for whom and for which the elector is lawfully entitled to vote, and no others; to vote for as many persons for an office as the elector is entitled to vote for; and to vote for or against any question upon which the elector is entitled to vote.

(3) The automatic tabulating equipment shall be set to reject a ballot and provide the elector an opportunity to correct the ballot where the number of votes for an office or measure exceeds the number which the voter is entitled to cast or where the tabulating equipment reads the ballot as a ballot with no votes cast.

(4) For rejected ballots that voters choose to cast, the automatic tabulating equipment will be set to accept the ballot and reject all votes for any office or measure when the number of votes therefor exceeds the number which the voter is entitled to cast or when the voter is not entitled to cast a vote for the office or measure.

(5) It is capable of correctly counting votes.

(6) It permits each voter at a primary election to vote only for the candidates seeking nomination by the political party in which such voter is registered, for any candidate for nonpartisan office, and for any question upon which the voter is entitled to vote.

(7) At presidential elections it permits each elector, by one operation, to vote for all presidential electors of a party or for all presidential electors of candidates for President and Vice President with no party affiliation.

(8) It provides a method for write-in voting.

(9) It is capable of accumulating a count of the specific number of ballots tallied for a precinct, accumulating total votes by candidate for each office, and accumulating total votes for and against each question and issue of the ballots tallied for a precinct.

(10) It is capable of tallying votes from ballots of different political parties from the same precinct, in the case of a primary election.

(11) It is capable of automatically producing precinct totals in printed, marked, or punched form, or a combination thereof.

(12) If it is of a type which registers votes electronically, it will permit each voter to change his or her vote for any candidate or upon any question appearing on the official ballot up to the time that the voter takes the final step to register his or her vote and to have the vote computed.

(13) It is capable of providing records from which the operation of the voting system may be audited.

(14) It uses a precinct-count tabulation system.

(15) It does not use an apparatus or device for the piercing of ballots by the voter.

101.5607 Department of State to maintain voting system information; prepare software.—

(1)(a) Copies of the program codes and the user and operator manuals and copies of all software and any other information, specifications, or documentation required by the Department of State relating to an approved electronic or electromechanical voting system and its equipment must be filed with the Department of State by the supervisor of elections at the time of purchase or implementation. Any such information or materials that are not on file with and approved by the Department of State, including any updated or modified materials, may not be used in an election.

(b) Within 24 hours after the completion of any logic and accuracy test conducted pursuant to s. 101.5612, the supervisor of elections shall send by certified mail to the Department of State a copy of the tabulation program which was used in the logic and accuracy testing.

(c) The Department of State may, at any time, review the voting system of any county to ensure compliance with the Electronic Voting Systems Act.

(d) Section 119.07(3)(o) applies to all software on file with the Department of State.

(2)(a) The Department of State may develop software for use with an electronic or electromechanical voting system. The standards and examination procedures developed for software apply to all software developed by the Department of State.

(b) Software prepared by the Department of State is a public record pursuant to chapter 119 and shall be provided at the actual cost of duplication.

*History.—*s. 7, ch. 73-156; s. 21, ch. 77-175; s. 4, ch. 82-143; s. 11, ch. 84-302; s. 11, ch. 89-348; s. 25, ch. 90-344; s. 21, ch. 95-398; s. 19, ch. 2001-40.

101.5608 Voting by electronic or electromechanical method; procedures.—

(1) Each elector desiring to vote shall be identified to the clerk or inspector of the election as a duly qualified elector of such election and shall sign his or her name in ink or indelible pencil to an identification blank, signature slip, precinct register, or ballot stub on which the ballot serial number may be recorded. The inspector shall compare the signature with the signature on the identification provided by the elector. If the inspector is reasonably sure that the person is entitled to vote, the inspector shall provide the person with a ballot.

(2) When an electronic or electromechanical voting system utilizes a ballot card or paper ballot, the following procedures shall be followed:

(a) After receiving a ballot from an inspector, the elector shall, without leaving the polling place, retire to a booth or compartment and mark the ballot. After preparing his or her ballot, the elector shall place the ballot

in a secrecy envelope with the stub exposed or shall fold over that portion on which write-in votes may be cast, as instructed, so that the ballot will be deposited in the ballot box without exposing the voter's choices. Before the ballot is deposited in the ballot box, the inspector shall detach the exposed stub and place it in a separate envelope for audit purposes; when a fold-over ballot is used, the entire ballot shall be placed in the ballot box.

(b) Any voter who spoils his or her ballot or makes an error may return the ballot to the election official and secure another ballot, except that in no case shall a voter be furnished more than three ballots. If the vote tabulation device has rejected a ballot, the ballot shall be considered spoiled and a new ballot shall be provided to the voter unless the voter chooses to cast the rejected ballot. The election official, without examining the original ballot, shall state the possible reasons for the rejection and direct the voter to the instruction model provided at the precinct pursuant to s. 101.5611. A spoiled ballot shall be preserved, without examination, in an envelope provided for that purpose. The stub shall be removed from the ballot and placed in an envelope.

(c) The supervisor of elections shall prepare for each polling place at least one ballot box to contain the ballots of a particular precinct, and each ballot box shall be plainly marked with the name of the precinct for which it is intended.

(3) The Department of State shall promulgate rules regarding voting procedures to be used when an electronic or electromechanical voting system is of a type which does not utilize a ballot card or paper ballot.

(4) In any election in which a write-in candidate has qualified for office, the supervisor of elections shall provide for write-in voting pursuant to rules adopted by the Division of Elections.

History.—s. 8, ch. 73-156; s. 21, ch. 77-175; s. 13, ch. 81-105; s. 5, ch. 82-143; s. 12, ch. 84-302; s. 579, ch. 95-147; s. 20, ch. 2001-40.

101.5610 Inspection of ballot by election board.—

The election board of each precinct shall cause the voting devices to be put in order, set, adjusted, and made ready for voting when delivered to the polling places. Before the opening of the polls, the election board shall compare the ballots or the ballot information used in the voting devices with the sample ballots furnished and see that the names, numbers, and letters thereon agree and shall certify thereto on forms provided by the supervisor of elections.

History.—s. 10, ch. 73-156; s. 14, ch. 84-302; s. 4, ch. 86-200.

101.5611 Instructions to electors.—

(1) For the instruction of voters on election day, the supervisor of elections shall provide at each polling place one instruction model illustrating the manner of voting with the system. Each such instruction model shall show the arrangement of party rows, office columns, and questions to be voted on. Such model shall be located at a place which voters must pass to reach the official voting booth.

(2) Before entering the voting booth each voter shall be offered instruction in voting by use of the instruction model, and the voter shall be given ample

opportunity to operate the model by himself or herself. In instructing voters, no precinct official may show partiality to any political party or candidate.

(3) The supervisor of elections shall have posted at each polling place a notice that reads: "A person who commits or attempts to commit any fraud in connection with voting, votes a fraudulent ballot, or votes more than once in an election can be convicted of a felony of the third degree and fined up to \$5,000 and/or imprisoned for up to 5 years."

History.—s. 11, ch. 73-156; s. 21, ch. 77-175; s. 581, ch. 95-147; s. 12, ch. 98-129.

101.5612 Testing of tabulating equipment.—

(1) All electronic or electromechanical voting systems shall be thoroughly tested at the conclusion of maintenance and programming. Tests shall be sufficient to determine that the voting system is properly programmed, the election is correctly defined on the voting system, and all of the voting system input, output, and communication devices are working properly.

(2) On any day not more than 10 days prior to the election day, the supervisor of elections shall have the automatic tabulating equipment publicly tested to ascertain that the equipment will correctly count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures. Public notice of the time and place of the test shall be given at least 48 hours prior thereto by publication once in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the county or, if there is no newspaper of general circulation in the county, by posting such notice in at least four conspicuous places in the county. The supervisor or the municipal elections official may, at the time of qualifying, give written notice of the time and location of such public preelection test to each candidate qualifying with that office and obtain a signed receipt that such notice has been given. The Department of State shall give written notice to each statewide candidate at the time of qualifying, or immediately at the end of qualifying, that the voting equipment will be tested and advise each such candidate to contact the county supervisor of elections as to the time and location of the public preelection test. The supervisor or the municipal elections official shall, at least 15 days prior to an election, send written notice by certified mail to the county party chair of each political party and to all candidates for other than statewide office whose names appear on the ballot in the county and who did not receive written notification from the supervisor or municipal elections official at the time of qualifying, stating the time and location of the public preelection test of the automatic tabulating equipment. The canvassing board shall convene, and each member of the canvassing board shall certify to the accuracy of the test. For the test, the canvassing board may designate one member to represent it. The test shall be open to representatives of the political parties, the press, and the public. Each political party may designate one person with expertise in the computer field who shall be allowed in the central counting room when all tests are being conducted and when the official votes are being counted. Such designee shall not interfere with the normal operation of the canvassing board.

(3) For electronic or electromechanical voting systems configured to tabulate absentee ballots at a central or regional site, the public testing shall be conducted by processing a preaudited group of ballots so produced as to record a predetermined number of valid votes for each candidate and on each measure and to include one or more ballots for each office which have activated voting positions in excess of the number allowed by law in order to test the ability of the automatic tabulating equipment to reject such votes. If any error is detected, the cause therefor shall be corrected and an errorless count shall be made before the automatic tabulating equipment is approved. The test shall be repeated and errorless results achieved immediately before the start of the official count of the ballots and again after the completion of the official count. The programs and ballots used for testing shall be sealed and retained under the custody of the county canvassing board.

(4)(a)1. For electronic or electromechanical voting systems configured to include electronic or electromechanical tabulation devices which are distributed to the precincts, all or a sample of the devices to be used in the election shall be publicly tested. If a sample is to be tested, the sample shall consist of a random selection of at least 5 percent or 10 of the devices, whichever is greater. The test shall be conducted by processing a group of ballots, causing the device to output results for the ballots processed, and comparing the output of results to the results expected for the ballots processed. The group of ballots shall be produced so as to record a predetermined number of valid votes for each candidate and on each measure and to include for each office one or more ballots which have activated voting positions in excess of the number allowed by law in order to test the ability of the tabulating device to reject such votes.

2. If any tested tabulating device is found to have an error in tabulation, it shall be deemed unsatisfactory. For each device deemed unsatisfactory, the canvassing board shall take steps to determine the cause of the error, shall attempt to identify and test other devices that could reasonably be expected to have the same error, and shall test a number of additional devices sufficient to determine that all devices are satisfactory. Upon deeming any device unsatisfactory, the canvassing board may require all devices to be tested or may declare that all devices are unsatisfactory.

3. If the operation or output of any tested tabulation device, such as spelling or the order of candidates on a report, is in error, such problem shall be reported to the canvassing board. The canvassing board shall then determine if the reported problem warrants its deeming the device unsatisfactory.

(b) At the completion of testing under this subsection, the canvassing board or its representative, the representatives of the political parties, and the candidates or their representatives who attended the test shall witness the resetting of each device that passed to a preelection state of readiness and the sealing of each device that passed in such a manner as to secure its state of readiness until the opening of the polls.

(c) The canvassing board or its representative shall execute a written statement setting forth the tabulation devices tested, the results of the testing, the protective counter numbers, if applicable, of each tabulation device, the number of the seal securing each tabulation device at the conclusion of testing, any problems reported to the board as a result of the testing, and whether each device tested is satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

(d) Any tabulating device deemed unsatisfactory shall be reprogrammed, repaired, or replaced and shall be made available for retesting. Such device must be determined by the canvassing board or its representative to be satisfactory before it may be used in any election. The canvassing board or its representative shall announce at the close of the first testing the date, place, and time that any unsatisfactory device will be retested or may, at the option of the board, notify by telephone each person who was present at the first testing as to the date, place, and time that the retesting will occur.

(e) Records must be kept of all preelection testing of electronic or electromechanical tabulation devices used in any election. Such records are to be present and available for inspection and reference during public preelection testing by any person in attendance during such testing. The need of the canvassing board for access to such records during the testing shall take precedence over the need of other attendees to access such records so that the work of the canvassing board will not be delayed or hindered. Records of testing must include, for each device, the name of each person who tested the device and the date, place, time, and results of each test. Records of testing shall be retained as part of the official records of the election in which any device was used.

*History.—*s. 12, ch. 73-156; s. 21, ch. 77-175; s. 39, ch. 79-400; s. 2, ch. 81-29; s. 24, ch. 83-217; s. 15, ch. 84-302; s. 582, ch. 95-147; s. 21, ch. 2001-40.

101.5613 Examination of equipment during voting.—A member of the election board shall occasionally examine the face of the voting device and the ballot information to determine that the device and the ballot information have not been damaged or tampered with.
*History.—*s. 13, ch. 73-156; s. 21, ch. 77-175; s. 16, ch. 84-302.

101.5614 Canvass of returns.—

(1)(a) In precincts in which an electronic or electromechanical voting system is used, as soon as the polls are closed, the election board shall secure the voting devices against further voting. The election board shall thereafter open the ballot box in the presence of members of the public desiring to witness the proceedings and count the number of voted ballots, unused ballots, provisional ballots, and spoiled ballots to ascertain whether such number corresponds with the number of ballots issued by the supervisor. If there is a difference, this fact shall be reported in writing to the county canvassing board with the reasons therefor if known. The total number of voted ballots shall be entered on the forms provided. The proceedings of the election board at the precinct after the polls have closed shall be open to the public; however, no person except a member of the election board shall touch any

ballot or ballot container or interfere with or obstruct the orderly count of the ballots.

(b) In lieu of opening the ballot box at the precinct, the supervisor may direct the election board to keep the ballot box sealed and deliver it to a central or regional counting location. In this case, the election board shall count the stubs removed from the ballots to determine the number of voted ballots.

¹(2)(a) If the ballots are to be tallied at a central location or at no more than three regional locations, the election board shall place all ballots that have been cast and the unused, void, provisional, and defective ballots in the container or containers provided for this purpose, which shall be sealed and delivered forthwith to the central or regional counting location or other designated location by two inspectors who shall not, whenever possible, be of the same political party. The election board shall certify that the ballots were placed in such container or containers and each container was sealed in its presence and under its supervision, and it shall further certify to the number of ballots of each type placed in the container or containers.

(b) If ballots are to be counted at the precincts, such ballots shall be counted pursuant to rules adopted by the Department of State, which rules shall provide safeguards which conform as nearly as practicable to the safeguards provided in the procedures for the counting of votes at a central location.

¹(3)(a) All proceedings at the central or regional counting location or other designated location shall be under the direction of the county canvassing board and shall be open to the public, but no person except a person employed and authorized for the purpose shall touch any ballot or ballot container, any item of automatic tabulating equipment, or any return prior to its release. If the ballots are tabulated at regional locations, one member of the canvassing board or a person designated by the board to represent it shall be present at each location during the testing of the counting equipment and the tabulation of the ballots.

(b) If ballots are tabulated at regional locations, the results of such election may be transmitted via dedicated teleprocessing lines to the main computer system for the purpose of compilation of complete returns. The security guidelines for transmission of returns by dedicated teleprocessing lines shall conform to rules adopted by the Department of State pursuant to s. 101.015.

(4) If ballot cards are used, and separate write-in ballots or envelopes for casting write-in votes are used, write-in ballots or the envelopes on which write-in ballots have been cast shall be serially numbered, starting with the number one, and the same number shall be placed on the ballot card of the voter. This process may be completed at either the precinct by the election board or at the central counting location. For each ballot or ballot and ballot envelope on which write-in votes have been cast, the canvassing board shall compare the write-in votes with the votes cast on the ballot card; if the total number of votes for any office exceeds the number allowed by law, a notation to that effect, specifying the office involved, shall be entered on the back of the ballot card or in a margin if voting areas are

printed on both sides of the ballot card. Such votes shall not be counted. All valid votes shall be tallied by the canvassing board.

(5) If any ballot card of the type for which the offices and measures are not printed directly on the card is damaged or defective so that it cannot properly be counted by the automatic tabulating equipment, a true duplicate copy shall be made of the damaged ballot card in the presence of witnesses and substituted for the damaged ballot. Likewise, a duplicate ballot card shall be made of a defective ballot which shall not include the invalid votes. All duplicate ballot cards shall be clearly labeled "duplicate," bear a serial number which shall be recorded on the damaged or defective ballot card, and be counted in lieu of the damaged or defective ballot. If any ballot card of the type for which offices and measures are printed directly on the card is damaged or defective so that it cannot properly be counted by the automatic tabulating equipment, a true duplicate copy may be made of the damaged ballot card in the presence of witnesses and in the manner set forth above, or the valid votes on the damaged ballot card may be manually counted at the counting center by the canvassing board, whichever procedure is best suited to the system used. If any paper ballot is damaged or defective so that it cannot be counted properly by the automatic tabulating equipment, the ballot shall be counted manually at the counting center by the canvassing board. The totals for all such ballots or ballot cards counted manually shall be added to the totals for the several precincts or election districts. No vote shall be declared invalid or void if there is a clear indication on the ballot that the voter has made a definite choice as determined by the canvassing board. After duplicating a ballot, the defective ballot shall be placed in an envelope provided for that purpose, and the duplicate ballot shall be tallied with the other ballots for that precinct.

(6) If there is no clear indication on the ballot that the voter has made a definite choice for an office or ballot measure, the elector's ballot shall not be counted for that office or measure, but the ballot shall not be invalidated as to those names or measures which are properly marked.

¹(7) Absentee ballots may be counted by automatic tabulating equipment if they have been punched or marked in a manner which will enable them to be properly counted by such equipment.

(8) The return printed by the automatic tabulating equipment, to which has been added the return of write-in, absentee, and manually counted votes and votes from provisional ballots, shall constitute the official return of the election upon certification by the canvassing board. Upon completion of the count, the returns shall be open to the public. A copy of the returns may be posted at the central counting place or at the office of the supervisor of elections in lieu of the posting of returns at individual precincts.

(9) Any supervisor of elections, deputy supervisor of elections, canvassing board member, election board member, or election employee who releases the results of any election prior to the closing of the polls on election day commits a felony of the third degree, punish-

able as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

History.—s. 14, ch. 73-156; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 21, ch. 77-175; s. 14, ch. 81-105; s. 17, ch. 84-302; s. 1, ch. 85-17; s. 5, ch. 86-200; s. 17, ch. 90-315; s. 1, ch. 94-208; ss. 22, 37, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Section 22, ch. 2001-40, amended subsections (1), (2), (3), and (7), effective September 2, 2002, to read:

(1) In precincts in which an electronic or electromechanical voting system is used, as soon as the polls are closed, the election board shall secure the voting devices against further voting. The election board shall thereafter open the ballot box in the presence of members of the public desiring to witness the proceedings and count the number of voted ballots, unused ballots, provisional ballots, and spoiled ballots to ascertain whether such number corresponds with the number of ballots issued by the supervisor. If there is a difference, this fact shall be reported in writing to the county canvassing board with the reasons therefor if known. The total number of voted ballots shall be entered on the forms provided. The proceedings of the election board at the precinct after the polls have closed shall be open to the public; however, no person except a member of the election board shall touch any ballot or ballot container or interfere with or obstruct the orderly count of the ballots.

(2) The Department of State shall, in accordance with s. 101.015, adopt rules that provide safeguards for the counting of votes at a precinct and at a central or regional location.

(3) The results of ballots tabulated at precinct locations may be transmitted to the main computer system for the purpose of compilation of complete returns. The security guidelines for transmission of returns shall conform to rules adopted by the Department of State pursuant to s. 101.015.

(7) Absentee ballots may be counted by automatic tabulating equipment if they have been marked in a manner which will enable them to be properly counted by such equipment.

101.5615 Recounts and election contests.—Recounts and election contests shall be conducted as provided for in this code. The automatic tabulating equipment shall be tested prior to the recount or election contest, as provided in s. 101.5612, if the official ballots or ballot cards are recounted on the automatic tabulating equipment. Each duplicate ballot shall be compared with the original ballot to ensure the correctness of the duplicate.

History.—s. 15, ch. 73-156; s. 21, ch. 77-175; s. 13, ch. 89-348.

101.572 Public inspection of ballots.—The official ballots and ballot cards received from election boards and removed from absentee ballot mailing envelopes shall be open for public inspection or examination while in the custody of the supervisor of elections or the county canvassing board at any reasonable time, under reasonable conditions; however, no persons other than the supervisor of elections or his or her employees or the county canvassing board shall handle any official ballot or ballot card. The supervisor of elections shall make a reasonable effort to notify all candidates whose names appear on such ballots or ballot cards by telephone or otherwise of the time and place of the inspection or examination. All such candidates, or their representatives, shall be allowed to be present during the inspection or examination.

History.—s. 2, ch. 86-199; s. 583, ch. 95-147.

101.58 Supervising and observing registration and election processes.—The Department of State may, at any time it deems fit; upon the petition of 5 percent of the registered electors; or upon the petition of any candidate, county executive committee chair, state committeeman or committeewoman, or state executive committee chair, appoint one or more deputies whose duties shall be to observe and examine the registration and election processes and the condition, custody, and operation of voting machines in any county or municipality. The deputy shall have access to all registration

books and records as well as any other records or procedures relating to the voting process. The deputy may supervise preparation of the election machines and procedures for election, and it shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct the deputy in the performance of his or her duty. The deputy shall file with the Department of State a report of his or her findings and observations of the registration and election processes in the county or municipality, and a copy of the report shall also be filed with the clerk of the circuit court of said county. The compensation of such deputies shall be fixed by the Department of State; and costs incurred under this section shall be paid from the annual operating appropriation made to the Department of State.

History.—s. 13, ch. 18405, 1937; CGL 1940 Supp. 337(28-b); s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 63-258; ss. 10, 35, ch. 89-106; s. 1, ch. 73-305; s. 21, ch. 77-175; s. 26, ch. 89-338; s. 584, ch. 95-147; s. 23, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Section 23, ch. 2001-40, amended s. 101.58, effective September 2, 2002, to read:

101.58 Supervising and observing registration and election processes.—The Department of State may, at any time it deems fit; upon the petition of 5 percent of the registered electors; or upon the petition of any candidate, county executive committee chair, state committeeman or committeewoman, or state executive committee chair, appoint one or more deputies whose duties shall be to observe and examine the registration and election processes and the condition, custody, and operation of voting systems and equipment in any county or municipality. The deputy shall have access to all registration books and records as well as any other records or procedures relating to the voting process. The deputy may supervise preparation of the voting equipment and procedures for election, and it shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct the deputy in the performance of his or her duty. The deputy shall file with the Department of State a report of his or her findings and observations of the registration and election processes in the county or municipality, and a copy of the report shall also be filed with the clerk of the circuit court of said county. The compensation of such deputies shall be fixed by the Department of State; and costs incurred under this section shall be paid from the annual operating appropriation made to the Department of State.

Note.—Former s. 100.31.

101.591 Voting system audit.—

(1) The Legislature, upon specific appropriation and directive, may provide for an independent audit of the voting system in any county. Within 30 days after completing the audit, the person conducting the audit shall furnish a copy of the audit to the supervisor of elections and the board of county commissioners.

(2) An audit conducted pursuant to subsection (1) shall consist of a study and evaluation of the voting system used during any primary, general, municipal, or presidential preference primary election to provide reasonable assurance that the system is properly controlled, can accurately count votes, provides adequate safeguards against unauthorized manipulation and fraud, and complies with the requirements of law and rules of the Department of State.

History.—s. 14, ch. 89-348; s. 41, ch. 97-13.

101.595 Analysis and reports of voter error.—

(1) No later than December 15 of each general election year, the supervisor of elections in each county shall report on voter errors to the Department of State, along with the likely reasons for the errors and other information as may be useful in evaluating the performance of the voting system and identifying problems with ballot design and instructions which may have contributed to voter confusion.

(2) The Department of State, upon receipt of such information, shall prepare a public report on the performance of each type of voting system. The report must contain, but is not limited to, the following information:

(a) An identification of problems with the ballot design or instructions which may have contributed to voter confusion;

(b) An identification of voting system design problems; and

(c) Recommendations for correcting any problems identified.

(3) The Department of State shall submit the report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 31 of each year following a general election.

History.—s. 24, ch. 2001-40.

101.6101 Short title.—Sections 101.6101-101.6107 may be cited as the "Mail Ballot Election Act."

History.—s. 1, ch. 87-364.

101.6102 Mail ballot elections; limitations.—

(1)(a) An election may be conducted by mail ballot if:

1. The election is a referendum election at which all or a portion of the qualified electors of one of the following subdivisions of government are the only electors eligible to vote:

a. Counties;

b. Cities;

c. School districts covering no more than one county; or

d. Special districts;

2. The governing body responsible for calling the election and the supervisor of elections responsible for the conduct of the election authorize the use of mail ballots for the election; and

3. The Secretary of State approves a written plan for the conduct of the election, which shall include a written timetable for the conduct of the election, submitted by the supervisor of elections.

(b) In addition, an annexation referendum which includes only qualified electors of one county may also be voted on by mail ballot election.

(2) The following elections may not be conducted by mail ballot:

(a) An election at which any candidate is nominated, elected, retained, or recalled; or

(b) An election held on the same date as another election, other than a mail ballot election, in which the qualified electors of that political subdivision are eligible to cast ballots.

(3) The supervisor of elections shall be responsible for the conduct of any election held under ss. 101.6101-101.6107.

(4) The costs of a mail ballot election shall be borne by the jurisdiction initiating the calling of the election, unless otherwise provided by law.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the use of a mail ballot election in a municipal annexation referendum requiring separate vote of the registered electors of the annexing municipality and of the area proposed to be annexed. If a mail ballot election is authorized for a municipal annexation referendum, the provisions of ss. 101.6101-101.6107 shall control over any conflicting provisions of s. 171.0413.

History.—s. 1, ch. 87-364; s. 1, ch. 89-52; s. 27, ch. 89-338; s. 18, ch. 90-315.

101.6103 Mail ballot election procedure.—

(1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (6), the supervisor of elections shall mail all official ballots with a secrecy envelope, a return mailing envelope, and instructions sufficient to describe the voting process to each elector entitled to vote in the election not sooner than the 20th day before the election and not later than the 10th day before the date of the election. All such ballots shall be mailed by first-class mail. Ballots shall be addressed to each elector at the address appearing in the registration records and placed in an envelope which is prominently marked "Do Not Forward."

(2) Upon receipt of the ballot the elector shall mark the ballot, place it in the secrecy envelope, sign the return mailing envelope supplied with the ballot, and comply with the instructions provided with the ballot. The elector shall mail, deliver, or have delivered the marked ballot so that it reaches the supervisor of elections no later than 7 p.m. on the day of the election. The ballot must be returned in the return mailing envelope.

(3) The return mailing envelope shall contain a statement in substantially the following form:

VOTER'S CERTIFICATE

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

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

(Signature)

(Residence Address)

(4) If the ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received by the elector, the elector may obtain a replacement ballot from the supervisor of elections as provided in this subsection. An elector seeking a replacement ballot shall sign a sworn statement that the ballot was destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received and present such statement to the supervisor of elections prior to 7 p.m. on the day of the election. The supervisor of elections shall keep a record of each replacement ballot provided under this subsection.

(5) A ballot shall be counted only if:

(a) It is returned in the 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 verify the signature of each elector on the return mailing envelope with the signature on the elector's registration records. Such verification may commence at any time 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.

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

History.—s. 1, ch. 87-364; s. 585, ch. 95-147.

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

History.—s. 1, ch. 87-364; s. 586, ch. 95-147.

101.6105 Absentee voting.—The provisions of the election code relating to absentee voting and absentee ballots shall apply to elections under ss. 101.6101-101.6107 only insofar as they do not conflict with the provisions of ss. 101.6101-101.6107.

History.—s. 1, ch. 87-364.

101.6106 Application of other election laws.—All laws that are applicable to general elections are applicable to mail ballot elections to the extent applicable.

History.—s. 1, ch. 87-364.

101.6107 Department of State to adopt rules.—The Department of State shall adopt rules governing the procedures and forms necessary to implement ss. 101.6101-101.6107.

History.—s. 1, ch. 87-364.

101.62 Request for absentee ballots.—

(1)(a) The supervisor may accept a request for an absentee ballot from an elector in person or in writing. One request shall be deemed sufficient to receive an absentee ballot for all elections which are held within a calendar year, unless the elector or the elector's designee indicates at the time the request is made the elections for which the elector desires to receive an absentee ballot. Such request may be considered canceled when any first-class mail sent by the supervisor to the elector is returned as undeliverable.

(b) The supervisor may accept a written or telephonic request for an absentee ballot from the elector, or, if directly instructed by the elector, a member of the elector's immediate family, or the elector's legal guardian. For purposes of this section, the term "immediate family" has the same meaning as specified in paragraph (4)(b). The person making the request must disclose:

1. The name of the elector for whom the ballot is requested;
2. The elector's address;
3. The elector's date of birth;
4. The requester's name;
5. The requester's address;

6. The requester's driver's license number, if available;

7. The requester's relationship to the elector; and
8. The requester's signature (written requests only).

(2) If a request for an absentee ballot is received after the Friday before the election by the supervisor of elections from an absent elector overseas, the supervisor shall send a notice to the elector acknowledging receipt of his or her request and notifying the elector that the ballot will not be forwarded due to insufficient time for return of the ballot by the required deadline.

(3) For each request for an absentee ballot received, the supervisor shall record the date the request was made, the date the absentee ballot was delivered or mailed, the date the ballot was received by the supervisor, and such other information he or she may deem necessary. This information shall be confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and shall be made available to or reproduced only for a canvassing board, an election official, a political party or official thereof, a candidate who has filed qualification papers and is opposed in an upcoming election, and registered political committees or registered committees of continuous existence, for political purposes only.

(4)(a) To each absent qualified elector overseas who has requested an absentee ballot, the supervisor of elections shall, not fewer than 35 days before the first primary election, mail an absentee ballot. Not fewer than 45 days before the second primary and general election, the supervisor of elections shall mail an advance absentee ballot to those persons requesting ballots for such elections. The advance absentee ballot for the second primary shall be the same as the first primary absentee ballot as to the names of candidates, except that for any offices where there are only two candidates, those offices and all political party executive committee offices shall be omitted. Except as provided in s. 99.063(4), the advance absentee ballot for the general election shall be as specified in s. 101.151, except that in the case of candidates of political parties where nominations were not made in the first primary, the names of the candidates placing first and second in the first primary election shall be printed on the advance absentee ballot. The advance absentee ballot or advance absentee ballot information booklet shall be of a different color for each election and also a different color from the absentee ballots for the first primary, second primary, and general election. The supervisor shall mail an advance absentee ballot for the second primary and general election to each qualified absent elector for whom a request is received until the absentee ballots are printed. The supervisor shall enclose with the advance second primary absentee ballot and advance general election absentee ballot an explanation stating that the absentee ballot for the election will be mailed as soon as it is printed; and, if both the advance absentee ballot and the absentee ballot for the election are returned in time to be counted, only the absentee ballot will be counted. The Department of State may prescribe by rule the requirements for preparing and mailing absentee ballots to absent qualified electors overseas.

(b) As soon as the remainder of the absentee ballots are printed, the supervisor shall provide an absentee ballot to each elector by whom a request for that ballot has been made by one of the following means:

1. By nonforwardable, return-if-undeliverable mail to the elector's current mailing address on file with the supervisor, unless the elector specifies in the request that:

a. The elector is absent from the county and does not plan to return before the day of the election;

b. The elector is temporarily unable to occupy the residence because of hurricane, tornado, flood, fire, or other emergency or natural disaster; or

c. The elector is in a hospital, assisted-living facility, nursing home, short-term medical or rehabilitation facility, or correctional facility,

in which case the supervisor shall mail the ballot by nonforwardable, return-if-undeliverable mail to any other address the elector specifies in the request.

2. By forwardable mail to voters who are entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Voting Act.

3. By personal delivery to the elector, upon presentation of the identification required in s. 101.657.

4. By delivery to a designee on election day or up to 4 days prior to the day of an election. Any elector may designate in writing a person to pick up the ballot for the elector; however, the person designated may not pick up more than two absentee ballots per election, other than the designee's own ballot, except that additional ballots may be picked up for members of the designee's immediate family. For purposes of this section, "immediate family" means the designee's spouse or the parent, child, grandparent, or sibling of the designee or of the designee's spouse. The designee shall provide to the supervisor the written authorization by the elector and a picture identification of the designee and must complete an affidavit. The designee shall state in the affidavit that the designee is authorized by the elector to pick up that ballot and shall indicate if the elector is a member of the designee's immediate family and, if so, the relationship. The department shall prescribe the form of the affidavit. If the supervisor is satisfied that the designee is authorized to pick up the ballot and that the signature of the elector on the written authorization matches the signature of the elector on file, the supervisor shall give the ballot to that designee for delivery to the elector.

(5) In the event that the Elections Canvassing Commission is unable to certify the results of an election for a state office in time to comply with subsection (4), the Department of State is authorized to prescribe rules for a ballot to be sent to absent electors overseas.

(6) Nothing other than the materials necessary to vote absentee shall be mailed or delivered with any absentee ballot.

History.—s. 2, ch. 7380, 1917; RGS 369; CGL 430; s. 1, ch. 25385, 1949; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 32, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 21, ch. 29934, 1955; s. 2, ch. 59-213; s. 32, ch. 65-380; s. 1, ch. 67-33; s. 2, ch. 69-136; s. 4, ch. 69-280; s. 2, ch. 70-93; ss. 1, 2, ch. 71-149; s. 5, ch. 73-157; s. 39, ch. 73-333; s. 2, ch. 75-174; s. 21, ch. 77-175; s. 40, ch. 79-400; s. 2, ch. 83-16; s. 6, ch. 83-251; s. 1, ch. 85-226; s. 4, ch. 86-199; s. 4, ch. 87-363; s. 2, ch. 87-538; s. 28, ch. 89-338; s. 20, ch. 90-360; s. 587, ch. 95-147; s. 3, ch. 96-57; s. 25, ch. 96-406; s. 13, ch. 98-129; s. 32, ch. 99-2; s. 6, ch. 99-140; s. 52, ch. 2001-40; s. 5, ch. 2001-75.

Note.—Former s. 101.02.

101.635 Distribution of blocks of printed ballots.—

In any county in which the supervisor of elections maintains deputies in a municipality other than the county seat and such municipality has a population in excess of 90,000, blocks of numbered ballots shall be made available as required and as the supervisor may direct, in order to comply with the provisions of s. 98.181. All ballots made available in any such municipality shall be fully accounted for to the supervisor.

History.—s. 22, ch. 77-175.

101.64 Delivery of absentee ballots; envelopes; form.—

(1) The supervisor shall enclose with each absentee ballot two envelopes: a secrecy envelope, into which the absent elector shall enclose his or her marked ballot; and a mailing envelope, into which the absent elector shall then place the secrecy envelope, which shall be addressed to the supervisor and also bear on the back side a certificate in substantially the following form:

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

VOTER'S CERTIFICATE

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

_____(Date)_____

_____(Voter's Signature)_____

Note: Your Signature Must Be Witnessed By One Witness 18 Years of Age or Older as provided in item 8 of the Instruction Sheet.

I swear or affirm that the voter signed this Voter's Certificate in my presence.

_____(Signature of Witness)_____

_____(Address)_____

_____(City/State)_____

(2) The certificate shall be arranged on the back of the mailing envelope so that the lines for the signatures of the absent elector and the attesting witness are across the seal of the envelope; however, no statement shall appear on the envelope which indicates that a signature of the voter or witness must cross the seal of the envelope. The absent elector and the attesting witness shall execute the certificate on the envelope.

History.—s. 4, ch. 7380, 1917; RGS 371; CGL 432; s. 1, ch. 25385, 1949; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 34, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 22, ch. 29934, 1955; s. 1, ch. 61-369; s. 33, ch. 65-380; s. 3, ch. 69-136; s. 5, ch. 69-280; s. 21, ch. 71-355; s. 1, ch. 73-105; s. 6, ch. 73-157; s. 39, ch. 73-333; s. 3, ch. 75-174; s. 23, ch. 77-175; s. 4, ch. 79-365; s. 1, ch. 81-106; s. 9, ch. 81-304; s. 10, ch. 82-143; s. 2, ch. 85-226; s. 1, ch. 86-33; s. 19, ch. 90-315; s. 588, ch. 95-147; s. 4, ch. 96-57; s. 14, ch. 98-129; s. 53, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 101.04.

101.65 Instructions to absent electors.—The supervisor shall enclose with each absentee ballot separate printed instructions in substantially the following form:

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE MARKING BALLOT.

1. **VERY IMPORTANT.** In order to ensure that your absentee ballot will be counted, it should be completed and returned as soon as possible so that it can reach the supervisor of elections of the county in which your precinct is located no later than 7 p.m. on the day of the election.

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

3. Place your marked ballot in the enclosed secrecy envelope.

4. Insert the secrecy envelope into the enclosed mailing envelope which is addressed to the supervisor.

5. Seal the mailing envelope and completely fill out the Voter's Certificate on the back of the mailing envelope.

6. **VERY IMPORTANT.** In order for your absentee ballot to be counted, you must sign your name on the line above (Voter's Signature).

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

8. **VERY IMPORTANT.** In order for your absentee ballot to be counted, it must include the signature and address of a witness 18 years of age or older affixed to the Voter's Certificate. No candidate may serve as an attesting witness.

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

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

History.—s. 5, ch. 7380, 1917; RGS 372; CGL 433; s. 1, ch. 25385, 1949; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 35, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 23, ch. 29934, 1955; s. 34, ch. 65-380; s. 4, ch. 71-149; s. 8, ch. 72-63; s. 2, ch. 73-105; s. 7, ch. 73-157; ss. 3, 4, ch. 75-174; s. 23, ch. 77-175; s. 2, ch. 81-106; s. 10, ch. 81-304; s. 11, ch. 82-143; s. 7, ch. 83-251; s. 3, ch. 85-226; s. 2, ch. 86-33; s. 589, ch. 95-147; s. 5, ch. 96-57; s. 16, ch. 98-129; s. 33, ch. 99-2; s. 54, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 101.05.

101.655 Supervised voting by absent electors in certain facilities.—

(1) The supervisor of elections of a county shall provide supervised voting for absent electors residing in any assisted living facility, as defined in s. 400.402, or nursing home facility, as defined in s. 400.021, within that county at the request of any administrator of such a facility. Such request for supervised voting in the facility shall be made by submitting a written request to the supervisor of elections no later than 21 days prior to the election for which that request is submitted. The request shall specify the name and address of the facil-

ity and the name of the electors who wish to vote absentee in that election. If the request contains the names of fewer than five voters, the supervisor of elections is not required to provide supervised voting.

(2) The supervisor of elections may, in the absence of a request from the administrator of a facility, provide for supervised voting in the facility for those persons who have requested absentee ballots. The supervisor of elections shall notify the administrator of the facility that supervised voting will occur.

(3) The supervisor of elections shall, in cooperation with the administrator of the facility, select a date and time when the supervised voting will occur.

(4) The supervisor of elections shall designate supervised voting teams to provide the services prescribed by this section. Each supervised voting team shall include at least two persons. Each supervised voting team must include representatives of more than one political party; however, in any primary election to nominate party nominees in which only one party has candidates appearing on the ballot, all supervised voting team members may be of that party. No candidate may provide supervised voting services.

(5) The supervised voting team shall deliver the ballots to the respective absent electors, and each member of the team shall jointly supervise the voting of the ballots. If any elector requests assistance in voting, the oath prescribed in s. 101.051 shall be completed and the elector may receive the assistance of two members of the supervised voting team or some other person of the elector's choice to assist the elector in casting the elector's ballot.

(6) Before providing assistance, the supervised voting team shall disclose to the elector that the ballot may be retained to vote at a later time and that the elector has the right to seek assistance in voting from some other person of the elector's choice without the presence of the supervised voting team.

(7) If any elector declines to vote a ballot or is unable to vote a ballot, the supervised voting team shall mark the ballot "refused to vote" or "unable to vote."

(8) After the ballots have been voted or marked in accordance with the provisions of this section, the supervised voting team shall deliver the ballots to the supervisor of elections, who shall retain them pursuant to s. 101.67.

History.—s. 6, ch. 96-57.

101.657 Voting absentee ballots in person.—

(1) Any qualified and registered elector may pick up and vote an absentee ballot in person at the office of, and under the supervision of, the supervisor of elections. Before receiving the ballot, the elector must present a Florida driver's license, a Florida identification card issued under s. 322.051, or another form of picture identification approved by the Department of State. If the elector fails to furnish the required identification, or if the supervisor is in doubt as to the identity of the elector, the supervisor must follow the procedure prescribed in s. 101.49.

(2) As an alternative to the provisions of ss. 101.64 and 101.65, the supervisor of elections may allow an elector to cast an absentee ballot in the main or branch

office of the supervisor by depositing the voted ballot in a voting device used by the supervisor to collect or tabulate ballots. The results or tabulation may not be made before the close of the polls on election day.

(a) The elector must provide picture identification and must complete an In-Office Voter Certificate in substantially the following form:

IN-OFFICE VOTER CERTIFICATE

I, _____, am a qualified elector in this election and registered voter of _____ County, Florida. I do solemnly swear or affirm that I am the person so listed on the voter registration rolls of _____ County and that I reside at the listed address. I understand that if I commit or attempt to commit fraud in connection with voting, vote a fraudulent ballot, or vote more than once in an election I could be convicted of a felony of the third degree and both fined up to \$5,000 and imprisoned for up to 5 years. I understand that my failure to sign this certificate and have my signature witnessed invalidates my ballot.

(Voter's Signature)

(Address)

(City/State)

(Name of Witness)

(Signature of Witness)

(Type of identification provided)

(b) Any elector may challenge an elector seeking to cast an absentee ballot under the provisions of s. 101.111. Any challenged ballot must be placed in a regular absentee ballot envelope. The canvassing board shall review the ballot and decide the validity of the ballot by majority vote.

(c) The canvass of returns for ballots cast under this subsection shall be substantially the same as votes cast by electors in precincts, as provided in s. 101.5614.

*History.—*s. 17, ch. 98-129; s. 2, ch. 2000-249; s. 55, ch. 2001-40.

101.661 Voting absentee ballots.—All electors must personally mark or designate their choices on the absentee ballot, except:

(1) Electors who require assistance to vote because of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write, who may have some person of the elector's choice, other than the elector's employer, an agent of the employer, or an officer or agent of the elector's union, mark the elector's choices or assist the elector in marking his or her choices on the ballot.

(2) As otherwise provided in s. 101.051 or s. 101.655.

*History.—*s. 18, ch. 98-129.

101.663 Electors; change of residence.—

(1) An elector who changes his or her residence to another county in Florida from the county in Florida in which he or she is registered as an elector after the

books in the county to which the elector has changed his or her residence are closed for any general, primary, or special election shall be permitted to vote absentee in the county of his or her former residence in that election for President and Vice President, United States Senator, statewide offices, and statewide issues. Such person shall not be permitted to vote in the county of the person's former residence after the general election.

(2) An elector registered in this state who moves his or her permanent residence to another state and who is prohibited by the laws of that state from voting for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States shall be permitted to vote absentee in the county of his or her former residence for those offices.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 69-136; s. 11, ch. 69-280; s. 4, ch. 73-157; s. 31, ch. 73-333; s. 3, ch. 77-175; s. 1, ch. 79-365; s. 22, ch. 94-224; s. 1392, ch. 95-147.
*Note.—*Former s. 97.102.

101.665 Administration of oaths; military personnel, federal employees, and other absentee registrants.—For the purposes of this code, oaths may be administered and attested by any commissioned officer in the active service of the Armed Forces, any member of the Merchant Marine of the United States designated for this purpose by the Secretary of Commerce, any civilian official empowered by state or federal law to administer oaths, any supervisor of elections, deputy supervisor of elections, or employee of the supervisor of elections when designated by the supervisor of elections, or any civilian employee designated by the head of any department or agency of the United States, except when this code requires an oath to be administered and attested by another official specifically named.

*History.—*s. 6, ch. 29904, 1955; s. 42, ch. 65-380; s. 4, ch. 72-63; s. 3, ch. 77-175; s. 17, ch. 94-224; s. 19, ch. 98-129.
*Note.—*Former s. 101.695; s. 97.065.

101.67 Safekeeping of mailed ballots; deadline for receiving absentee ballots.—

(1) The supervisor of elections shall safely keep in his or her office any envelopes received containing marked ballots of absent electors, and he or she shall, before the canvassing of the election returns, deliver the envelopes to the county canvassing board along with his or her file or list kept regarding said ballots.

(2) All marked absent electors' ballots to be counted must be received by the supervisor by 7 p.m. the day of the election. All ballots received thereafter shall be marked with the time and date of receipt and filed in the supervisor's office.

*History.—*s. 2, ch. 11824, 1927; CGL 436; s. 1, ch. 25385, 1949; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 24, ch. 29934, 1955; s. 24, ch. 57-1; s. 35, ch. 65-380; s. 5, ch. 71-149; s. 23, ch. 77-175; s. 590, ch. 95-147.

*Note.—*Former s. 101.07.

101.68 Canvassing of absentee ballot.—

(1) The supervisor of the county where the absent elector resides shall receive the voted ballot, at which time the supervisor may compare the signature of the elector on the voter's certificate with the signature of the elector in the registration books to determine whether the elector is duly registered in the county and may record on the elector's registration certificate that the elector has voted. The supervisor shall safely keep

the ballot unopened in his or her office until the county canvassing board canvasses the vote.

(2)(a) The county canvassing board may begin the canvassing of absentee ballots at 7 a.m. on the fourth day before the election, but not later than noon on the day following the election. In addition, for any county using electronic tabulating equipment, the processing of absentee ballots through such tabulating equipment may begin at 7 a.m. on the fourth day before the election. However, notwithstanding any such authorization to begin canvassing or otherwise processing absentee ballots early, no result shall be released until after the closing of the polls on election day. Any supervisor of elections, deputy supervisor of elections, canvassing board member, election board member, or election employee who releases the results of a canvassing or processing of absentee ballots prior to the closing of the polls on election day commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(b) To ensure that all absentee ballots to be counted by the canvassing board are accounted for, the canvassing board shall compare the number of ballots in its possession with the number of requests for ballots received to be counted according to the supervisor's file or list.

(c)1. The canvassing board shall, if the supervisor has not already done so, compare the signature of the elector on the voter's certificate with the signature of the elector in the registration books to see that the elector is duly registered in the county and to determine the legality of that absentee ballot. An absentee ballot shall be considered illegal if it does not include the signature of the elector, as shown by the registration records, and the signature and address of an attesting witness. However, an absentee ballot shall not be considered illegal if the signature of the elector or attesting witness does not cross the seal of the mailing envelope. If the canvassing board determines that any ballot is illegal, a member of the board shall, without opening the envelope, mark across the face of the envelope: "rejected as illegal." The envelope and the ballot contained therein shall be preserved in the manner that official ballots voted are preserved.

2. If any elector or candidate present believes that an absentee ballot is illegal due to a defect apparent on the voter's certificate, he or she may, at any time before the ballot is removed from the envelope, file with the canvassing board a protest against the canvass of that ballot, specifying the precinct, the ballot, and the reason he or she believes the ballot to be illegal. A challenge based upon a defect in the voter's certificate may not be accepted after the ballot has been removed from the mailing envelope.

(d) The canvassing board shall record the ballot upon the proper record, unless the ballot has been previously recorded by the supervisor. The mailing envelopes shall be opened and the secrecy envelopes shall be mixed so as to make it impossible to determine which secrecy envelope came out of which signed mailing envelope; however, in any county in which an electronic or electromechanical voting system is used, the ballots may be sorted by ballot styles and the mailing

envelopes may be opened and the secrecy envelopes mixed separately for each ballot style. The votes on absentee ballots shall be included in the total vote of the county.

(3) The supervisor or the chair of the county canvassing board shall, after the board convenes, have custody of the absentee ballots until a final proclamation is made as to the total vote received by each candidate.

(4) The supervisor of elections shall, on behalf of the county canvassing board, notify each elector whose ballot was rejected as illegal because of a difference between the elector's signature on the ballot and that on the elector's voter registration record. The supervisor shall mail a voter registration application to the elector to be completed indicating the elector's current signature. This section does not prohibit the supervisor from providing additional methods for updating an elector's signature.

*History.—*s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 37, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 36, ch. 65-380; s. 6, ch. 69-280; s. 3, ch. 75-174; s. 23, ch. 77-175; s. 41, ch. 79-400; s. 3, ch. 86-33; s. 591, ch. 95-147; s. 7, ch. 96-57; s. 20, ch. 98-129; s. 56, ch. 2001-40.

101.69 Voting in person; return of absentee ballot.

The provisions of this code shall not be construed to prohibit any elector from voting in person at the elector's precinct on the day of an election notwithstanding that the elector has requested an absentee ballot for that election. An elector who has received an absentee ballot, but desires to vote in person, shall return the ballot, whether voted or not, to the election board in the elector's precinct. The returned ballot shall be marked "canceled" by the board and placed with other canceled ballots. However, if the elector is unable to return the ballot, the elector may vote a provisional ballot as provided in s. 101.048.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 22014, 1943; s. 1, ch. 25385, 1949; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 37, ch. 65-380; s. 23, ch. 77-175; s. 592, ch. 95-147; s. 8, ch. 96-57; s. 38, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—*Former s. 101.11.

101.694 Mailing of ballots upon receipt of federal postcard application.—

(1) Upon receipt of a federal postcard application for an absentee ballot executed by a person whose registration is in order or whose application is sufficient to register or update the registration of that person, the supervisor shall mail to the applicant a ballot, if the ballots are available for mailing.

(2) Upon receipt of a federal postcard application for an absentee ballot executed by a person whose registration is not in order and whose application is insufficient to register or update the registration of that person, the supervisor shall follow the procedure set forth in s. 97.073.

(3) There shall be printed across the face of each envelope in which a ballot is sent to a federal postcard applicant, or is returned by such applicant to the supervisor, two parallel horizontal red bars, each one-quarter inch wide, extending from one side of the envelope to the other side, with an intervening space of one-quarter inch, the top bar to be 1¼ inches from the top of the envelope, and with the words "Official Election Balloting Material-via Air Mail," or similar language, between the bars. There shall be printed in the upper right corner

of each such envelope, in a box, the words "Free of U. S. Postage, including Air Mail." All printing on the face of each envelope shall be in red, and there shall be printed in red in the upper left corner of each ballot envelope an appropriate inscription or blanks for return address of sender. Additional specifications may be prescribed by rule of the Division of Elections upon recommendation of the presidential designee under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. Otherwise, the envelopes shall be the same as those used in sending ballots to, or receiving them from, other absentee voters.

(4) Cognizance shall be taken of the fact that absentee ballots and other materials such as instructions and envelopes are to be carried via air mail, and, to the maximum extent possible, such ballots and materials shall be reduced in size and weight of paper. The same ballot shall be used, however, as is used by other absentee voters.

History.—s. 5, ch. 29904, 1955; ss. 4, 5, ch. 59-217; s. 41, ch. 65-380; s. 12, ch. 69-280; s. 23, ch. 77-175; s. 20, ch. 81-304; s. 37, ch. 94-224; s. 9, ch. 96-57.

101.6951 State write-in ballot.—

(1) An overseas voter may request, not earlier than 180 days before a general election, a state write-in absentee ballot from the supervisor of elections in the county of registration. In order to receive a state write-in ballot, the voter shall state that due to military or other contingencies that preclude normal mail delivery, the voter cannot vote an absentee ballot during the normal absentee voting period. State write-in absentee ballots shall be made available to voters 90 to 180 days prior to a general election. The Department of State shall prescribe by rule the form of the state write-in ballot.

(2) In completing the ballot, the overseas voter may designate his or her choice by writing in the name of the candidate or by writing in the name of a political party, in which case the ballot must be counted for the candidate of that political party, if there is such a party candidate on the ballot.

(3) Any abbreviation, misspelling, or other minor variation in the form of the name of a candidate or a political party must be disregarded in determining the validity of the ballot if there is a clear indication on the ballot that the voter has made a definite choice.

(4) The state write-in ballot shall contain all offices, federal, state, and local, for which the voter would otherwise be entitled to vote.

History.—s. 48, ch. 2001-40.

101.6952 Absentee ballots for overseas voters.—

(1) If an overseas voter's request for an absentee ballot includes an e-mail address, the supervisor of elections shall inform the voter of the names of candidates who will be on the ballots via electronic transmission. The supervisor of elections shall e-mail to the voter the list of candidates for the primary and general election not later than 30 days before each election.

(2) For absentee ballots received from overseas voters, there is a presumption that the envelope was mailed on the date stated and witnessed on the outside of the return envelope, regardless of the absence of a postmark on the mailed envelope or the existence of a postmark date that is later than the date of the election.

History.—s. 49, ch. 2001-40.

101.697 Electronic transmission of election materials.—The Department of State shall adopt rules to authorize a supervisor of elections to accept a request for an absentee ballot and a voted absentee ballot by facsimile machine or other electronic means from overseas voters. The rules must provide that in order to accept a voted ballot, the verification of the voter must be established, the security of the transmission must be established, and each ballot received must be recorded.

History.—s. 50, ch. 2001-40.

101.698 Absentee voting in emergency situations.

If a national or local emergency or other situation arises which makes substantial compliance with the provisions of state or federal law relating to the methods of voting for overseas voters impossible or unreasonable, such as an armed conflict involving United States Armed Forces or mobilization of those forces, including state National Guard and reserve components, the Elections Canvassing Commission may adopt by emergency rules such special procedures or requirements necessary to facilitate absentee voting by those persons directly affected who are otherwise eligible to vote in the election.

History.—s. 51, ch. 2001-40.

101.71 Polling place.—

(1) There shall be in each precinct in each county one polling place which shall be accessible to the public on election day and is managed by a board of inspectors and clerk of election. Only one elector shall be allowed to enter any voting booth at a time; no one except inspectors shall be allowed to speak to the elector while casting his or her vote; and no inspector shall speak to or interfere with the elector concerning his or her voting, except to perform the duties as such inspector. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, this section shall be applicable where the computer method of voting is in use, and adequate provision shall be made for the privacy of the elector while casting his or her vote.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), whenever the supervisor of elections of any county determines that the accommodations for holding any election at a polling place designated for any precinct in the county are unavailable or are inadequate for the expeditious and efficient housing and handling of voting and voting paraphernalia, including voting machines where used, the supervisor may provide, not less than 30 days prior to the holding of an election, that the voting place for such precinct shall be moved to another site which shall be accessible to the public on election day in said precinct or, if such is not available, to another site which shall be accessible to the public on election day in a contiguous precinct. If such action of the supervisor results in the voting place for two or more precincts being located for the purposes of an election in one building, the voting places for the several precincts involved shall be established and maintained separate from each other in said building. When any supervisor moves any polling place pursuant to this subsection, the supervisor shall, not more than 30 days or fewer than 7 days prior to the holding of an election,

give notice of the change of the polling place for the precinct involved, with clear description of the voting place to which changed, at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in said county. A notice of the change of the polling place involved shall be mailed, at least 14 days prior to an election, to each registered elector or to each household in which there is a registered elector.

(3) In cases of emergency and when time does not permit compliance with subsection (2), the supervisor of elections shall designate a new polling place which shall be accessible to the public on election day and shall cause a notice to be posted at the old polling place advising the electors of the location of the new polling place.

(4) Each polling place shall be conspicuously identified by a sign, on or near the premises of the polling place, designating the polling place by precinct number. Such sign shall be large enough to be clearly visible to occupants of passing vehicular traffic on roadways contiguous to the polling place, with letters no smaller than 3 inches high, and shall be displayed at all times while the polls are open on any election day.

(5) Public, tax-supported buildings shall be made available for use as polling places upon the request of the supervisor of elections.

*History.—*s. 22, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 176; s. 26, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 1, ch. 4699, 1899; GS 208; RGS 252; CGL 308; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 57-385; s. 3, ch. 67-530; s. 4, ch. 69-281; s. 23, ch. 77-175; s. 4, ch. 78-188; s. 2, ch. 80-189; s. 12, ch. 80-292; s. 1, ch. 85-38; s. 593, ch. 95-147; s. 25, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—*Section 25, ch. 2001-40, amended subsection (2), effective September 2, 2002, to read:

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), whenever the supervisor of elections of any county determines that the accommodations for holding any election at a polling place designated for any precinct in the county are unavailable or are inadequate for the expeditious and efficient housing and handling of voting and voting paraphernalia, the supervisor may provide, not less than 30 days prior to the holding of an election, that the voting place for such precinct shall be moved to another site which shall be accessible to the public on election day in said precinct or, if such is not available, to another site which shall be accessible to the public on election day in a contiguous precinct. If such action of the supervisor results in the voting place for two or more precincts being located for the purposes of an election in one building, the voting places for the several precincts involved shall be established and maintained separate from each other in said building. When any supervisor moves any polling place pursuant to this subsection, the supervisor shall, not more than 30 days or fewer than 7 days prior to the holding of an election, give notice of the change of the polling place for the precinct involved, with clear description of the voting place to which changed, at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in said county. A notice of the change of the polling place involved shall be mailed, at least 14 days prior to an election, to each registered elector or to each household in which there is a registered elector.

*Note.—*Former s. 99.06.

101.715 Accessibility of polling places to the elderly and physically handicapped.—

(1) Each polling place shall be accessible to, and usable by, elderly persons and by physically handicapped persons by complying, when necessary, with the following standards of accessibility:

(a) Doors, entrances, and exits used to gain access to, or egress from, the polling place shall have a minimum width of 29 inches.

(b) Any curb adjacent to the main entrance to a polling place shall have curb cuts or temporary ramps.

(c) Any stairs necessarily used to enter the polling place shall have a temporary handrail and ramp.

(d) At the polling place, no barrier shall impede the path of the physically handicapped to the voting booth.

(2) Polling places which are of a temporary nature are exempt from compliance with s. 255.21.

(3) Each supervisor of elections shall only select as polling places, sites which meet the standards of accessibility prescribed in subsection (1), except that the supervisor may select a site not meeting the standards if:

(a) No acceptable and accessible site exists within the precinct or other designated voting area; and

(b) It is anticipated that the site will be brought into compliance with such standards in the foreseeable future, or the site will be temporarily made to comply with the standards for the time during which the polls are open.

(4) Any supervisor of elections who selects as a polling place a site which does not meet the standards prescribed in subsection (1) shall report such selection to the board of county commissioners. The report shall expressly state that the supervisor has determined that such polling place can be made accessible to, and usable by, elderly persons and by physically handicapped persons in the foreseeable future by affirmative governmental action.

(5) Each board of county commissioners which receives a report from a supervisor pursuant to subsection (4) shall take affirmative action to bring the selected polling place into compliance with the standards prescribed in subsection (1).

(6) Each district school board and each municipality shall cooperate with the board of county commissioners in its respective county in implementing the provisions of this section.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 76-50.

101.72 Booths.—

(1) In any county in which voting booths or compartments are used, the supervisor of elections shall provide at least one voting booth or compartment for each 125 registered electors in the county. The supervisor of elections shall determine the actual number of booths or compartments to be used in each precinct at each election. In determining the number of booths or compartments to be used in each precinct, the supervisor shall take into consideration the traditional voting patterns of such precinct and shall furnish the number of booths or compartments necessary to handle efficiently the number of anticipated electors in the precinct. Each booth or compartment shall be furnished with a shelf or table for the convenience of electors in preparing their ballots and shall be so arranged that it will be impossible for one elector in one compartment to see an elector in another in the act of marking his or her ballot. Each voting table or shelf shall be kept supplied with conveniences for marking the ballots.

(2) If a county utilizes a voting system which does not require the use of a voting booth or compartment as an integral part of voting, the minimum number of booths or compartments need not be provided.

*History.—*s. 38, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 7, ch. 4329, 1895; GS 223; RGS 268; CGL 324; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 23, ch. 77-175; s. 13, ch. 81-304; s. 1, ch. 90-145; s. 594, ch. 85-147.

*Note.—*Former s. 99.22.

101.731 Short title.—Sections 101.731-101.74 may be cited as the "Elections Emergency Act."

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 92-16.

101.732 Definitions relating to Elections Emergency Act.—As used in ss. 101.731-101.74:

- (1) "Department" means the Department of State.
- (2) "Division" means the Division of Elections of the Department of State.
- (3) "Emergency" means any occurrence, or threat thereof, whether accidental, natural, or caused by human beings, in war or in peace, that results or may result in substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage to or loss of property to the extent it will prohibit an election officer's ability to conduct a safe and orderly election.

History.—s. 2, ch. 92-16; s. 595, ch. 95-147.

101.733 Election emergency; purpose; elections emergency contingency plan.—Because of the existing and continuing possibility of an emergency or common disaster occurring before or during a regularly scheduled or special election, and in order to ensure maximum citizen participation in the electoral process and provide a safe and orderly procedure for persons seeking to exercise their right to vote, generally to minimize to whatever degree possible a person's exposure to danger during declared states of emergency, and to protect the integrity of the electoral process, it is hereby found and declared to be necessary to designate a procedure for the emergency suspension or delay and rescheduling of elections.

(1) The Governor may, upon issuance of an executive order declaring a state of emergency or impending emergency, suspend or delay any election. The Governor may take such action independently or at the request of the Secretary of State, a supervisor of elections from a county affected by the emergency circumstances, or a municipal clerk from a municipality affected by the emergency circumstances.

(2) The Governor, upon consultation with the Secretary of State, shall reschedule any election suspended or delayed due to an emergency. The election shall be held within 10 days after the date of the suspended or delayed election or as soon thereafter as is practicable. Notice of the election shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected area and, where practicable, broadcast as a public service announcement on radio and television stations at least 1 week prior to the date the election is to be held.

(3) The Division of Elections of the Department of State shall adopt, by rule, an elections emergency contingency plan, which shall contain goals and policies that give specific direction to state and local elections

officials when an election has been suspended or delayed due to an emergency. The contingency plan shall be statewide in scope and shall address, but not be limited to, the following concerns:

(a) Providing a procedure for state and local elections officials to follow when an election has been suspended or delayed to ensure notice of the suspension or delay to the proper authorities, the electorate, the communications media, poll workers, and the custodians of polling places.

(b) Providing a procedure for the orderly conduct of a rescheduled election, whether municipal, county, district, or statewide in scope; coordinating those efforts with the appropriate elections official, and the members of the governing body holding such election, if appropriate; and working with the appropriate emergency management officials in determining the safety of existing polling places or designating additional polling places.

(c) Providing a procedure for the release and certification of election returns to the department for elections suspended or delayed and subsequently rescheduled under the provisions of ss. 101.731-101.74.

History.—s. 3, ch. 92-16.

101.74 Temporary change of polling place in case of emergency.—In case of an emergency existing in any precinct at the time of the holding of any election, the supervisor of elections may establish, at any safe and convenient point outside such precinct, an additional polling place for the electors of that precinct, in which place the qualified electors may vote. The registration books of the affected precinct shall be applicable to, and shall be used at, the polling place so established.

History.—s. 39, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 193; s. 70, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 254; RGS 298; CGL 354; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 44, ch. 65-380; s. 23, ch. 77-175; s. 2, ch. 83-334; s. 4, ch. 92-16.

Note.—Former s. 99.55.

101.75 Municipal elections; change of dates for cause.—

(1) In any municipality, when the date of the municipal election falls on the same date as any statewide or county election and the voting devices of the voting system used in the county are not available for both elections, the municipality may provide that the municipal election may be held within 30 days prior to or subsequent to the statewide or county election.

(2) The date of the municipal election shall be set by the municipality by ordinance.

History.—ss. 1, 2, ch. 59-493; s. 1, ch. 76-68; s. 24, ch. 77-175; s. 5, ch. 92-16; s. 26, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 104.451.

CHAPTER 102

CONDUCTING ELECTIONS AND ASCERTAINING THE RESULTS

- 102.012 Inspectors and clerks to conduct elections.
 102.014 Poll worker recruitment and training.
 102.021 Compensation of inspectors, clerks, and deputy sheriffs.
 102.031 Maintenance of good order at polls; authorities; persons allowed in polling rooms; unlawful solicitation of voters.
 102.061 Duties of election board; counting; closing polls.
 102.071 Tabulation of votes and proclamation of results where ballots are used.
 102.091 Duty of sheriff to watch for violations; appointment of special officers.
 102.101 Sheriff and other officers not allowed in polling place.
 102.111 Elections Canvassing Commission.
 102.112 Deadline for submission of county returns to the Department of State.
 102.121 Elections Canvassing Commission to issue certificates.
 102.131 Returns before canvassing commission.
 102.141 County canvassing board; duties.
 102.151 County canvassing board to issue certificates; supervisor to give notice to Department of State.
 102.155 Certificate of election.
 102.166 Manual recounts.
 102.168 Contest of election.
 102.1682 Judgment of ouster; revocation of commission; judgment setting aside referendum.
 102.1685 Venue.
 102.169 Quo warranto not abridged.
 102.171 Contest of election to Legislature.

102.012 Inspectors and clerks to conduct elections.—

(1) The supervisor of elections of each county, at least 20 days prior to the holding of any election, shall appoint two election boards for each precinct in the county; however, the supervisor of elections may, in any election, appoint one election board if the supervisor has reason to believe that only one is necessary. The clerk shall be in charge of, and responsible for, seeing that the election board carries out its duties and responsibilities. Each inspector and each clerk shall take and subscribe to an oath or affirmation, which shall be written or printed, to the effect that he or she will perform the duties of inspector or clerk of election, respectively, according to law and will endeavor to prevent all fraud, deceit, or abuse in conducting the election. The oath may be taken before an officer authorized to administer oaths or before any of the persons who are to act as inspectors, one of them to swear the others, and one of the others sworn thus, in turn, to administer the oath to the one who has not been sworn. The oaths shall be returned with the poll list and the returns of the election to the supervisor. In all questions that may arise before the members of an election board, the decision of a majority of them shall decide the question.

The supervisor of elections of each county shall be responsible for the attendance and diligent performance of his or her duties by each clerk and inspector.

(2) Each member of the election board shall be able to read and write the English language and shall be a registered qualified elector of the county in which the member is appointed or a person who has preregistered to vote, pursuant to s. 97.041(1)(b), in the county in which the member is appointed. No election board shall be composed solely of members of one political party; however, in any primary in which only one party has candidates appearing on the ballot, all clerks and inspectors may be of that party. Any person whose name appears as an opposed candidate for any office shall not be eligible to serve on an election board.

(3) The supervisor shall furnish inspectors of election for each precinct with the registration books divided alphabetically as will best facilitate the holding of an election. The supervisor shall also furnish to the inspectors of election at the polling place at each precinct in the supervisor's county a sufficient number of forms and blanks for use on election day.

(4) An election board shall conduct the voting, beginning and closing at the time set forth in s. 100.011. If more than one board has been appointed, the second board shall, upon the closing of the polls, come on duty and count the votes cast. In such case, the first board shall turn over to the second board all closed ballot boxes, registration books, and other records of the election at the time the boards change. The second board shall continue counting until the count is complete or until 7 a.m. the next morning, and, if the count is not completed at that time, the first board that conducted the election shall again report for duty and complete the count. The second board shall turn over to the first board all ballots counted, all ballots not counted, and all registration books and other records and shall advise the first board as to what has transpired in tabulating the results of the election.

(5) In precincts in which there are more than 1,000 registered electors, the supervisor of elections shall appoint additional election boards necessary for the election.

(6) In any precinct in which there are fewer than 300 registered electors, it is not necessary to appoint two election boards, but one such board will suffice. Such board shall be composed of at least one inspector and one clerk.

(7) For any precinct using voting machines, there shall be one election board appointed, plus an additional inspector for each machine in excess of one; however, the supervisor of elections may appoint a greater number of additional inspectors than required by this subsection.

*History.—*s. 20, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 174; s. 24, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 8, ch. 4537, 1897; GS 205; RGS 249; s. 1, ch. 8587, 1921; CGL 305; s. 2, ch. 17898, 1937; s. 2, ch. 25384, 1949; s. 6, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 38, ch. 28158, 1953; s. 25, ch. 29934, 1955; s. 10, ch. 57-166; s. 1, ch. 63-53; s. 1, ch. 65-418; s. 1, ch. 67-168; s. 1, ch. 67-385; s. 1, ch. 73-151; s. 25, ch. 77-175; s. 43, ch. 79-400; s. 1, ch. 80-264; s. 50, ch. 81-259; s. 19, ch. 84-302; s. 1, ch. 89-46; s. 596, ch. 95-147; s. 22, ch. 98-129; s. 3, ch. 2000-249; ss. 27, 65, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—*Section 27, ch. 2001-40, deleted subsection (7) and amended subsection (4), effective September 2, 2002, to read:

(4)(a) The election board of each precinct shall attend the polling place by 6 a.m. of the day of the election and shall arrange the furniture, stationery, and voting equipment.

(b) An election board shall conduct the voting, beginning and closing at the time set forth in s. 100.011. If more than one board has been appointed, the second board shall, upon the closing of the polls, come on duty and count the votes cast. In such case, the first board shall turn over to the second board all closed ballot boxes, registration books, and other records of the election at the time the boards change. The second board shall continue counting until the count is complete or until 7 a.m. the next morning, and, if the count is not completed at that time, the first board that conducted the election shall again report for duty and complete the count. The second board shall turn over to the first board all ballots counted, all ballots not counted, and all registration books and other records and shall advise the first board as to what has transpired in tabulating the results of the election.

Note.—Former s. 99.03.

102.014 Poll worker recruitment and training.—

(1) The supervisor of elections shall conduct training for inspectors, clerks, and deputy sheriffs prior to each primary, general, and special election for the purpose of instructing such persons in their duties and responsibilities as election officials. A certificate may be issued by the supervisor of elections to each person completing such training. No person shall serve as an inspector, clerk, or deputy sheriff for an election unless such person has completed the training as required. A clerk may not work at the polls unless he or she demonstrates a working knowledge of the laws and procedures relating to voter registration, voting system operation, balloting and polling place procedures, and problem-solving and conflict-resolution skills.

(2) A person who has attended previous training conducted within 2 years before the election may be appointed by the supervisor to fill a vacancy on election day. If no person with prior training is available to fill such vacancy, the supervisor of elections may fill such vacancy in accordance with the provisions of subsection (3) from among persons who have not received the training required by this section.

(3) In the case of absence or refusal to act on the part of any inspector or clerk at any precinct on the day of an election, the supervisor shall appoint a replacement who meets the qualifications prescribed in s. 102.012(2). The inspector or clerk so appointed shall be a member of the same political party as the clerk or inspector whom he or she replaces.

(4) Each supervisor of elections shall be responsible for training inspectors and clerks, subject to the following minimum requirements:

(a) No clerk shall be entitled to work at the polls unless he or she has had a minimum of 6 hours of training during a general election year, at least 2 hours of which must occur after June 1 of that year.

(b) No inspector shall work at the polls unless he or she has had a minimum of 3 hours of training during a general election year, at least 1 hour of which must occur after June 1 of that year.

(5) The Department of State shall create a uniform polling place procedures manual and adopt the manual by rule. Each supervisor of elections shall ensure that the manual is available in hard copy or electronic form in every precinct in the supervisor's jurisdiction on election day. The manual shall guide inspectors, clerks, and deputy sheriffs in the proper implementation of election procedures and laws. The manual shall be indexed by subject, and written in plain, clear, unambiguous language. The manual shall provide specific examples of

common problems encountered at the polls on election day, and detail specific procedures for resolving those problems. The manual shall include, without limitation:

- (a) Regulations governing solicitation by individuals and groups at the polling place;
- (b) Procedures to be followed with respect to voters whose names are not on the precinct register;
- (c) Proper operation of the voting system;
- (d) Ballot handling procedures;
- (e) Procedures governing spoiled ballots;
- (f) Procedures to be followed after the polls close;
- (g) Rights of voters at the polls;
- (h) Procedures for handling emergency situations;
- (i) Procedures for dealing with irate voters;
- (j) The handling and processing of provisional ballots; and
- (k) Security procedures.

The Department of State shall revise the manual as necessary to address new procedures in law or problems encountered by voters and poll workers at the precincts.

(6) Supervisors of elections shall work with the business and local community to develop public-private programs to ensure the recruitment of skilled inspectors and clerks.

History.—s. 64, ch. 2001-40.

102.021 Compensation of inspectors, clerks, and deputy sheriffs.—

(1) Each inspector and each clerk of any election and each deputy sheriff serving at a precinct shall be paid for his or her services by the supervisor of elections, and each inspector who delivers the returns to the county seat shall receive such sums as the supervisor of elections shall determine.

(2) Inspectors and clerks of election and deputy sheriffs serving at the precincts may receive compensation and travel expenses, as provided in s. 112.061, for attending the poll worker training required by s. 102.014.

History.—s. 24, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 8, ch. 4537, 1897; GS 206; RGS 250; CGL 306; ss. 1, 2, ch. 20448, 1941; s. 3, ch. 25384, 1949; s. 6, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 5, ch. 63-400; s. 1, ch. 85-128; s. 25, ch. 77-175; s. 5, ch. 80-20; s. 597, ch. 95-147; s. 4, ch. 2000-249; s. 66, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 99.04.

102.031 Maintenance of good order at polls; authorities; persons allowed in polling rooms; unlawful solicitation of voters.—

(1) Each election board shall possess full authority to maintain order at the polls and enforce obedience to its lawful commands during an election and the canvass of the votes.

(2) The sheriff shall deputize a deputy sheriff for each polling place who shall be present during the time the polls are open and until the election is completed, who shall be subject to all lawful commands of the clerk or inspectors, and who shall maintain good order. The deputy may summon assistance from among bystanders to aid him or her when necessary to maintain peace and order at the polls.

(3)(a) No person may enter any polling room or polling place where the polling place is also a polling room, during voting hours except the following:

1. Official poll watchers;
2. Inspectors;
3. Election clerks;
4. The supervisor of elections or his or her deputy;
5. Persons there to vote, persons in the care of a voter, or persons caring for such voter;
6. Law enforcement officers or emergency service personnel there with permission of the clerk or a majority of the inspectors; or
7. A person, whether or not a registered voter, who is assisting with or participating in a simulated election for minors, as approved by the supervisor of elections.

(b) The restriction in this subsection does not apply where the polling room is in an area commonly traversed by the public in order to gain access to businesses or homes or in an area traditionally utilized as a public area for discussion.

(c) No person, political committee, committee of continuous existence, or other group or organization may solicit voters within 50 feet of the entrance to any polling place, or polling room where the polling place is also a polling room, on the day of any election.

1. Solicitation shall not be restricted if:

- a. Conducted from a separately marked area within the 50-foot zone so as not to disturb, hinder, impede, obstruct, or interfere with voter access to the polling place or polling room entrance; and

- b. The solicitation activities and subject matter are clearly and easily identifiable by the voters as an activity in which they may voluntarily participate; or

- c. Conducted on property within the 50-foot zone which is a residence, established business, private property, sidewalk, park, or property traditionally utilized as a public area for discussion.

2. Solicitation shall not be permitted within the 50-foot zone on a public sidewalk or other similar means of access to the polling room if it is clearly identifiable to the poll workers that the solicitation is impeding, obstructing, or interfering with voter access to the polling room or polling place.

(d) For the purpose of this subsection, the term "solicit" shall include, but not be limited to, seeking or attempting to seek any vote, fact, opinion, or contribution; distributing or attempting to distribute any political or campaign material, leaflet, or handout; conducting a poll; seeking or attempting to seek a signature on any petition; and selling or attempting to sell any item.

(e) Each supervisor of elections shall inform the clerk of each precinct of the area within which soliciting is unlawful, based on the particular characteristics of that polling place. The supervisor or the clerk may take any reasonable action necessary to ensure order at the polling places which shall include:

1. Designating a specific area for soliciting pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection, or

2. Having disruptive and unruly persons removed by law enforcement officers from the polling room or place or from the 50-foot zone surrounding the polling place.

History.—s. 58, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 237; RGS 282; CGL 338; s. 6, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 59-212; s. 25, ch. 77-175; s. 2, ch. 85-205; s. 4, ch. 87-184; s. 15, ch. 87-363; s. 29, ch. 89-338; s. 2, ch. 92-134; s. 598, ch. 95-147; s. 5, ch. 2000-249.

Note.—Former s. 99.38.

102.061 Duties of election board; counting; closing polls.—

(1) At the close of the election at each precinct, the election board that conducted the election shall turn the ballot box, registration books, and other records over to the relieving board, when more than one board is conducting the election, which relieving board shall proceed to open the ballot box in the presence of the public desiring to witness the canvass and count the ballots without adjournment or interruption until the count is completed, except for the necessary interruption provided for in s. 102.012. The ballots shall first be counted, and, if the number of ballots exceeds the number of persons who voted, as may appear by the poll list kept by the clerk and by the stubs detached by the inspectors, the ballots shall be placed back into the box, and one of the inspectors shall publicly draw out and destroy unopened as many ballots as are equal to such excess. If two or more ballots are found folded together to present the appearance of a single ballot, they shall be laid aside until the count is completed, and, if, upon comparison of the count and the appearance of such ballots, a majority of the inspectors are of the opinion that the ballots were voted by one person, such ballots shall be destroyed.

(2) In counting the ballots, the election board shall use either the tally call system of counting or a system whereby the ballots are opened and placed in piles according to the candidate voted for and then the number of ballots in each pile is counted. The ballots shall then be reshuffled and the process repeated until the total votes cast for each candidate for each office has been determined; and no other system of counting shall be used.

History.—s. 29, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 183; s. 60, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 241; RGS 285; CGL 341; s. 9, ch. 17898, 1937; s. 8, ch. 25384, 1949; s. 6, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 25, ch. 77-175; s. 44, ch. 79-400.

Note.—Former s. 99.42.

102.071 Tabulation of votes and proclamation of results where ballots are used.—The election board shall post at the polls, for the benefit of the public, the results of the voting for each office or other item on the ballot as the count is completed. Upon completion of all counts in all races, triplicate certificates of the results shall be drawn up by the inspectors and clerk at each precinct upon a form provided by the supervisor of elections which shall contain the name of each person voted for, for each office, and the number of votes cast for each person for such office; and, if any question is submitted, the certificate shall also contain the number of votes cast for and against the question. The certificate shall be signed by the inspectors and clerk, and one of the certificates shall be delivered without delay by one of the inspectors, securely sealed, to the supervisor for immediate publication; the duplicate copy of the certificate shall be delivered to the county court judge; and the remaining copy shall be enclosed in the ballot box together with the oaths of inspectors and clerks. All the ballot boxes, ballots, ballot stubs, memoranda, and papers of all kinds used in the election shall also be transmitted, sealed by the inspectors, with the certificates of result of the election to be filed in the supervisor's office. Registration books and the poll lists

shall not be placed in the ballot boxes but shall be returned to the supervisor.

History.—s. 30, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 184; s. 61, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 2, ch. 4699, 1899; GS 242; RGS 286; CGL 342; s. 9, ch. 25384, 1949; s. 6, ch. 26329, 1949; s. 6, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 39, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 19, ch. 73-334; s. 25, ch. 77-175; s. 45, ch. 79-400.

Note.—Former s. 99.43.

102.091 Duty of sheriff to watch for violations; appointment of special officers.—The sheriff shall exercise strict vigilance in the detection of any violations of the election laws and in apprehending the violators. The Governor may appoint special officers to investigate alleged violations of the election laws, when it is deemed necessary to see that violators of the election laws are apprehended and punished.

History.—s. 6, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 3, ch. 65-129.

102.101 Sheriff and other officers not allowed in polling place.—No sheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer, or other officer of the law shall be allowed within the polling place without permission from the clerk or a majority of the inspectors, except to cast his or her ballot. Upon the failure of any of said officers to comply with this provision, the clerk or the inspectors or any one of them shall make an affidavit against such officer for his or her arrest.

History.—s. 58, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 239; RGS 284; CGL 340; s. 6, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 4, ch. 65-129; s. 25, ch. 77-175; s. 599, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former s. 99.41.

102.111 Elections Canvassing Commission.—

(1) The Elections Canvassing Commission shall consist of the Governor and two members of the Cabinet selected by the Governor. If a member of the Elections Canvassing Commission is unable to serve for any reason, the Governor shall appoint a remaining member of the Cabinet. If there is a further vacancy, the remaining members of the commission shall agree on another elected official to fill the vacancy. The Elections Canvassing Commission shall, as soon as the official results are compiled from all counties, certify the returns of the election and determine and declare who has been elected for each federal, state, and multicounty office.

(2) The Division of Elections shall provide the staff services required by the Elections Canvassing Commission.

History.—s. 35, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 189; s. 66, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 248; RGS 292; CGL 348; s. 6, ch. 26870, 1951; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 30, ch. 71-377; s. 2, ch. 77-122; s. 25, ch. 77-175; s. 6, ch. 82-143; s. 39, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 99.49.

102.112 Deadline for submission of county returns to the Department of State.—

(1) The county canvassing board or a majority thereof shall file the county returns for the election of a federal or state officer with the Department of State immediately after certification of the election results.

(2) Returns must be filed by 5 p.m. on the 7th day following a primary election and by 5 p.m. on the 11th day following the general election.

(3) If the returns are not received by the department by the time specified, such returns shall be ignored and the results on file at that time shall be certified by the department.

(4) If the returns are not received by the department due to an emergency, as defined in s. 101.732, the

Elections Canvassing Commission shall determine the deadline by which the returns must be received.

History.—s. 30, ch. 89-338; s. 7, ch. 99-140; s. 40, ch. 2001-40.

102.121 Elections Canvassing Commission to issue certificates.—The Elections Canvassing Commission shall make and sign separate certificates of the result of the election for federal and state officers, which certificates shall be written and contain the total number of votes cast for each person for each office. The certificates, the one including the result of the election for presidential electors and representatives to Congress, and the other including the result of the election for state officers, shall be recorded in the Department of State in a book to be kept for that purpose.

History.—s. 35, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 189; s. 66, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 250; RGS 294; CGL 350; s. 6, ch. 26870, 1951; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 25, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 99.51.

102.131 Returns before canvassing commission.

If any returns shall appear to be irregular or false so that the Elections Canvassing Commission is unable to determine the true vote for any office, nomination, constitutional amendment, or other measure presented to the electors, the commission shall so certify and shall not include the returns in its determination, canvass, and declaration. The Elections Canvassing Commission in determining the true vote shall not have authority to look beyond the county returns. The Department of State shall file in its office all the returns, together with other documents and papers received by it or the commission. The commission shall canvass the returns for presidential electors and representatives to Congress separately from their canvass of returns for state officers.

History.—s. 35, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 189; s. 66, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 249; RGS 293; CGL 349; s. 6, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 5, ch. 65-129; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 25, ch. 77-175; s. 46, ch. 79-400.

Note.—Former s. 99.50.

102.141 County canvassing board; duties.—

(1) The county canvassing board shall be composed of the supervisor of elections; a county court judge, who shall act as chair; and the chair of the board of county commissioners. In the event any member of the county canvassing board is unable to serve, is a candidate who has opposition in the election being canvassed, or is an active participant in the campaign or candidacy of any candidate who has opposition in the election being canvassed, such member shall be replaced as follows:

(a) If no county court judge is able to serve or if all are disqualified, the chief judge of the judicial circuit in which the county is located shall appoint as a substitute member a qualified elector of the county who is not a candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed and who is not an active participant in the campaign or candidacy of any candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed. In such event, the members of the county canvassing board shall meet and elect a chair.

(b) If the supervisor of elections is unable to serve or is disqualified, the chair of the board of county commissioners shall appoint as a substitute member a member of the board of county commissioners who is

not a candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed and who is not an active participant in the campaign or candidacy of any candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed. The supervisor, however, shall act in an advisory capacity to the canvassing board.

(c) If the chair of the board of county commissioners is unable to serve or is disqualified, the board of county commissioners shall appoint as a substitute member one of its members who is not a candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed and who is not an active participant in the campaign or candidacy of any candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed.

(d) If a substitute member cannot be appointed as provided elsewhere in this subsection, the chief judge of the judicial circuit in which the county is located shall appoint as a substitute member a qualified elector of the county who is not a candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed and who is not an active participant in the campaign or candidacy of any candidate with opposition in the election being canvassed.

(2) The county canvassing board shall meet in a building accessible to the public in the county where the election occurred at a time and place to be designated by the supervisor of elections to publicly canvass the absentee electors' ballots as provided for in s. 101.68 and provisional ballots as provided by s. 101.048. Public notice of the time and place at which the county canvassing board shall meet to canvass the absentee electors' ballots and provisional ballots shall be given at least 48 hours prior thereto by publication once in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the county or, if there is no newspaper of general circulation in the county, by posting such notice in at least four conspicuous places in the county. As soon as the absentee electors' ballots and the provisional ballots are canvassed, the board shall proceed to publicly canvass the vote given each candidate, nominee, constitutional amendment, or other measure submitted to the electorate of the county, as shown by the returns then on file in the office of the supervisor of elections and the office of the county court judge.

(3) The canvass, except the canvass of absentee electors' returns and the canvass of provisional ballots, shall be made from the returns and certificates of the inspectors as signed and filed by them with the county court judge and supervisor, respectively, and the county canvassing board shall not change the number of votes cast for a candidate, nominee, constitutional amendment, or other measure submitted to the electorate of the county, respectively, in any polling place, as shown by the returns. All returns shall be made to the board on or before 2 a.m. of the day following any primary, general, special, or other election. If the returns from any precinct are missing, if there are any omissions on the returns from any precinct, or if there is an obvious error on any such returns, the canvassing board shall order a recount of the returns from such precinct. Before canvassing such returns, the canvassing board shall examine the tabulation of the ballots cast in such precinct and determine whether the returns correctly reflect the votes cast. If there is a discrepancy

between the returns and the tabulation of the ballots cast, the tabulation of the ballots cast shall be presumed correct and such votes shall be canvassed accordingly.

(4) The canvassing board shall submit unofficial returns to the Department of State for each federal, statewide, state, or multicounty office or ballot measure no later than noon on the day after any primary, general, special, or other election.

(5) If the county canvassing board determines that the unofficial returns may contain a counting error in which the vote tabulation system failed to count votes that were properly marked in accordance with the instructions on the ballot, the county canvassing board shall:

(a) Correct the error and recount the affected ballots with the vote tabulation system; or

(b) Request that the Department of State verify the tabulation software. When the Department of State verifies such software, the department shall compare the software used to tabulate the votes with the software filed with the department pursuant to s. 101.5607 and check the election parameters.

(6) If the unofficial returns reflect that a candidate for any office was defeated or eliminated by one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast for such office, that a candidate for retention to a judicial office was retained or not retained by one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast on the question of retention, or that a measure appearing on the ballot was approved or rejected by one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast on such measure, the board responsible for certifying the results of the vote on such race or measure shall order a recount of the votes cast with respect to such office or measure. A recount need not be ordered with respect to the returns for any office, however, if the candidate or candidates defeated or eliminated from contention for such office by one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast for such office request in writing that a recount not be made.

(a) In counties with voting systems that use ballot cards or paper ballots, each canvassing board responsible for conducting a recount shall put each ballot through the automatic tabulating equipment for each precinct in which the office or issue appeared on the ballot and determine whether the returns correctly reflect the votes cast. Immediately before the start of the recount and after completion of the count, a test of the tabulating equipment shall be conducted as provided in s. 101.5612. If the test indicates no error, the recount tabulation of the ballots cast shall be presumed correct and such votes shall be canvassed accordingly. If an error is detected, the cause therefor shall be ascertained and corrected and the recount repeated, as necessary. The canvassing board shall immediately report the error, along with the cause of the error and the corrective measures being taken, to the Department of State. No later than 11 days after the election, the canvassing board shall file a separate incident report with the Department of State, detailing the resolution of the matter and identifying any measures that will avoid a future recurrence of the error.

(b) In counties with voting systems that do not use ballot cards or paper ballots, each canvassing board responsible for conducting a recount shall examine the counters on the precinct tabulators to ensure that the total of the returns on the precinct tabulators equals the overall election return. If there is a discrepancy between the overall election return and the counters of the precinct tabulators, the counters of the precinct tabulators shall be presumed correct and such votes shall be canvassed accordingly.

(c) The canvassing board shall submit a second set of unofficial returns to the Department of State for each federal, statewide, state, or multicounty office or ballot measure no later than noon on the second day after any election in which a recount was conducted pursuant to this subsection. If the canvassing board is unable to complete the recount prescribed in this subsection by the deadline, the second set of unofficial returns submitted by the canvassing board shall be identical to the initial unofficial returns and the submission shall also include a detailed explanation of why it was unable to timely complete the recount. However, the canvassing board shall complete the recount prescribed in this subsection, along with any manual recount prescribed in s. 102.166, and certify election returns in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.

(7) The canvassing board may employ such clerical help to assist with the work of the board as it deems necessary, with at least one member of the board present at all times, until the canvass of the returns is completed. The clerical help shall be paid from the same fund as inspectors and other necessary election officials.

(8) At the same time that the results of an election are certified to the Department of State, the county canvassing board shall file a report with the Division of Elections on the conduct of the election. The report shall contain information relating to any problems incurred as a result of equipment malfunctions either at the precinct level or at a counting location, any difficulties or unusual circumstances encountered by an election board or the canvassing board, and any other additional information which the canvassing board feels should be made a part of the official election record. Such reports shall be maintained on file in the Division of Elections and shall be available for public inspection. The division shall utilize the reports submitted by the canvassing boards to determine what problems may be likely to occur in other elections and disseminate such information, along with possible solutions, to the supervisors of elections.

History.—s. 46, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 350; CGL 407; s. 11, ch. 13761, 1929; s. 6, ch. 26870, 1851; s. 1, ch. 57-104; s. 6, ch. 65-129; s. 19, ch. 73-334; s. 26, ch. 77-175; s. 47, ch. 79-400; s. 18, ch. 84-302; s. 4, ch. 86-33; s. 600, ch. 95-147; s. 41, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 102.45.

102.151 County canvassing board to issue certificates; supervisor to give notice to Department of State.—The county canvassing board shall make and sign duplicate certificates containing the total number of votes cast for each person nominated or elected, the names of persons for whom such votes were cast, and

the number of votes cast for each candidate or nominee. One of such certificates which relates to offices for which the candidates or nominees have been voted for in more than one county shall be immediately transmitted to the Department of State, and the second copy filed in the supervisor's office. The supervisor shall transmit to the Department of State, immediately after the county canvassing board has canvassed the returns of the election, a list containing the names of all county and district officers nominated or elected, the office for which each was nominated or elected, and the mailing address of each.

History.—s. 47, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 351; CGL 408; s. 12, ch. 13761, 1929; s. 5, ch. 25388, 1949; s. 6, ch. 26870, 1951; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 27, ch. 77-175; s. 31, ch. 89-338.

Note.—Former s. 102.46.

102.155 Certificate of election.—The supervisor shall give to any person the election of whom is certified by the county canvassing board a certificate of the person's election. The Department of State shall give to any person the election of whom is certified by the state canvassing board a certificate of the person's election. The certificate of election which is issued to any person shall be prima facie evidence of the election of such person.

History.—s. 32, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 186; s. 63, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 245; RGS 289; CGL 345; s. 2, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 5, ch. 77-175; s. 1393, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former s. 99.46.

102.166 Manual recounts.—

(1) If the second set of unofficial returns pursuant to s. 102.141 indicates that a candidate for any office was defeated or eliminated by one-quarter of a percent or less of the votes cast for such office, that a candidate for retention to a judicial office was retained or not retained by one-quarter of a percent or less of the votes cast on the question of retention, or that a measure appearing on the ballot was approved or rejected by one-quarter of a percent or less of the votes cast on such measure, the board responsible for certifying the results of the vote on such race or measure shall order a manual recount of the overvotes and undervotes cast in the entire geographic jurisdiction of such office or ballot measure.

(2)(a) If the second set of unofficial returns pursuant to s. 102.141 indicates that a candidate for any office was defeated or eliminated by between one-quarter and one-half of a percent of the votes cast for such office, that a candidate for retention to judicial office was retained or not retained by between one-quarter and one-half of a percent of the votes cast on the question of retention, or that a measure appearing on the ballot was approved or rejected by between one-quarter and one-half of a percent of the votes cast on such measure, any such candidate, the political party of such candidate, or any political committee that supports or opposes such ballot measure is entitled to a manual recount of the overvotes and undervotes cast in the entire geographic jurisdiction of such office or ballot measure, provided that a request for a manual recount is made by 5 p.m. on the second day after the election.

(b) For federal, statewide, state, and multicounty races and ballot issues, requests for a manual recount

shall be made in writing to the state Elections Canvassing Commission. For all other races and ballot issues, requests for a manual recount shall be made in writing to the county canvassing board.

(c) Upon receipt of a proper and timely request, the Elections Canvassing Commission or county canvassing board shall immediately order a manual recount of overvotes and undervotes in all affected jurisdictions.

(3)(a) Any hardware or software used to identify and sort overvotes and undervotes for a given race or ballot measure must be certified by the Department of State as part of the voting system pursuant to s. 101.015. Any such hardware or software must be capable of simultaneously counting votes. For certified voting systems, the department shall certify such hardware or software by July 1, 2002. If the department is unable to certify such hardware or software for a certified voting system by July 1, 2002, the department shall adopt rules prescribing procedures for identifying and sorting such overvotes and undervotes. The department's rules may provide for the temporary use of hardware or software whose sole function is identifying and sorting overvotes and undervotes.

(b) This subsection does not preclude the department from certifying hardware or software after July 1, 2002.

(c) Overvotes and undervotes shall be identified and sorted while recounting ballots pursuant to s. 102.141, if the hardware or software for this purpose has been certified or the department's rules so provide.

(4) Any manual recount shall be open to the public.

(5)(a) A vote for a candidate or ballot measure shall be counted if there is a clear indication on the ballot that the voter has made a definite choice.

(b) The Department of State shall adopt specific rules for each certified voting system prescribing what constitutes a "clear indication on the ballot that the voter has made a definite choice." The rules may not:

1. Exclusively provide that the voter must properly mark or designate his or her choice on the ballot; or
2. Contain a catch-all provision that fails to identify specific standards, such as "any other mark or indication clearly indicating that the voter has made a definite choice."

(6) Procedures for a manual recount are as follows:

(a) The county canvassing board shall appoint as many counting teams of at least two electors as is necessary to manually recount the ballots. A counting team must have, when possible, members of at least two political parties. A candidate involved in the race shall not be a member of the counting team.

(b) If a counting team is unable to determine whether the ballot contains a clear indication that the voter has made a definite choice, the ballot shall be presented to the county canvassing board for a determination.

(c) The Department of State shall adopt detailed rules prescribing additional recount procedures for each certified voting system which shall be uniform to the extent practicable. The rules shall address, at a minimum, the following areas:

1. Security of ballots during the recount process;
2. Time and place of recounts;

3. Public observance of recounts;
4. Objections to ballot determinations;
5. Record of recount proceedings; and
6. Procedures relating to candidate and petitioner representatives.

History.—s. 9, ch. 18405, 1937; CGL 1940; Supp. 337(23-b); s. 7, ch. 22858, 1945; s. 5, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 30, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 24, ch. 57-1; s. 29, ch. 65-380; s. 27, ch. 77-175; s. 48; ch. 79-400; s. 15, ch. 89-348; s. 601, ch. 95-147; s. 1, ch. 99-338; s. 42, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 100.25; s. 101.57.

102.168 Contest of election.—

(1) Except as provided in s. 102.171, the certification of election or nomination of any person to office, or of the result on any question submitted by referendum, may be contested in the circuit court by any unsuccessful candidate for such office or nomination thereto or by any elector qualified to vote in the election related to such candidacy, or by any taxpayer, respectively.

(2) Such contestant shall file a complaint, together with the fees prescribed in chapter 28, with the clerk of the circuit court within 10 days after midnight of the date the last county canvassing board empowered to canvass the returns certifies the results of the election being contested.

(3) The complaint shall set forth the grounds on which the contestant intends to establish his or her right to such office or set aside the result of the election on a submitted referendum. The grounds for contesting an election under this section are:

(a) Misconduct, fraud, or corruption on the part of any election official or any member of the canvassing board sufficient to change or place in doubt the result of the election.

(b) Ineligibility of the successful candidate for the nomination or office in dispute.

(c) Receipt of a number of illegal votes or rejection of a number of legal votes sufficient to change or place in doubt the result of the election.

(d) Proof that any elector, election official, or canvassing board member was given or offered a bribe or reward in money, property, or any other thing of value for the purpose of procuring the successful candidate's nomination or election or determining the result on any question submitted by referendum.

(4) The canvassing board or Elections Canvassing Commission shall be the proper party defendant, and the successful candidate shall be an indispensable party to any action brought to contest the election or nomination of a candidate.

(5) A statement of the grounds of contest may not be rejected, nor the proceedings dismissed, by the court for any want of form if the grounds of contest provided in the statement are sufficient to clearly inform the defendant of the particular proceeding or cause for which the nomination or election is contested.

(6) A copy of the complaint shall be served upon the defendant and any other person named therein in the same manner as in other civil cases under the laws of this state. Within 10 days after the complaint has been served, the defendant must file an answer admitting or denying the allegations on which the contestant relies or stating that the defendant has no knowledge or information concerning the allegations, which shall be

deemed a denial of the allegations, and must state any other defenses, in law or fact, on which the defendant relies. If an answer is not filed within the time prescribed, the defendant may not be granted a hearing in court to assert any claim or objection that is required by this subsection to be stated in an answer.

(7) Any candidate, qualified elector, or taxpayer presenting such a contest to a circuit judge is entitled to an immediate hearing. However, the court in its discretion may limit the time to be consumed in taking testimony, with a view therein to the circumstances of the matter and to the proximity of any succeeding election.

History.—ss. 7, 8, Art. 10, ch. 38, 1845; RS 189; GS 283; RGS 379; CGL 444; s. 3, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 16, ch. 65-378; s. 28, ch. 77-175; s. 49, ch. 79-400; s. 602, ch. 95-147; s. 3, ch. 99-339; s. 44, ch. 2001-40.

Note.—Former s. 104.06; s. 99.192; s. 102.161.

102.1682 Judgment of ouster; revocation of commission; judgment setting aside referendum.—

(1) If the contestant is found to be entitled to the office, if on the findings a judgment to that effect is entered, and if the adverse party has been commissioned or has entered upon the duties thereof or is holding the office, then a judgment of ouster shall be entered against such party. Upon presentation of a certified copy of the judgment of ouster to the Governor, the Governor shall revoke such commission and commission the person found in the judgment to be entitled to the office.

(2) If a judgment is entered setting aside a referendum, the election shall be void.

History.—s. 9, Art. 10, ch. 38, 1845; RS 201; GS 285; RGS 381; CGL 446; s. 3, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 18, ch. 65-378; s. 29, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 104.08; s. 99.211; s. 102.163.

102.1685 Venue.—The venue for contesting a nomination or election or the results of a referendum shall be in the county in which the contestant qualified or in the county in which the question was submitted for referend-

endum or, if the election or referendum covered more than one county, then in Leon County.

History.—s. 3, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 17, ch. 65-378; s. 30, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 99.202; s. 102.162.

102.169 Quo warranto not abridged.—Nothing in this code shall be construed to abrogate or abridge any remedy that may now exist by quo warranto, but in such case the proceeding prescribed in s. 102.168 shall be an alternative or cumulative remedy.

History.—RS 203; GS 287; RGS 383; CGL 448; s. 3, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 19, ch. 65-378; s. 31, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 104.10; s. 99.221; s. 102.164.

102.171 Contest of election to Legislature.—The jurisdiction to hear any contest of the election of a member to either house of the Legislature is vested in the applicable house, as each house, pursuant to s. 2, Art. III of the State Constitution, is the sole judge of the qualifications, elections, and returns of its members. Therefore, the certification of election of any person to the office of member of either house of the Legislature may only be contested in the applicable house by an unsuccessful candidate for such office, in accordance with the rules of that house. This section does not apply to any contest of the nomination of any person for the office of member of either house of the Legislature at any primary or special primary election in which only those qualified electors who are registered members of the political party holding such primary election may vote, as provided for in s. 5(b), Art. VI of the State Constitution. This section does apply to any contest of a primary or special primary election for the office of member of either house of the Legislature in which all qualified electors may vote, as provided for in s. 5(b), Art. VI of the State Constitution, and the recipient of the most votes is deemed to be elected according to applicable law.

History.—s. 4, ch. 99-339.

CHAPTER 103

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS; POLITICAL PARTIES; EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES
AND MEMBERS

- 103.011 Electors of President and Vice President.
 103.021 Nomination for presidential electors.
 103.022 Write-in candidates for President and Vice President.
 103.051 Congress sets meeting dates of electors.
 103.061 Meeting of electors and filling of vacancies.
 103.062 Plurality of votes to fill vacancy; proceeding in case of tie.
 103.071 Compensation of electors.
 103.081 Use of party name; political advertising.
 103.091 Political parties.
 103.101 Presidential preference primary.
 103.121 Powers and duties of executive committees.
 103.131 Political party offices deemed vacant in certain cases.
 103.141 Removal of county executive committee member for violation of oath.
 103.151 Removal of state executive committee member for violation of oath.

103.011 Electors of President and Vice President. Electors of President and Vice President, known as presidential electors, shall be elected on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each year the number of which is a multiple of 4. Votes cast for the actual candidates for President and Vice President shall be counted as votes cast for the presidential electors supporting such candidates. The Department of State shall certify as elected the presidential electors of the candidates for President and Vice President who receive the highest number of votes.

*History.—*ss. 2, 3, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 157; s. 4, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 3, ch. 4537, 1897; GS 174; RGS 218; CGL 253; s. 2, ch. 25383, 1949; s. 7, ch. 26870, 1951; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 32, ch. 77-175.

*Note.—*Former s. 98.07.

103.021 Nomination for presidential electors.—Candidates for presidential electors shall be nominated in the following manner:

(1) The Governor shall nominate the presidential electors of each political party. He or she shall nominate only the electors recommended by the state executive committee of the respective political party. Each such elector shall be a qualified elector of the party he or she represents who has taken an oath that he or she will vote for the candidates of the party that he or she is nominated to represent. The Governor shall certify to the Department of State on or before September 1, in each presidential election year, the names of a number of electors for each political party equal to the number of senators and representatives which this state has in Congress.

(2) The names of the presidential electors shall not be printed on the general election ballot, but the names of the actual candidates for President and Vice President for whom the presidential electors will vote if elected shall be printed on the ballot in the order in which the party of which the candidate is a nominee polled the highest number of votes for Governor in the last general election.

(3) Candidates for President and Vice President with no party affiliation may have their names printed on the general election ballots if a petition is signed by 1 percent of the registered electors of this state, as shown by the compilation by the Department of State for the last preceding general election. A separate petition from each county for which signatures are solicited shall be submitted to the supervisor of elections of the respective county no later than July 15 of each presidential election year. The supervisor shall check the names and, on or before the date of the first primary, shall certify the number shown as registered electors of the county. The supervisor shall be paid by the person requesting the certification the cost of checking the petitions as prescribed in s. 99.097. The supervisor shall then forward the certificate to the Department of State which shall determine whether or not the percentage factor required in this section has been met. When the percentage factor required in this section has been met, the Department of State shall order the names of the candidates for whom the petition was circulated to be included on the ballot and shall permit the required number of persons to be certified as electors in the same manner as party candidates.

(4)(a) A minor party that is affiliated with a national party holding a national convention to nominate candidates for President and Vice President of the United States may have the names of its candidates for President and Vice President of the United States printed on the general election ballot by filing with the Department of State a certificate naming the candidates for President and Vice President and listing the required number of persons to serve as electors. Notification to the Department of State under this subsection shall be made by September 1 of the year in which the election is held. When the Department of State has been so notified, it shall order the names of the candidates nominated by the minor party to be included on the ballot and shall permit the required number of persons to be certified as electors in the same manner as other party candidates.

(b) A minor party that is not affiliated with a national party holding a national convention to nominate candidates for President and Vice President of the United States may have the names of its candidates for President and Vice President printed on the general election ballot if a petition is signed by 1 percent of the registered electors of this state, as shown by the compilation by the Department of State for the preceding general election. A separate petition from each county for which signatures are solicited shall be submitted to the supervisors of elections of the respective county no later than July 15 of each presidential election year. The supervisor shall check the names and, on or before the date of the first primary, shall certify the number shown as registered electors of the county. The supervisor shall be paid by the person requesting the certification the cost of checking the petitions as prescribed in s. 99.097.

The supervisor shall then forward the certificate to the Department of State, which shall determine whether or not the percentage factor required in this section has been met. When the percentage factor required in this section has been met, the Department of State shall order the names of the candidates for whom the petition was circulated to be included on the ballot and shall permit the required number of persons to be certified as electors in the same manner as other party candidates.

(5) When for any reason a person nominated or elected as a presidential elector is unable to serve because of death, incapacity, or otherwise, the Governor may appoint a person to fill such vacancy who possesses the qualifications required for the elector to have been nominated in the first instance. Such person shall file with the Governor an oath that he or she will support the same candidates for President and Vice President that the person who is unable to serve was committed to support.

History.—s. 1, ch. 25143, 1949; s. 7, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 61-364; s. 1, ch. 67-353; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; ss. 7, 8, ch. 70-269; s. 1, ch. 70-439; s. 32, ch. 77-175; s. 8, ch. 83-251; s. 13, ch. 85-80; s. 603, ch. 95-147; s. 5, ch. 99-318.

Note.—Former s. 102.011.

103.022 Write-in candidates for President and Vice President.—Persons seeking to qualify for election as write-in candidates for President and Vice President of the United States may have a blank space provided on the general election ballot for their names to be written in by filing an oath with the Department of State at any time after the 57th day, but before noon of the 49th day, prior to the date of the first primary election in the year in which a presidential election is held. The Department of State shall prescribe the form to be used in administering the oath. The candidates shall file with the department a certificate naming the required number of persons to serve as electors. Such write-in candidates shall not be entitled to have their names on the ballot.

History.—s. 15, ch. 81-105; s. 9, ch. 83-251.

103.051 Congress sets meeting dates of electors. The presidential electors shall, at noon on the day which is directed by Congress, meet at Tallahassee and perform the duties required of them by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

History.—s. 8, ch. 71, 1847; RS 204; GS 288; RGS 384; CGL 449; s. 7, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 32, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 105.01.

103.061 Meeting of electors and filling of vacancies.—Each presidential elector shall, before 10 a.m. on the day fixed by Congress to elect a President and Vice President, give notice to the Governor that the elector is in Tallahassee and ready to perform the duties of presidential elector. The Governor shall forthwith deliver to the presidential electors present a certificate of the names of all the electors; and if, on examination thereof, it should be found that one or more electors are absent, the electors present shall elect by ballot, in the presence of the Governor, a person or persons to fill such vacancy or vacancies as may have occurred through the nonattendance of one or more of the electors.

History.—s. 8, ch. 71, 1847; RS 206; GS 290; RGS 386; CGL 451; s. 7, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 32, ch. 77-175; s. 1, ch. 85-19; s. 604, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former s. 105.03.

103.062 Plurality of votes to fill vacancy; proceeding in case of tie.—If any more than the number of persons required to fill the vacancy as provided by s. 103.061 receive the highest and an equal number of votes, then the election of those receiving such highest and equal number of votes shall be determined by lot drawn by the Governor in the presence of the presidential electors attending; otherwise, those, to the number required, receiving the highest number of votes, shall be considered elected to fill the vacancy.

History.—s. 7, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 2, ch. 67-353; s. 32, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 103.031.

103.071 Compensation of electors.—Each presidential elector attending as such in Tallahassee shall be reimbursed for his or her travel expenses, as provided in s. 112.061, from the elector's place of residence to Tallahassee and return. Such expenses shall be paid upon approval of the Governor. The amounts necessary to meet the requirements of this section shall be included in the legislative budget request of the Governor. If the amounts appropriated for this purpose are insufficient, the Executive Office of the Governor may release the necessary amounts from the deficiency appropriation.

History.—s. 12, ch. 71, 1847; RS 210; GS 294; RGS 390; CGL 455; ss. 7, chs. 26869, 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 61-32; s. 6, ch. 63-400; ss. 2, 3, ch. 67-371; ss. 31, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 88, ch. 79-190; s. 605, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former s. 105.07.

103.081 Use of party name; political advertising.—

(1) No person shall use the name, abbreviation, or symbol of any political party, the name, abbreviation, or symbol of which is filed with the Department of State, in political advertising in newspapers, other publications, handbills, radio or television, or any other form of advertising in connection with any political activities in support of a candidate of any other party, unless such person shall first obtain the written permission of the chair of the state executive committee of the party the name, abbreviation, or symbol of which is to be used.

(2) No person or group of persons shall use the name, abbreviation, or symbol of any political party, the name, abbreviation, or symbol of which is filed with the Department of State, in connection with any club, group, association, or organization of any kind unless approval and permission have been given in writing by the state executive committee of such party. This subsection shall not apply to county executive committees of such parties and organizations which are chartered by the national executive committee of the party the name, abbreviation, or symbol of which is to be used, or to organizations using the name of any political party which organizations have been in existence and organized on a statewide basis for a period of 10 years.

History.—s. 6, ch. 6489, 1913; RGS 304; CGL 360; s. 7, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 26, ch. 29934, 1955; s. 1, ch. 57-202; s. 1, ch. 61-424; s. 3, ch. 67-353; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 32, ch. 77-175; s. 606, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former s. 102.06.

103.091 Political parties.—

(1) Each political party of the state shall be represented by a state executive committee. County executive committees and other committees may be established in accordance with the rules of the state executive committee. A political party may provide for the

selection of its national committee and its state and county executive committees in such manner as it deems proper. Unless otherwise provided by party rule, the county executive committee of each political party shall consist of at least two members, a man and a woman, from each precinct, who shall be called the precinct committeeman and committeewoman. For counties divided into 40 or more precincts, the state executive committee may adopt a district unit of representation for such county executive committees. Upon adoption of a district unit of representation, the state executive committee shall request the supervisor of elections of that county, with approval of the board of county commissioners, to provide for election districts as nearly equal in number of registered voters as possible. Each county committeeman or committeewoman shall be a resident of the precinct from which he or she is elected.

(2) The state executive committee of a political party may by resolution provide a method of election of national committeemen and national committeewomen and of nomination of presidential electors, if such party is entitled to a place on the ballot as otherwise provided for presidential electors, and may provide also for the election of delegates and alternates to national conventions.

(3) The state executive committee of each political party shall file with the Department of State the names and addresses of its chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, and members and shall file a copy of its constitution, bylaws, and rules and regulations with the Department of State. Each county executive committee shall file with the state executive committee and with the supervisor of elections the names and addresses of its officers and members.

(4) Any political party other than a minor political party may by rule provide for the membership of its state or county executive committee to be elected for 4-year terms at the first primary election in each year a presidential election is held. The terms shall commence on the first day of the month following each presidential general election; but the names of candidates for political party offices shall not be placed on the ballot at any other election. The results of such election shall be determined by a plurality of the votes cast. In such event, electors seeking to qualify for such office shall do so with the Department of State or supervisor of elections not earlier than noon of the 57th day, or later than noon of the 53rd day, preceding the first primary election. The outgoing chair of each county executive committee shall, within 30 days after the committee members take office, hold an organizational meeting of all newly elected members for the purpose of electing officers. The chair of each state executive committee shall, within 60 days after the committee members take office, hold an organizational meeting of all newly elected members for the purpose of electing officers.

(5) In the event no county committeeman or committeewoman is elected, or a vacancy occurs from any other cause in any county executive committee, the county chair shall call a meeting of the county executive committee by due notice to all members, and the

vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of those present at a meeting at which a quorum is present. Such vacancy shall be filled by a qualified member of the political party residing in the district where the vacancy occurred and for the unexpired portion of the term.

(6)(a)1. In addition to the members provided for in subsection (1), each county executive committee shall include all members of the Legislature who are residents of the county and members of their respective political party and who shall be known as at-large committeemen and committeewomen.

2. Each state executive committee shall include, as at-large committeemen and committeewomen, all members of the United States Congress representing the State of Florida who are members of the political party, all statewide elected officials who are members of the party, and the President of the Senate or the Minority Leader in the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the Minority Leader in the House of Representatives, whichever is a member of the political party, and 20 members of the Legislature who are members of the political party. Ten of the legislators shall be appointed with the concurrence of the state chair of the respective party, as follows: five to be appointed by the President of the Senate; five by the Minority Leader in the Senate; five by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and five by the Minority Leader in the House.

3. When a political party allows any member of the state executive committee to have more than one vote per person, other than by proxy, in a matter coming before the state executive committee, the 20 members of the Legislature appointed under subparagraph 2. shall not be appointed to the state executive committee and the following elected officials who are members of that political party shall be appointed and shall have the following votes:

a. Governor: a number equal to 15 percent of votes cast by state executive committeemen and committeewomen;

b. Lieutenant Governor: a number equal to 5 percent of the votes cast by state executive committeemen and committeewomen;

c. Each member of the United States Senate representing the state: a number equal to 10 percent of the votes cast by state executive committeemen and committeewomen;

d. Secretary of State: a number equal to 5 percent of the votes cast by state executive committeemen and committeewomen;

e. Attorney General: a number equal to 5 percent of the votes cast by state executive committeemen and committeewomen;

f. Comptroller: a number equal to 5 percent of the votes cast by state executive committeemen and committeewomen;

g. Treasurer: a number equal to 5 percent of the votes cast by state executive committeemen and committeewomen;

h. Commissioner of Agriculture: a number equal to 5 percent of the votes cast by state executive committeemen and committeewomen;

i. Commissioner of Education: a number equal to 5 percent of the votes cast by state executive committeemen and committeewomen;

j. President of the Senate: a number equal to 10 percent of the votes cast by state executive committeemen and committeewomen;

k. Minority leader of the Senate: a number equal to 10 percent of the votes cast by state executive committeemen and committeewomen;

l. Speaker of the House of Representatives: a number equal to 10 percent of the votes cast by state executive committeemen and committeewomen;

m. Minority leader of the House of Representatives: a number equal to 10 percent of the votes cast by state executive committeemen and committeewomen; and

n. Each member of the United States House of Representatives representing the state: a number equal to 1 percent of the votes cast by state executive committeemen and committeewomen.

4.a. The governing body of each state executive committee as defined by party rule shall include as at-large committeemen and committeewomen all state-wide elected officials who are members of such political party; up to four members of the United States Congress representing the state who are members of such political party and who shall be appointed by the state chair on the basis of geographic representation; the permanent presiding officer selected by the members of each house of the Legislature who are members of such political party; and the minority leader selected by the members of each house of the Legislature who are members of such political party.

b. All members of the governing body shall have one vote per person.

(7) Members of the state executive committee or governing body may vote by proxy.

(8) The conducting of official business in connection with one's public office constitutes good and sufficient reason for failure to attend county or state executive committee meetings or a meeting of the governing body.

History.—ss. 1, 2, 2A, ch. 22039, 1943; ss. 1, 2, 3, ch. 22678, 1945; s. 7, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 32, ch. 77-175; s. 1, ch. 78-1; s. 22, ch. 79-164; s. 3, ch. 81-312; s. 12, ch. 82-143; s. 3, ch. 83-242; s. 33, ch. 84-302; s. 17, ch. 87-363; s. 607, ch. 95-147; s. 2, ch. 95-197.

Note.—Former s. 102.71.

103.101 Presidential preference primary.—

(1) Each political party other than a minor political party shall, on the second Tuesday in March in each year the number of which is a multiple of 4, elect one person to be the candidate for nomination of such party for President of the United States or select delegates to the national nominating convention, as provided by party rule.

(2) There shall be a Presidential Candidate Selection Committee composed of the Secretary of State, who shall be a nonvoting chair; the Speaker of the House of Representatives; the President of the Senate; the minority leader of each house of the Legislature; and the chair of each political party required to have a presidential preference primary under this section.

(a) By December 31 of the year preceding the Florida presidential preference primary, each political party shall submit to the Secretary of State a list of its presidential candidates to be placed on the presidential preference primary ballot or candidates entitled to have delegates appear on the presidential preference primary ballot. The Secretary of State shall prepare and publish a list of the names of the presidential candidates submitted. The Secretary of State shall submit such list of names of presidential candidates to the selection committee on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January each year a presidential preference primary election is held. Each person designated as a presidential candidate shall have his or her name appear, or have his or her delegates' names appear, on the presidential preference primary ballot unless all committee members of the same political party as the candidate agree to delete such candidate's name from the ballot. The selection committee shall meet in Tallahassee on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January each year a presidential preference primary is held. The selection committee shall publicly announce and submit to the Department of State no later than 5 p.m. on the following day the names of presidential candidates who shall have their names appear, or who are entitled to have their delegates' names appear, on the presidential preference primary ballot. The Department of State shall immediately notify each presidential candidate designated by the committee. Such notification shall be in writing, by registered mail, with return receipt requested.

(b) Any presidential candidate whose name does not appear on the list submitted to the Secretary of State may request that the selection committee place his or her name on the ballot. Such request shall be made in writing to the Secretary of State no later than the second Tuesday after the first Monday in January.

(c) If a presidential candidate makes a request that the selection committee reconsider placing the candidate's name on the ballot, the selection committee will reconvene no later than the second Thursday after the first Monday in January to reconsider placing the candidate's name on the ballot. The Department of State shall immediately notify such candidate of the selection committee's decision.

(3) A candidate's name shall be printed on the presidential preference primary ballot unless the candidate submits to the Department of State, prior to the second Tuesday after the first Monday in January, an affidavit stating that he or she is not now, and does not presently intend to become, a candidate for President at the upcoming nominating convention. If a candidate withdraws pursuant to this subsection, the Department of State shall notify the state executive committee that the candidate's name will not be placed on the ballot. The Department of State shall, no later than the third Tuesday after the first Monday in January, certify to each supervisor of elections the name of each candidate for political party nomination to be printed on the ballot.

(4) The names of candidates for political party nominations for President of the United States shall be printed on official ballots for the presidential preference

primary election and shall be marked, counted, canvassed, returned, and proclaimed in the same manner and under the same conditions, so far as they are applicable, as in other state elections. If party rule requires the delegates' names to be printed on the official presidential preference primary ballot, the name of the presidential candidates for that political party may not be printed separately, but the ballot may reflect the presidential candidate to whom the delegate is pledged. If, however, a political party has only one presidential candidate, neither the name of the candidate nor the names of the candidate's delegates shall be printed on the ballot.

(5) The state executive committee of each party, by rule adopted at least 120 days prior to the presidential preference primary election, shall determine the number, and establish procedures to be followed in the selection, of delegates and delegate alternates from among each candidate's supporters. A copy of any rule adopted by the executive committee shall be filed with the Department of State within 7 days after its adoption and shall become a public record. The Department of State shall review the procedures and shall notify the state executive committee of each political party of any ballot limitations. The Department of State may promulgate rules for the orderly conduct of the presidential preference primary ballot.

(6) Delegates must qualify no later than the second Friday in January in the manner provided by party rule.

(7) All delegates shall be allocated as provided by party rule.

(8) All names of candidates or delegates shall be listed as directed by the Department of State.

*History.—*s. 3, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 301; CGL 357; ss. 1, 2, 3, ch. 22058, 1943; s. 1, ch. 22729, 1945; s. 1, ch. 25235, 1949; s. 7, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 29947, 1955; s. 4, ch. 67-353; ss. 10, 35, ch. 89-108; s. 2, ch. 71-236; s. 2, ch. 75-246; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 32, ch. 77-175; s. 14, ch. 82-143; s. 1, ch. 84-92; s. 1, ch. 86-97; s. 32, ch. 89-338; s. 15, ch. 91-45; s. 608, ch. 95-147; s. 28, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—*Former ss. 102.03, 102.72.

103.121 Powers and duties of executive committees.—

(1)(a) Each state and county executive committee of a political party shall have the power and duty:

1. To adopt a constitution by two-thirds vote of the full committee.
2. To adopt such bylaws as it may deem necessary by majority vote of the full committee.
3. To conduct its meetings according to generally accepted parliamentary practice.
4. To make party nomination when required by law.
5. To conduct campaigns for party nominees.
6. To raise and expend party funds. Such funds may not be expended or committed to be expended except after written authorization by the chair of the state or county executive committee.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (5), the county executive committee shall receive payment of assessments upon candidates to be voted for in a single county except state senators and members of the House of Representatives and representatives to the Congress of the United States; and the state executive committees shall receive all other assessments authorized. All party assessments shall be 2 percent of

the annual salary of the office sought by the respective candidate. All such committee assessments shall be remitted to the state executive committee of the appropriate party and distributed in accordance with subsection (6).

(2) The state executive committee shall by resolution recommend candidates for presidential electors and deliver a certified copy thereof to the Governor prior to September 1 of each presidential election year.

(3) The chair and treasurer of an executive committee of any political party shall be accountable for the funds of such committee and jointly liable for their proper expenditure for authorized purposes only. The chair and treasurer of the state executive committee of any political party shall furnish adequate bond, but not less than \$10,000, conditioned upon the faithful performance by such party officers of their duties and for the faithful accounting for party funds which shall come into their hands; and the chair and treasurer of a county executive committee of a political party shall furnish adequate bond, but not less than \$5,000, conditioned as aforesaid. A bond for the chair and treasurer of the state executive committee of a political party shall be filed with the Department of State. A bond for the chair and treasurer of a county executive committee shall be filed with the supervisor of elections. The funds of each such state executive committee shall be publicly audited at the end of each calendar year and a copy of such audit furnished to the Department of State for its examination prior to April 1 of the ensuing year. When filed with the Department of State, copies of such audit shall be public documents. The treasurer of each county executive committee shall maintain adequate records evidencing receipt and disbursement of all party funds received by him or her, and such records shall be publicly audited at the end of each calendar year and a copy of such audit filed with the supervisor of elections and the state executive committee prior to April 1 of the ensuing year.

(4) Any chair or treasurer of a state or county executive committee of any political party who knowingly misappropriates, or makes an unlawful expenditure of, or a false or improper accounting for, the funds of such committee is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(5)(a) The central committee or other equivalent governing body of each state executive committee shall adopt a rule which governs the time and manner in which the respective county executive committees of such party may endorse, certify, screen, or otherwise recommend one or more candidates for such party's nomination for election. Upon adoption, such rule shall provide the exclusive method by which a county committee may so endorse, certify, screen, or otherwise recommend. No later than the date on which qualifying for public office begins pursuant to s. 99.061, the chair of each county executive committee shall notify in writing the supervisor of elections of his or her county whether the county executive committee has endorsed or intends to endorse, certify, screen, or otherwise recommend candidates for nomination pursuant to party rule. A copy of such notification shall be provided to the

Secretary of State and to the chair of the appropriate state executive committee. Any county executive committee that endorses or intends to endorse, certify, screen, or otherwise recommend one or more candidates for nomination shall forfeit all party assessments which would otherwise be returned to the county executive committee; and such assessments shall be remitted instead to the state executive committee of such party, the provisions of paragraph (1)(b) to the contrary notwithstanding. No such funds so remitted to the state executive committee shall be paid, returned, or otherwise disbursed to the county executive committee under any circumstances. Any county executive committee that is in violation of any party rule after receiving the party assessment shall remit such party assessment to the state executive committee.

(b) Any state executive committee that endorses or intends to endorse, certify, screen, or otherwise recommend one or more candidates for nomination shall forfeit all party assessments which would otherwise be returned to the state executive committee; and such assessments shall be remitted instead to the General Revenue Fund of the state. Any state executive committee that is in violation of this section after receiving the party assessment shall remit such party assessment to the General Revenue Fund of the state.

(6) The state chair of each state executive committee shall return the 2-percent committee assessment for county candidates to the appropriate county executive committees only upon receipt of a written statement that such county executive committee chooses not to endorse, certify, screen, or otherwise recommend one or more candidates for such party's nomination for election and upon the state chair's determination that the county executive committee is in compliance with all Florida statutes and all state party rules, bylaws, constitutions, and requirements.

History.—ss. 20, 21, 23, 28, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 324, 325, 327, 332; CGL 381, 382, 384, 389; s. 1, ch. 25389, 1949; s. 9, ch. 26329, 1949; s. 7, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 41, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 2, ch. 29935, 1955; s. 1, ch. 57-743; s. 1, ch. 61-157; s. 1, ch. 63-97; ss. 6, 7, 8, ch. 67-353; ss. 10, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 26, ch. 77-104; s. 32, ch. 77-175; s. 50, ch. 79-400; s. 1, ch. 82-160; s. 25, ch. 83-217; s. 2, ch. 83-242; s. 1, ch. 89-256; s. 609, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former ss. 102.27, 102.28, 102.30, 102.35.

103.131 Political party offices deemed vacant in certain cases.—Every political party office shall be deemed vacant in the following cases:

- (1) By the death of the incumbent.
- (2) By his or her resignation.
- (3) By his or her removal.
- (4) By his or her ceasing to be an inhabitant of the state, district, or precinct for which he or she shall have been elected or appointed.
- (5) By his or her refusal to accept the office.
- (6) The conviction of the incumbent of any felony.
- (7) The decision of a competent tribunal declaring void his or her election or appointment, and his or her removal by said tribunal.
- (8) By his or her failure to attend, without good and sufficient reason, three consecutive meetings, regular or called, of the committee of which he or she is a member.

History.—s. 1, ch. 59-68; s. 1, ch. 61-122; s. 9, ch. 67-353; s. 610, ch. 95-147.

103.141 Removal of county executive committee member for violation of oath.—

(1) Where the county executive committee by at least a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the committee, attending a meeting held after due notice has been given and at which meeting a quorum is present, determines an incumbent county executive committee member to be guilty of an offense involving a violation of the member's oath of office, said member so violating his or her oath shall be removed from office and the office shall be deemed vacant. Provided, however, if the county committee wrongfully removes a county committee member and the committee member so wrongfully removed files suit in the circuit court alleging his or her removal was wrongful and wins said suit, the committee member shall be restored to office and the county committee shall pay the costs incurred by the wrongfully removed committee member in bringing the suit, including reasonable attorney's fees.

(2) Either the county or state executive committee is empowered to take judicial action in chancery against a county committee member for alleged violation of the member's oath of office in the circuit court of the county in which that committee member is an elector; provided, however, that the state committee may take such judicial action only when a county committee refuses to take such judicial action within 10 days after a charge is made. Procedure shall be as in other cases in chancery, and if the court shall find as fact that the defendant did violate his or her oath of office, it shall enter a decree removing the defendant from the county committee. If either such executive committee brings suit in the circuit court for the removal of a county committee member and loses said suit, such committee shall pay the court costs incurred in such suit by the committee member, including reasonable attorney's fees.

History.—s. 10, ch. 67-353; s. 611, ch. 95-147.

103.151 Removal of state executive committee member for violation of oath.—

(1) The state executive committee is empowered to take judicial action in chancery in the circuit court of the county in which a state committee member is an elector to remove a state committee member from office for a violation of the member's oath of office. Procedure shall be as in other cases in chancery, and if the court shall find as fact that the defendant did violate the oath of office, it shall enter a decree removing the defendant from the state committee.

(2) If a charge of violating the oath of office is made against a member of the state committee and the state committee fails to take such judicial action within 10 days after a charge is made, the county executive committee in the county from which the state committee member is elected shall have the right to seek said committee member's removal in the circuit court of that county in the manner and according to the procedure set forth in subsection (1).

(3) If either the county or state executive committee seeks the removal of a state committee member as provided in subsection (1) or subsection (2) and loses such suit, the committee bringing said suit shall pay the

court costs incurred by the committee member in
defending such suit, including reasonable attorney's

fees.

History.—s. 11, ch. 67-353; s. 612, ch. 95-147.

CHAPTER 104

ELECTION CODE: VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES

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| <p>104.011 False swearing; submission of false voter registration information.</p> <p>104.012 Consideration for registration; interference with registration; soliciting registrations for compensation; alteration of registration application.</p> <p>104.013 Unauthorized use, possession, or destruction of voter registration identification card.</p> <p>104.031 False declaration to secure assistance in preparing ballot.</p> <p>104.041 Fraud in connection with casting vote.</p> <p>104.045 Vote selling.</p> <p>104.047 Absentee ballots and voting; violations.</p> <p>104.051 Violations; neglect of duty; corrupt practices.</p> <p>104.0515 Voting rights; deprivation of, or interference with, prohibited; penalty.</p> <p>104.061 Corruptly influencing voting.</p> <p>104.071 Remuneration by candidate for services, support, etc.; penalty.</p> <p>104.081 Threats of employers to control votes of employees.</p> <p>104.091 Aiding, abetting, or advising violation of the code.</p> <p>104.101 Failure to assist officers at polls.</p> <p>104.11 Neglect of duty by sheriff or other officer.</p> <p>104.13 Intermingling ballots.</p> <p>104.15 Unqualified electors willfully voting.</p> <p>104.16 Voting fraudulent ballot.</p> <p>104.17 Voting in person after casting absentee ballot.</p> <p>104.18 Casting more than one ballot at any election.</p> <p>104.185 Petitions; knowingly signing more than once; signing another person's name or a fictitious name.</p> <p>104.19 Using stickers or rubber stamps or carrying certain items in voting booth; penalty.</p> <p>104.20 Ballot not to be seen, and other offenses.</p> <p>104.21 Changing electors' ballots.</p> <p>104.22 Stealing and destroying records, etc., of election.</p> <p>104.23 Disclosing how elector votes.</p> <p>104.24 Penalty for assuming name.</p> <p>104.26 Penalty for destroying ballot or booth, etc.</p> <p>104.271 False or malicious charges against, or false statements about, opposing candidates; penalty.</p> <p>104.29 Inspectors refusing to allow watchers while ballots are counted.</p> <p>104.30 Voting system; unlawful possession; tampering.</p> <p>104.31 Political activities of state, county, and municipal officers and employees.</p> <p>104.32 Supervisor of elections; delivery of books to successor.</p> <p>104.39 Witnesses as to violations.</p> <p>104.41 Violations not otherwise provided for.</p> | <p>104.42 Fraudulent registration and illegal voting; investigation.</p> <p>104.43 Grand juries; special investigation.</p> <p>104.011 False swearing; submission of false voter registration information.—
 (1) A person who willfully swears or affirms falsely to any oath or affirmation, or willfully procures another person to swear or affirm falsely to an oath or affirmation, in connection with or arising out of voting or elections commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
 (2) A person who willfully submits any false voter registration information commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
 <small>History.—s. 15, ch. 14715, 1931; CGL 1936 Supp. 8202(6); s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 19, ch. 71-136; s. 33, ch. 77-175; s. 38, ch. 94-224; s. 31, ch. 97-13.</small></p> <p>104.012 Consideration for registration; interference with registration; soliciting registrations for compensation; alteration of registration application.
 (1) Any person who gives anything of value that is redeemable in cash to any person in consideration for his or her becoming a registered voter commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. This section shall not be interpreted, however, to exclude such services as transportation to the place of registration or babysitting in connection with the absence of an elector from home for registering.
 (2) A person who by bribery, menace, threat, or other corruption, directly or indirectly, influences, deceives, or deters or attempts to influence, deceive, or deter any person in the free exercise of that person's right to register to vote at any time, upon the first conviction, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, and, upon any subsequent conviction, commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
 (3) A person may not solicit or pay another person to solicit voter registrations for compensation that is based upon the number of registrations obtained. A person who violates the provisions of this subsection commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
 (4) A person who alters the voter registration application of any other person, without the other person's knowledge and consent, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
 <small>History.—s. 1, ch. 63-198; s. 20, ch. 71-136; s. 33, ch. 77-175; s. 39, ch. 94-224; s. 1394, ch. 95-147; s. 32, ch. 97-13; s. 23, ch. 98-129.</small></p> <p>104.013 Unauthorized use, possession, or destruction of voter registration identification card.—
 (1) It is unlawful for any person knowingly to have in his or her possession any blank, forged, stolen, fictitious, counterfeit, or unlawfully issued voter registration identification card unless possession by such person has been duly authorized by the supervisor.</p> |
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(2) It is unlawful for any person to barter, trade, sell, or give away a voter registration identification card unless said person has been duly authorized to issue a registration identification card.

(3) It is unlawful for any person willfully to destroy or deface the registration identification card of a duly registered voter.

(4) Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

History.—s. 1, ch. 76-49; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 34, ch. 77-175; s. 3, ch. 91-224; s. 40, ch. 94-224; s. 1395, ch. 95-147; s. 24, ch. 98-129.

104.031 False declaration to secure assistance in preparing ballot.—Any person who makes a false declaration for assistance in voting, or in the preparation of his or her ballot, in any election is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

History.—s. 4, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 3829; RGS 5892; CGL 8156; s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 22, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 4, ch. 91-224; s. 613, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former s. 99.31.

104.041 Fraud in connection with casting vote.—Any person perpetrating or attempting to perpetrate or aid in the perpetration of any fraud in connection with any vote cast, to be cast, or attempted to be cast, is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

History.—s. 4, ch. 22014, 1943; s. 1, ch. 25385, 1949; s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 23, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 101.14.

104.045 Vote selling.—Any person who:

(1) Corruptly offers to vote for or against, or to refrain from voting for or against, any candidate in any election in return for pecuniary or other benefit; or

(2) Accepts a pecuniary or other benefit in exchange for a promise to vote for or against, or to refrain from voting for or against, any candidate in any election,

is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

History.—s. 1, ch. 81-107; s. 25, ch. 98-129.

104.047 Absentee ballots and voting; violations.—

(1) Any person who provides or offers to provide, and any person who accepts, a pecuniary or other benefit in exchange for distributing, ordering, requesting, collecting, delivering, or otherwise physically possessing absentee ballots, except as provided in ss. 101.6105-101.694, is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(2) Except as provided in s. 101.62 or s. 101.655, any person who requests an absentee ballot on behalf of an elector is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(3) Any person who marks or designates a choice on the ballot of another person, except as provided in s. 101.051, s. 101.655, or s. 101.661, is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

History.—s. 26, ch. 98-129; s. 34, ch. 99-2; s. 57, ch. 2001-40.

104.051 Violations; neglect of duty; corrupt practices.—

(1) Any official who willfully violates any of the provisions of this election code shall be excluded from the polls. Any election official who is excluded shall be replaced as provided in this code.

(2) Any official who willfully refuses or willfully neglects to perform his or her duties as prescribed by this election code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(3) Any official who performs his or her duty as prescribed by this election code fraudulently or corruptly is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(4) Any supervisor, deputy supervisor, or election employee who attempts to influence or interfere with any elector voting a ballot commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

History.—s. 30, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 10, ch. 4537, 1897; s. 16, ch. 14715, 1931; s. 4, ch. 18407, 1937; GS 215, 3824; RGS 259, 5885; CGL 315, 8148; 1936 Supp. 8151(1); 1940 Supp. 7476(8); ss. 3E, 4, 7, 8, ch. 22018, 1943; s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 42, ch. 28156, 1953; s. 24, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 21, ch. 90-315; s. 614, ch. 95-147; s. 27, ch. 98-129.

104.0515 Voting rights; deprivation of, or interference with, prohibited; penalty.—

(1) All citizens of this state who are otherwise qualified by law to vote at any election by the people in this state or in any district, county, city, town, municipality, school district, or other subdivision of this state shall be entitled and allowed to vote at all such elections without distinction according to race, color, or previous condition of servitude, notwithstanding any law, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage to the contrary.

(2) No person acting under color of law shall:

(a) In determining whether any individual is qualified under law to vote in any election, apply any standard, practice, or procedure different from the standards, practices, or procedures applied under law to other individuals within the same political subdivision who have been found to be qualified to vote; or

(b) Deny the right of any individual to vote in any election because of an error or omission on any record or paper relating to any application, registration, or other act requisite to voting, if such error or omission is not material in determining whether such individual is qualified under law to vote in such election. This paragraph shall apply to absentee ballots only if there is a pattern or history of discrimination on the basis of race, color, or previous condition of servitude in regard to absentee ballots.

(3) No person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, shall intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce, any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of such other person to vote or not to vote as that person may choose, or for the purpose of causing such other person to vote for, or not vote for, any candidate for any office at any general, special, or primary election held solely or in part for the purpose of selecting or electing any such candidate.

(4) No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, and no standard, practice, or procedure, shall be imposed or applied by any political subdivision of this state to deny or abridge the right of any citizen to vote on account of race or color.

(5) Any person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 82-59; s. 26, ch. 83-217; s. 5, ch. 91-224; s. 615, ch. 95-147; s. 28, ch. 98-129.

104.061 Corruptly influencing voting.—

(1) Whoever by bribery, menace, threat, or other corruption whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, attempts to influence, deceive, or deter any elector in voting or interferes with him or her in the free exercise of the elector's right to vote at any election commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084 for the first conviction, and a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, for any subsequent conviction.

(2) No person shall directly or indirectly give or promise anything of value to another intending thereby to buy that person's or another's vote or to corruptly influence that person or another in casting his or her vote. Any person who violates this subsection is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. However, this subsection shall not apply to the serving of food to be consumed at a political rally or meeting or to any item of nominal value which is used as a political advertisement, including a campaign message designed to be worn by a person.

*History.—*ss. 1, 3, ch. 6470, 1913; RGS 5918; CGL 8182; s. 1, ch. 19617, 1939; s. 1, ch. 20934, 1941; s. 7, ch. 22858, 1945; s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 65-379; s. 25, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 51, ch. 79-400; s. 21, ch. 81-304; s. 22, ch. 90-315; s. 618, ch. 95-147; s. 29, ch. 98-129.

104.071 Remuneration by candidate for services, support, etc.; penalty.—

(1) It is unlawful for any person supporting a candidate, or for any candidate, in order to aid or promote the nomination or election of such candidate in any election, directly or indirectly to:

(a) Promise to appoint another person, promise to secure or aid in securing appointment, nomination or election of another person to any public or private position, or to any position of honor, trust, or emolument, except one who has publicly announced or defined what his or her choice or purpose in relation to any election in which he or she may be called to take part, if elected.

(b) Give, or promise to give, pay, or loan, any money or other thing of value to the owner, editor, publisher, or agent, of any communication media, as well as newspapers, to advocate or oppose, through such media, any candidate for nomination in any election or any candidate for election, and no such owner, editor, or agent shall give, solicit, or accept such payment or reward. It shall likewise be unlawful for any owner, editor, publisher, or agent of any poll-taking or poll-publishing concern to advocate or oppose through such poll any candidate for nomination in any election

or any candidate for election in return for the giving or promising to give, pay, or loan any money or other thing of value to said owner, editor, publisher, or agent of any poll-taking or poll-publishing concern.

(c) Give, pay, expend, or contribute any money or thing of value for the furtherance of the candidacy of any other candidate.

(d) Furnish, give, or deliver to another person any money or other thing of value for any purpose prohibited by the election laws.

This subsection shall not prohibit a candidate from furnishing complimentary tickets to the candidate's campaign fund raiser to other candidates.

(2) A candidate may give his or her own personal or business funds to another candidate, so long as the contribution is not given in exchange for a promise or expectation that the recipient will directly or indirectly do anything to aid or promote the candidacy of the contributor which the recipient would not have otherwise done.

(3) Any person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, and from and after conviction shall be disqualified to hold office.

*History.—*s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 2, ch. 65-379; s. 26, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 52, ch. 79-400; s. 33, ch. 89-338; s. 617, ch. 95-147.

104.081 Threats of employers to control votes of employees.—It is unlawful for any person having one or more persons in his or her service as employees to discharge or threaten to discharge any employee in his or her service for voting or not voting in any election, state, county, or municipal, for any candidate or measure submitted to a vote of the people. Any person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

*History.—*s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 27, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 618, ch. 95-147; s. 30, ch. 98-129.

104.091 Aiding, abetting, or advising violation of the code.—Any person who shall knowingly aid, abet or advise the violation of this code shall be punished in like manner as the principal offender.

*History.—*s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 67-164; s. 28, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175.

104.101 Failure to assist officers at polls.—Any person summoned by the sheriff or deputy sheriff who fails or refuses to assist him or her in maintaining the peace at the polls is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

*History.—*s. 27, ch. 3879, 1889; RS 181; s. 58, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 3834; RGS 5896; CGL 8160; s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 29, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 619, ch. 95-147.

*Note.—*Former s. 99.40.

104.11 Neglect of duty by sheriff or other officer.—Any sheriff, deputy sheriff, or other officer who willfully neglects or willfully refuses to perform his or her duties relating to elections is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

*History.—*s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 30, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 620, ch. 95-147.

104.13 Intermingling ballots.—Whoever willfully places any ballot in the ballot box except as properly voted by electors, or willfully intermingles any other ballots which have not been duly received during the election with the ballots which are voted by the electors, is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

History.—s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 3, ch. 65-379; s. 32, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175.

104.15 Unqualified electors willfully voting.—Whoever, knowing he or she is not a qualified elector, willfully votes at any election is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

History.—s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 5, ch. 65-379; s. 34, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 621, ch. 95-147.

104.16 Voting fraudulent ballot.—Any elector who knowingly votes or attempts to vote a fraudulent ballot, or any person who knowingly solicits, or attempts, to vote a fraudulent ballot, is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

History.—s. 38, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 221; s. 42, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 266, 346, 5911; CGL 322, 403; 8175; s. 6, ch. 17898, 1937; s. 3, ch. 17901, 1937; s. 6, ch. 25187, 1949; s. 4, ch. 25386, 1949; s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 8, ch. 65-379; s. 35, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former ss. 99.20, 102.41.

104.17 Voting in person after casting absentee ballot.—Any person who willfully votes or attempts to vote both in person and by absentee ballot at any election is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

History.—s. 1, ch. 22014, 1943; s. 1, ch. 25385, 1949; s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 7, ch. 65-379; s. 36, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175.

Note.—Former s. 101.11.

104.18 Casting more than one ballot at any election.—Whoever willfully votes more than one ballot at any election is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

History.—s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 8, ch. 65-379; s. 37, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175.

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

(1) A person who knowingly signs a petition or petitions for a candidate, a minor political party, or an issue more than one time commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

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

History.—s. 1, ch. 77-178; s. 6, ch. 91-224; s. 23, ch. 97-13.

104.19 Using stickers or rubber stamps or carrying certain items in voting booth; penalty.—

(1)(a) It is unlawful for any person casting a ballot at any election to use stickers or rubber stamps or to carry into a voting booth any mechanical device, paper, or memorandum which might be used to affect adversely the normal election process.

(b) In casting a write-in ballot, the elector shall cast the same in his or her own handwriting or in the handwriting of an authorized person aiding him or her.

(2) Any person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

History.—s. 7, ch. 25187, 1949; s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 70-136; s. 39, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 16, ch. 81-105; s. 622, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former s. 99.201.

104.20 Ballot not to be seen, and other offenses.—Any elector who, except as provided by law, allows his or her ballot to be seen by any person; takes or removes, or attempts to take or remove, any ballot from the polling place before the close of the polls; places any mark on his or her ballot by which it may be identified; remains longer than the specified time allowed by law in the booth or compartment after having been notified that his or her time has expired; endeavors to induce any elector to show how he or she voted; aids or attempts to aid any elector unlawfully; or prints or procures to be printed, or has in his or her possession, any copies of any ballot prepared to be voted is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

History.—s. 55, ch. 4328, 1895; s. 2, ch. 4536, 1897; GS 3835; RGS 5897; CGL 8161; s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 40, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 623, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former s. 99.34.

104.21 Changing electors' ballots.—Whoever fraudulently changes or attempts to change the vote or ballot of any elector, by which actions such elector is prevented from voting such ballot or from voting such ballot as the elector intended, is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

History.—s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 10, ch. 65-379; s. 41, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 624, ch. 95-147.

104.22 Stealing and destroying records, etc., of election.—Any person who is guilty of stealing, willfully and wrongfully breaking, destroying, mutilating, defacing, or unlawfully moving or securing and detaining the whole or any part of any ballot box or any record tally sheet or copy thereof, returns, or any other paper or document provided for, or who fraudulently makes any entry or alteration therein except as provided by law, or who permits any other person so to do, is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

History.—s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 11, ch. 65-379; s. 42, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175.

104.23 Disclosing how elector votes.—Any election official or person assisting any elector who willfully discloses how any elector voted, except upon trial in court, is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

History.—s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 12, ch. 65-379; s. 43, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175.

104.24 Penalty for assuming name.—A person may not, in connection with any part of the election process, fraudulently call himself or herself, or fraudulently pass by, any other name than the name by which

the person is registered or fraudulently use the name of another in voting. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

*History.—*s. 57, ch. 6469, 1913; RGS 360, 5913; CGL 417, 8177; s. 4, ch. 22014, 1943; s. 1, ch. 25385, 1949; s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 13, ch. 65-379; s. 44, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 625, ch. 95-147; s. 31, ch. 98-129.

*Note.—*Former ss. 101.14, 102.53.

104.26 Penalty for destroying ballot or booth, etc.

Any person who wrongfully, during or before an election, removes, tears down, destroys, or defaces any ballot, booth, compartment, or other convenience provided for the purpose of enabling the elector to prepare his or her ballot, or any card for the instruction of the voter, is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

*History.—*s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 46, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 626, ch. 95-147.

104.271 False or malicious charges against, or false statements about, opposing candidates; penalty.—

(1) Any candidate who, in a primary election or other election, willfully charges an opposing candidate participating in such election with a violation of any provision of this code, which charge is known by the candidate making such charge to be false or malicious, is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 and, in addition, after conviction shall be disqualified to hold office.

(2) Any candidate who, in a primary election or other election, with actual malice makes or causes to be made any statement about an opposing candidate which is false is guilty of a violation of this code. An aggrieved candidate may file a complaint with the Florida Elections Commission pursuant to s. 106.25. The commission shall adopt rules to provide an expedited hearing of complaints filed under this subsection. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commission shall assess a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 against any candidate found in violation of this subsection, which shall be deposited to the account of the General Revenue Fund of the state.

*History.—*s. 44, ch. 26156, 1953; s. 48, ch. 71-136; s. 27, ch. 77-104; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 1, ch. 85-210; s. 627, ch. 95-147; s. 44, ch. 97-13.

104.29 Inspectors refusing to allow watchers while ballots are counted.—The inspectors or other election officials shall, at all times while the ballots are being counted, allow as many as three persons near to them to see whether the ballots are being correctly read and called and the votes correctly tallied, and any official who denies this privilege or interferes therewith is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

*History.—*s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 51, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 53, ch. 79-400.

104.30 Voting system; unlawful possession; tampering.—

(1) Any unauthorized person who unlawfully has possession of any voting system, components, or key thereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(2) Any person who tampers or attempts to tamper with or destroy any voting system or equipment with the

intention of interfering with the election process or the results thereof is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

*History.—*s. 26, ch. 13893, 1929; CGL 1936 Supp. 8202(1); s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 17, ch. 65-379; s. 52, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 29, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—*Former s. 100.28.

104.31 Political activities of state, county, and municipal officers and employees.—

(1) No officer or employee of the state, or of any county or municipality thereof, except as hereinafter exempted from provisions hereof, shall:

(a) Use his or her official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with an election or a nomination of office or coercing or influencing another person's vote or affecting the result thereof.

(b) Directly or indirectly coerce or attempt to coerce, command, or advise any other officer or employee to pay, lend, or contribute any part of his or her salary, or any money, or anything else of value to any party, committee, organization, agency, or person for political purposes. Nothing in this paragraph or in any county or municipal charter or ordinance shall prohibit an employee from suggesting to another employee in a noncoercive manner that he or she may voluntarily contribute to a fund which is administered by a party, committee, organization, agency, person, labor union or other employee organization for political purposes.

(c) Directly or indirectly coerce or attempt to coerce, command, and advise any such officer or employee as to where he or she might purchase commodities or to interfere in any other way with the personal right of said officer or employee.

The provisions of this section shall not be construed so as to prevent any person from becoming a candidate for and actively campaigning for any elective office in this state. All such persons shall retain the right to vote as they may choose and to express their opinions on all political subjects and candidates. The provisions of paragraph (a) shall not be construed so as to limit the political activity in a general, special, primary, bond, referendum, or other election of any kind or nature, of elected officials or candidates for public office in the state or of any county or municipality thereof; and the provisions of paragraph (a) shall not be construed so as to limit the political activity in general or special elections of the officials appointed as the heads or directors of state administrative agencies, boards, commissions, or committees or of the members of state boards, commissions, or committees, whether they be salaried, nonsalaried, or reimbursed for expense. In the event of a dual capacity of any member of a state board, commission, or committee, any restrictive provisions applicable to either capacity shall apply. The provisions of paragraph (a) shall not be construed so as to limit the political activity in a general, special, primary, bond, referendum, or other election of any kind or nature of the Governor, the elected members of the Governor's Cabinet, or the members of the Legislature. The provisions of paragraphs (b) and (c) shall apply to all officers and employees of the state or of any county or municipality

thereof, whether elected, appointed, or otherwise employed, or whether the activity shall be in connection with a primary, general, special, bond, referendum, or other election of any kind or nature.

(2) Any person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(3) Nothing contained in this section or in any county or municipal charter shall be deemed to prohibit any public employee from expressing his or her opinions on any candidate or issue or from participating in any political campaign during the employee's off-duty hours, so long as such activities are not in conflict with the provisions of subsection (1) or s. 110.233.

History.—s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 7, ch. 29615, 1955; s. 5, ch. 29936, 1955; s. 1, ch. 59-208; s. 18, ch. 65-379; s. 53, ch. 71-136; ss. 1, 2, ch. 74-13; s. 1, ch. 75-261; s. 30, ch. 79-190; s. 1, ch. 80-207; s. 626, ch. 95-147.

104.32 Supervisor of elections; delivery of books to successor.—Any supervisor of elections who willfully fails or refuses promptly to comply with the demand of his or her successor for the delivery of registration books, papers, and blanks connected with his or her office is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

History.—s. 8, ch. 3679, 1889; RS 2779; s. 9, ch. 4328, 1895; GS 3820; RGS 5681; CGL 8144; s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 2, ch. 65-60; s. 54, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 629, ch. 95-147.

Note.—Former s. 98.21.

104.39 Witnesses as to violations.—Any person who violates any provision of this code shall be a competent witness against any other person so violating and may be compelled to attend and testify as any

other person. The testimony given shall not be used in any prosecution or criminal proceeding against the person so testifying, except in a prosecution for perjury.

History.—s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 35, ch. 77-175.

104.41 Violations not otherwise provided for.—Any violation of this code not otherwise provided for is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

History.—s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 61, ch. 71-136; s. 35, ch. 77-175.

104.42 Fraudulent registration and illegal voting; investigation.—

(1) The supervisor of elections is authorized to investigate fraudulent registrations and illegal voting and to report his or her findings to the local state attorney and the Florida Elections Commission.

(2) The board of county commissioners in any county may appropriate funds to the supervisor of elections for the purpose of investigating fraudulent registrations and illegal voting.

History.—ss. 12, 14, ch. 17899, 1937; CGL 1940 Supp. 369(4); s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 35, ch. 77-175; s. 32, ch. 98-129.

Note.—Former s. 100.40.

104.43 Grand juries; special investigation.—The grand jury in any circuit shall, upon the request of any candidate or qualified voter, make a special investigation when it convenes during a campaign preceding any election day to determine whether there is any violation of the provisions of this code, and shall return indictments when sufficient ground is found.

History.—s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 35, ch. 77-175.

the state, the term of which office or any part thereof runs concurrent to the office he or she seeks; and that he or she has resigned from any office which he or she is required to resign pursuant to s. 99.012, Florida Statutes.

 (Signature of candidate)

 (Address)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this ____ day of _____, (year), at _____ County, Florida.

 (Signature and title of officer administering oath)

(5) ITEMS REQUIRED TO BE FILED.—

(a) In order for a candidate for judicial office or the office of school board member to be qualified, the following items must be received by the filing officer by the end of the qualifying period:

1. Except for candidates for retention to judicial office, a properly executed check drawn upon the candidate's campaign account in an amount not less than the fee required by subsection (3) or, in lieu thereof, the copy of the notice of obtaining ballot position pursuant to s. 105.035. If a candidate's check is returned by the bank for any reason, the filing officer shall immediately notify the candidate and the candidate shall, the end of qualifying notwithstanding, have 48 hours from the time such notification is received, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, to pay the fee with a cashier's check purchased from funds of the campaign account. Failure to pay the fee as provided in this subparagraph shall disqualify the candidate.

2. The candidate's oath required by subsection (4), which must contain the name of the candidate as it is to appear on the ballot; the office sought, including the district or group number if applicable; and the signature of the candidate, duly acknowledged.

3. The loyalty oath required by s. 876.05, signed by the candidate and duly acknowledged.

4. The completed form for the appointment of campaign treasurer and designation of campaign depository, as required by s. 106.021. In addition, each candidate for judicial office, including an incumbent judge, shall file a statement with the qualifying officer, within 10 days after filing the appointment of campaign treasurer and designation of campaign depository, stating that the candidate has read and understands the requirements of the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct. Such statement shall be in substantially the following form:

Statement of Candidate for Judicial Office

I, _____, a judicial candidate, have received, read, and understand the requirements of the Florida Code of Judicial Conduct.

 (Signature of candidate)

 (Date)

5. The full and public disclosure of financial interests required by s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or the statement of financial interests required by s. 112.3145, whichever is applicable.

(b) If the filing officer receives qualifying papers that do not include all items as required by paragraph

(a) prior to the last day of qualifying, the filing officer shall make a reasonable effort to notify the candidate of the missing or incomplete items and shall inform the candidate that all required items must be received by the close of qualifying. A candidate's name as it is to appear on the ballot may not be changed after the end of qualifying.

History.—s. 3, ch. 71-49; s. 36, ch. 77-175; s. 1, ch. 78-260; s. 5, ch. 79-365; s. 54, ch. 79-400; s. 17, ch. 81-105; s. 10, ch. 83-251; s. 1, ch. 89-152; s. 34, ch. 89-338; s. 5, ch. 91-107; s. 630, ch. 95-147; s. 2, ch. 95-156; s. 13, ch. 97-13; s. 13, ch. 99-6; s. 2, ch. 99-326; s. 2, ch. 99-355.

105.035 Alternative method of qualifying for certain judicial offices and the office of school board member.—

(1) A person seeking to qualify for election to the office of circuit judge or county court judge or the office of school board member may qualify for election to such office by means of the petitioning process prescribed in this section. A person qualifying by this alternative method shall not be required to pay the qualifying fee required by this chapter. A person using this petitioning process shall file an oath with the officer before whom the candidate would qualify for the office stating that he or she intends to qualify by this alternative method for the office sought. Such oath shall be filed at any time after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the year in which the election is held, but prior to the 21st day preceding the first day of the qualifying period for the office sought. The form of such oath shall be prescribed by the Division of Elections. No signatures shall be obtained until the person has filed the oath prescribed in this subsection.

(2) Upon receipt of a written oath from a candidate, the qualifying officer shall provide the candidate with a petition format prescribed by the Division of Elections to be used by the candidate to reproduce petitions for circulation. If the candidate is running for an office which will be grouped on the ballot with two or more similar offices to be filed at the same election, the candidate's petition must indicate, prior to the obtaining of registered electors' signatures, for which group or district office the candidate is running.

(3) Each candidate for election to a judicial office or the office of school board member shall obtain the signature of a number of qualified electors equal to at least 1 percent of the total number of registered electors of the district, circuit, county, or other geographic entity represented by the office sought as shown by the compilation by the Department of State for the last preceding general election. A separate petition shall be circulated for each candidate availing himself or herself of the provisions of this section.

(4)(a) Each candidate seeking to qualify for election to the office of circuit judge or the office of school board member from a multicounty school district pursuant to this section shall file a separate petition from each county from which signatures are sought. Each petition shall be submitted, prior to noon of the 21st day preceding the first day of the qualifying period for the office sought, to the supervisor of elections of the county for which such petition was circulated. Each supervisor of elections to whom a petition is submitted shall check the signatures on the petition to verify their

status as electors of that county and of the geographic area represented by the office sought. Prior to the first date for qualifying, the supervisor shall certify the number shown as registered electors and submit such certification to the Division of Elections. The division shall determine whether the required number of signatures has been obtained for the name of the candidate to be placed on the ballot and shall notify the candidate. If the required number of signatures has been obtained, the candidate shall, during the time prescribed for qualifying for office, submit a copy of such notice and file his or her qualifying papers and oath prescribed in s. 105.031 with the Division of Elections. Upon receipt of the copy of such notice and qualifying papers, the division shall certify the name of the candidate to the appropriate supervisor or supervisors of elections as having qualified for the office sought.

(b) Each candidate seeking to qualify for election to the office of county court judge or the office of school board member from a single county school district pursuant to this section shall submit his or her petition, prior to noon of the 21st day preceding the first day of the qualifying period for the office sought, to the supervisor of elections of the county for which such petition was circulated. The supervisor shall check the signatures on the petition to verify their status as electors of the county and of the geographic area represented by the office sought. Prior to the first date for qualifying, the supervisor shall determine whether the required number of signatures has been obtained for the name of the candidate to be placed on the ballot and shall notify the candidate. If the required number of signatures has been obtained, the candidate shall, during the time prescribed for qualifying for office, submit a copy of such notice and file his or her qualifying papers and oath prescribed in s. 105.031 with the qualifying officer. Upon receipt of the copy of such notice and qualifying papers, such candidate shall be entitled to have his or her name printed on the ballot.

*History.—*s. 37, ch. 77-175; s. 2, ch. 89-152; s. 35, ch. 89-338; s. 23, ch. 90-315; s. 631, ch. 95-147; s. 6, ch. 99-318; s. 3, ch. 99-326.

105.036 Initiative for method of selection for circuit or county court judges; procedures for placement on ballot.—

(1) Subsequent to the general election in the year 2000, a local option for merit selection and retention or the election of circuit or county court judges may be placed on the ballot for the general election occurring in excess of 90 days from the certification of ballot position by the Secretary of State for circuit court judges or the county supervisor of elections for county court judges. The ballot shall provide for a vote on the method for selection of judges not currently used for filling judicial offices in the county or circuit.

(2) Certification of ballot position for the method of selection of circuit court judges shall be issued when the Secretary of State has received a verification certificate from each supervisor of elections in a circuit indicating that the requisite number of valid signatures of electors in the circuit has been submitted and verified by the supervisor or supervisors of that circuit. Certification of ballot position for the method of selection of

county court judges shall be issued when the supervisor of elections in a county indicates that the requisite number of signatures of electors in the county has been submitted to and verified by the supervisor. Each signature shall be dated when made and shall be valid for a period of 2 years following such date, provided all requirements of law are complied with.

(3) The sponsor of an initiative for merit selection and retention or election of circuit or county court judges must register as a political committee pursuant to s. 106.03.

(4) The Secretary of State shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 prescribing the style and requirements of the circuit court and county court forms for collection of signatures.

(5) No later than 5 p.m. 151 days prior to the general election at which the proposed judicial selection initiative is to be voted on, the sponsor shall submit signed and dated forms to the appropriate supervisor of elections for verification as to the number of registered electors whose valid signatures appear thereon. The supervisor shall promptly verify the signatures upon payment of the fee or filing of the undue burden oath required by s. 99.097. Verification must be completed at least 91 days prior to the general election. Upon completion of verification, the supervisor shall execute a certificate indicating the total number of signatures checked and the number of signatures verified as valid and as being of registered electors of the applicable county or circuit. This certificate must be immediately transmitted to the Secretary of State for petitions related to the method of selection of circuit court judges. The supervisor must retain the signature forms for at least 1 year following the election in which the issue appeared on the ballot or until the committee that circulated the petition is no longer seeking to obtain ballot position as determined by the Division of Elections for circuit court petitions or by the supervisor of elections for county court petitions.

(6) Upon a determination by the Secretary of State for circuit court petitions or by the supervisor of elections for county court petitions that the requisite number of valid signatures has been obtained, a certification of ballot position must be issued for the proposed method of selection of judges. A request to exercise a local option to change the method for selection of circuit or county court judges is deemed filed with the Secretary of State for circuit court judges or the supervisor of elections for county court judges upon the date of the receipt of a certificate or certificates indicating the petition has been signed by the constitutionally required number of electors.

(7) Within 10 days after each general election for which an initiative to change the method of selection of circuit or county court judges was placed on the ballot in any circuit or county in the state, the Secretary of State must notify the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida of the changed method for selection of judges for any circuit or county where the initiative passed.

(8) The Department of State shall have the authority to promulgate rules in accordance with ss.

120.536(1) and 120.54 to carry out the provisions of this section.

*History.—*s. 9, ch. 99-355.

105.041 Form of ballot.—

(1) **BALLOTS.**—The names of candidates for judicial office and candidates for the office of school board member which appear on the ballot at the first primary election shall either be grouped together on a separate portion of the ballot or on a separate ballot. The names of candidates for election to judicial office and candidates for the office of school board member which appear on the ballot at the general election and the names of justices and judges seeking retention to office shall be grouped together on a separate portion of the general election ballot.

(2) **LISTING OF CANDIDATES.—**

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), the order of nonpartisan offices appearing on the ballot shall be determined by the Department of State. The names of candidates for election to each nonpartisan office shall be listed in alphabetical order. With respect to retention of justices and judges, the question "Shall Justice (or Judge) (name of justice or judge) of the (name of the court) be retained in office?" shall appear on the ballot in alphabetical order and thereafter the words "Yes" and "No."

(b)1. The names of candidates for the office of circuit judge shall be listed on the first primary ballot in the order determined by lot conducted by the director of the Division of Elections of the Department of State after the close of the qualifying period.

2. Candidates who have secured a position on the general election ballot, after having survived elimination at the first primary, shall have their names listed in the same order as on the first primary ballot, notwithstanding the elimination of any intervening names as a result of the first primary.

(3) **REFERENCE TO PARTY AFFILIATION PROHIBITED.**—No reference to political party affiliation shall appear on any ballot with respect to any nonpartisan office or candidate.

(4) **WRITE-IN CANDIDATES.**—Space shall be made available on the general election ballot for an elector to write in the name of a write-in candidate for judge of a circuit court or county court or member of a school board if a candidate has qualified as a write-in candidate for such office pursuant to s. 105.031. This subsection shall not apply to the offices of justices and judges seeking retention.

*History.—*s. 4, ch. 71-49; s. 38, ch. 77-175; s. 55, ch. 79-400; s. 1, ch. 80-305; s. 18, ch. 81-105; s. 4, ch. 99-326; s. 3, ch. 99-355; s. 2, ch. 2000-361.

105.051 Determination of election or retention to office.—

(1) **ELECTION.**—In circuits and counties holding elections:

(a) The name of an unopposed candidate for the office of circuit judge, county court judge, or member of a school board shall not appear on any ballot, and such candidate shall be deemed to have voted for himself or herself at the general election.

(b) If two or more candidates, neither of whom is a write-in candidate, qualify for such an office, the names

of those candidates shall be placed on the ballot at the first primary election. If any candidate for such office receives a majority of the votes cast for such office in the first primary election, the name of the candidate who receives such majority shall not appear on any other ballot unless a write-in candidate has qualified for such office. An unopposed candidate shall be deemed to have voted for himself or herself at the general election. If no candidate for such office receives a majority of the votes cast for such office in the first primary election, the names of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes for such office shall be placed on the general election ballot. If more than two candidates receive an equal and highest number of votes, the name of each candidate receiving an equal and highest number of votes shall be placed on the general election ballot. In any contest in which there is a tie for second place and the candidate placing first did not receive a majority of the votes cast for such office, the name of the candidate placing first and the name of each candidate tying for second shall be placed on the general election ballot.

(c) The candidate who receives the highest number of votes cast for the office in the general election shall be elected to such office. If the vote at the general election results in a tie, the outcome shall be determined by lot.

(2) **RETENTION.**—With respect to any justice or judge who qualifies to run for retention in office, the question prescribed in s. 105.041(2) shall be placed on the ballot at the general election. If a majority of the qualified electors voting on such question within the territorial jurisdiction of the court vote for retention, the justice or judge shall be retained for a term of 6 years commencing on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January following the general election. If less than a majority of the qualified electors voting on such question within the territorial jurisdiction of the court vote for retention, a vacancy shall exist in such office upon the expiration of the term being served by the justice or judge.

*History.—*s. 5, ch. 71-49; s. 38, ch. 77-175; s. 19, ch. 81-105; s. 632, ch. 95-147; s. 5, ch. 99-326; s. 4, ch. 99-355.

105.061 Electors qualified to vote.—

(1) Each qualified elector of the territorial jurisdiction of a court shall be eligible to vote for a candidate for each judicial office of such court or, in the case of a justice or a judge seeking retention, for or against retention of such justice or judge.

(2) The election of members of a school board shall be by vote of the qualified electors as prescribed in chapter 230.

*History.—*s. 6, ch. 71-49; s. 38, ch. 77-175; s. 6, ch. 99-326; s. 5, ch. 99-355.

105.071 Candidates for judicial office; limitations on political activity.—A candidate for judicial office shall not:

(1) Participate in any partisan political party activities, except that such candidate may register to vote as a member of any political party and may vote in any party primary for candidates for nomination of the party in which she or he is registered to vote.

(2) Campaign as a member of any political party.

- (3) Publicly represent or advertise herself or himself as a member of any political party.
- (4) Endorse any candidate.
- (5) Make political speeches other than in the candidate's own behalf.
- (6) Make contributions to political party funds.
- (7) Accept contributions from any political party.
- (8) Solicit contributions for any political party.
- (9) Accept or retain a place on any political party committee.
- (10) Make any contribution to any person, group, or organization for its endorsement to judicial office.
- (11) Agree to pay all or any part of any advertisement sponsored by any person, group, or organization wherein the candidate may be endorsed for judicial office by any such person, group, or organization.

A candidate for judicial office or retention therein who violates the provisions of this section is liable for a civil fine of up to \$1,000 to be determined by the Florida Elections Commission.

*History.—*s. 7, ch. 71-49; s. 2, ch. 72-310; s. 38, ch. 77-175; s. 633, ch. 95-147; s. 7, ch. 99-326.

105.08 Campaign contribution and expense; reporting.—

(1) A candidate for judicial office or the office of school board member may accept contributions and may incur only such expenses as are authorized by law. Each such candidate shall keep an accurate record of his or her contributions and expenses, and shall file reports pursuant to chapter 106.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or chapter 106, a candidate for retention as a justice or a judge who has not received any contribution or made any expenditure may file a sworn statement at the time of qualifying that he or she does not anticipate receiving contributions or making expenditures in connection with the candidacy for retention to office. Such candidate shall file a final report pursuant to s. 106.141, within 90 days following the general election for which the candidate's name appeared on the ballot for retention. Any such candidate for retention to judicial office who, after filing a statement pursuant to this subsection, receives any contribution or makes any expendi-

ture in connection with the candidacy for retention shall immediately file a statement to that effect with the qualifying officer and shall begin filing reports as an opposed candidate pursuant to s. 106.07.

*History.—*s. 8, ch. 71-49; s. 38, ch. 77-175; s. 3, ch. 89-152; s. 634, ch. 95-147; s. 8, ch. 99-326; s. 6, ch. 99-355.

105.09 Political activity in behalf of a candidate for judicial office limited.—

(1) No political party or partisan political organization shall endorse, support, or assist any candidate in a campaign for election to judicial office.

(2) Any person who knowingly, in an individual capacity or as an officer of an organization, violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

*History.—*s. 9, ch. 71-49; s. 38, ch. 77-175; s. 635, ch. 95-147.

105.10 Applicability of election code.—If any provision of this chapter is in conflict with any other provision of this code, the provision of this chapter shall prevail.

*History.—*s. 10, ch. 71-49; s. 38, ch. 77-175.

105.101 Effect of revision of county court judge selection method.—No county court judge elected prior to or at the election that approves any revision to the selection of county court judges shall be affected in his or her term of office. Any county judge wishing to apply for a subsequent term will be elected or retained pursuant to the method of election or selection and retention of county court judges in effect in the county for the election preceding the end of the judge's term of office.

*History.—*s. 11, ch. 99-355.

105.102 Effect of revision of circuit court judge selection method.—No circuit court judge elected prior to or at the election that approves any revision to the selection of circuit court judge shall be affected in his or her term of office. Any circuit court judge wishing to apply for a subsequent term will be elected or retained pursuant to the method of election or selection and retention of circuit court judges in effect in the circuit for the election preceding the end of the judge's term of office.

*History.—*s. 12, ch. 99-355.

CHAPTER 106

CAMPAIGN FINANCING

106.011	Definitions.	106.21	Certificates of election not to be issued upon conviction.
106.021	Campaign treasurers; deputies; primary and secondary depositories.	106.22	Duties of the Division of Elections.
106.023	Statement of candidate.	106.23	Powers of the Division of Elections.
106.025	Campaign fund raisers.	106.24	Florida Elections Commission; membership; powers; duties.
106.03	Registration of political committees.	106.25	Reports of alleged violations to Florida Elections Commission; disposition of findings.
106.04	Committees of continuous existence.	106.26	Powers of commission; rights and responsibilities of parties; findings by commission.
106.05	Deposit of contributions; statement of campaign treasurer.	106.265	Civil penalties.
106.055	Valuation of in-kind contributions.	106.27	Determinations by commission; legal disposition.
106.06	Treasurer to keep records; inspections.	106.28	Limitation of actions.
106.07	Reports; certification and filing.	106.29	Reports by political parties; restrictions on contributions and expenditures; penalties.
106.071	Independent expenditures; reports; disclaimers.	106.295	Leadership fund.
106.075	Elected officials; report of loans made in year preceding election; limitation on contributions to pay loans.	106.30	Short title.
106.08	Contributions; limitations on.	106.31	Legislative intent.
106.082	Commissioner of Agriculture candidates; campaign contribution limits.	106.32	Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund.
106.085	Independent expenditures; unfair surprise prohibited; notice requirements; penalty.	106.33	Election campaign financing; eligibility.
106.087	Independent expenditures; contribution limits; restrictions on political parties, political committees, and committees of continuous existence.	106.34	Expenditure limits.
106.09	Cash contributions and contribution by cashier's checks.	106.35	Distribution of funds.
106.11	Expenses of and expenditures by candidates and political committees.	106.353	Candidates voluntarily abiding by election campaign financing limits but not requesting public funds; irrevocable statement required; penalty.
106.12	Petty cash funds allowed.	106.355	Nonparticipating candidate exceeding limits.
106.125	Credit cards; conditions on use.	106.36	Penalties; fines.
106.14	Utilities; deposits; prior authorization.	106.37	Willful violations.
106.1405	Use of campaign funds.		
106.141	Disposition of surplus funds by candidates.		
106.143	Political advertisements circulated prior to election; requirements.		
106.1435	Usage and removal of political campaign advertisements.		
106.1437	Miscellaneous advertisements.		
106.144	Endorsements or opposition by certain groups and organizations.		
106.147	Telephone solicitation; disclosure requirements; prohibitions; exemptions; penalties.		
106.1475	Telephone solicitation; registered agent requirements; penalty.		
106.148	Disclosure of on-line computer solicitation.		
106.15	Certain acts prohibited.		
106.16	Limitation on certain rates and charges.		
106.161	Air time available at the lowest unit rate.		
106.17	Polls and surveys relating to candidacies.		
106.18	When a candidate's name to be omitted from ballot.		
106.19	Violations by candidates, persons connected with campaigns, and political committees.		
106.191	Signatures gathered for initiative petition; effect of ch. 97-13.		

106.011 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) "Political committee" means a combination of two or more individuals, or a person other than an individual, the primary or incidental purpose of which is to support or oppose any candidate, issue, or political party, which accepts contributions or makes expenditures during a calendar year in an aggregate amount in excess of \$500; "political committee" also means the sponsor of a proposed constitutional amendment by initiative who intends to seek the signatures of registered electors. Organizations which are certified by the Department of State as committees of continuous existence pursuant to s. 106.04, national political parties, and the state and county executive committees of political parties regulated by chapter 103 shall not be considered political committees for the purposes of this chapter. Corporations regulated by chapter 607 or chapter 617 or other business entities formed for purposes other than to support or oppose issues or candidates are not political committees if their political activities are limited to contributions to candidates, political parties, or political committees or expenditures in sup-

port of or opposition to an issue from corporate or business funds and if no contributions are received by such corporations or business entities.

(2) "Committee of continuous existence" means any group, organization, association, or other such entity which is certified pursuant to the provisions of s. 106.04.

(3) "Contribution" means:

(a) A gift, subscription, conveyance, deposit, loan, payment, or distribution of money or anything of value, including contributions in kind having an attributable monetary value in any form, made for the purpose of influencing the results of an election.

(b) A transfer of funds between political committees, between committees of continuous existence, or between a political committee and a committee of continuous existence.

(c) The payment, by any person other than a candidate or political committee, of compensation for the personal services of another person which are rendered to a candidate or political committee without charge to the candidate or committee for such services.

(d) The transfer of funds by a campaign treasurer or deputy campaign treasurer between a primary depository and a separate interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit, and the term includes any interest earned on such account or certificate.

Notwithstanding the foregoing meanings of "contribution," the word shall not be construed to include services, including, but not limited to, legal and accounting services, provided without compensation by individuals volunteering a portion or all of their time on behalf of a candidate or political committee. This definition shall not be construed to include editorial endorsements.

(4) "Expenditure" means a purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, transfer of funds by a campaign treasurer or deputy campaign treasurer between a primary depository and a separate interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit, or gift of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing the results of an election. However, "expenditure" does not include a purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, or gift of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing the results of an election when made by an organization, in existence prior to the time during which a candidate qualifies or an issue is placed on the ballot for that election, for the purpose of printing or distributing such organization's newsletter, containing a statement by such organization in support of or opposition to a candidate or issue, which newsletter is distributed only to members of such organization.

(5)(a) "Independent expenditure" means an expenditure by a person for the purpose of advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or the approval or rejection of an issue, which expenditure is not controlled by, coordinated with, or made upon consultation with, any candidate, political committee, or agent of such candidate or committee. An expenditure for such purpose by a person having a contract with the candidate, political committee, or agent of such candidate or committee in a given election period shall not be deemed an independent expenditure.

(b) An expenditure for the purpose of advocating the election or defeat of a candidate which is made by the national, state, or county executive committee of a political party, including any subordinate committee of a national, state, or county committee of a political party, or by any political committee or committee of continuous existence, or any other person, shall not be considered an independent expenditure if the committee or person:

1. Communicates with the candidate, the candidate's campaign, or an agent of the candidate acting on behalf of the candidate, including any pollster, media consultant, advertising agency, vendor, advisor, or staff member, concerning the preparation of, use of, or payment for, the specific expenditure or advertising campaign at issue; or

2. Makes a payment in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, at the request or suggestion of, or pursuant to any general or particular understanding with the candidate, the candidate's campaign, a political committee supporting the candidate, or an agent of the candidate relating to the specific expenditure or advertising campaign at issue; or

3. Makes a payment for the dissemination, distribution, or republication, in whole or in part, of any broadcast or any written, graphic, or other form of campaign material prepared by the candidate, the candidate's campaign, or an agent of the candidate, including any pollster, media consultant, advertising agency, vendor, advisor, or staff member; or

4. Makes a payment based on information about the candidate's plans, projects, or needs communicated to a member of the committee or person by the candidate or an agent of the candidate, provided the committee or person uses the information in any way, in whole or in part, either directly or indirectly, to design, prepare, or pay for the specific expenditure or advertising campaign at issue; or

5. After the last day of qualifying for statewide or legislative office, consults about the candidate's plans, projects, or needs in connection with the candidate's pursuit of election to office and the information is used in any way to plan, create, design, or prepare an independent expenditure or advertising campaign, with:

a. Any officer, director, employee, or agent of a national, state, or county executive committee of a political party that has made or intends to make expenditures in connection with or contributions to the candidate; or

b. Any person whose professional services have been retained by a national, state, or county executive committee of a political party that has made or intends to make expenditures in connection with or contributions to the candidate; or

6. After the last day of qualifying for statewide or legislative office, retains the professional services of any person also providing those services to the candidate in connection with the candidate's pursuit of election to office; or

7. Arranges, coordinates, or directs the expenditure, in any way, with the candidate or an agent of the candidate.

(6) "Election" means any primary election, special primary election, general election, special election, or municipal election held in this state for the purpose of nominating or electing candidates to public office, choosing delegates to the national nominating conventions of political parties, or submitting an issue to the electors for their approval or rejection.

(7) "Issue" means any proposition which is required by the State Constitution, by law or resolution of the Legislature, or by the charter, ordinance, or resolution of any political subdivision of this state to be submitted to the electors for their approval or rejection at an election, or any proposition for which a petition is circulated in order to have such proposition placed on the ballot at any election.

(8) "Person" means an individual or a corporation, association, firm, partnership, joint venture, joint stock company, club, organization, estate, trust, business trust, syndicate, or other combination of individuals having collective capacity. The term includes a political party, political committee, or committee of continuous existence.

(9) "Campaign treasurer" means an individual appointed by a candidate or political committee as provided in this chapter.

(10) "Public office" means any state, county, municipal, or school or other district office or position which is filled by vote of the electors.

(11) "Campaign fund raiser" means any affair held to raise funds to be used in a campaign for public office.

(12) "Division" means the Division of Elections of the Department of State.

(13) "Communications media" means broadcasting stations, newspapers, magazines, outdoor advertising facilities, printers, direct mailing companies, advertising agencies, and telephone companies; but with respect to telephones, an expenditure shall be deemed to be an expenditure for the use of communications media only if made for the costs of telephones, paid telephonists, or automatic telephone equipment to be used by a candidate or a political committee to communicate with potential voters but excluding any costs of telephones incurred by a volunteer for use of telephones by such volunteer.

(14) "Filing officer" means the person before whom a candidate qualifies, the agency or officer with whom a political committee registers, or the agency by whom a committee of continuous existence is certified.

(15) "Unopposed candidate" means a candidate for nomination or election to an office who, after the last day on which any person, including a write-in candidate, may qualify, is without opposition in the election at which the office is to be filled or who is without such opposition after such date as a result of any primary election or of withdrawal by other candidates seeking the same office. A candidate is not an unopposed candidate if there is a vacancy to be filled under s. 100.111(4), if there is a legal proceeding pending regarding the right to a ballot position for the office sought by the candidate, or if the candidate is seeking retention as a justice or judge.

(16) "Candidate" means any person to whom any one or more of the following apply:

(a) Any person who seeks to qualify for nomination or election by means of the petitioning process.

(b) Any person who seeks to qualify for election as a write-in candidate.

(c) Any person who receives contributions or makes expenditures, or consents for any other person to receive contributions or make expenditures, with a view to bring about his or her nomination or election to, or retention in, public office.

(d) Any person who appoints a treasurer and designates a primary depository.

(e) Any person who files qualification papers and subscribes to a candidate's oath as required by law.

However, this definition does not include any candidate for a political party executive committee.

(17) "Political advertisement" means a paid expression in any communications media prescribed in subsection (13), whether radio, television, newspaper, magazine, periodical, campaign literature, direct mail, or display or by means other than the spoken word in direct conversation, which shall support or oppose any candidate, elected public official, or issue. However, political advertisement does not include:

(a) A statement by an organization, in existence prior to the time during which a candidate qualifies or an issue is placed on the ballot for that election, in support of or opposition to a candidate or issue, in that organization's newsletter, which newsletter is distributed only to the members of that organization.

(b) Editorial endorsements by any newspaper, radio or television station, or other recognized news medium.

History.—s. 1, ch. 73-128; s. 1, ch. 74-200; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 39, ch. 77-175; s. 2, ch. 79-157; ss. 6, 17, ch. 79-365; s. 1, ch. 79-378; s. 22, ch. 81-304; s. 34, ch. 84-302; s. 4, ch. 85-226; s. 2, ch. 89-256; s. 1, ch. 89-537; s. 24, ch. 90-315; s. 9, ch. 91-107; s. 636, ch. 95-147; s. 2, ch. 97-13; s. 7, ch. 99-355.

106.021 Campaign treasurers; deputies; primary and secondary depositories.—

(1)(a) Each candidate for nomination or election to office and each political committee shall appoint a campaign treasurer. Each person who seeks to qualify for nomination or election to, or retention in, office shall appoint a campaign treasurer and designate a primary campaign depository prior to qualifying for office. Any person who seeks to qualify for election or nomination to any office by means of the petitioning process shall appoint a treasurer and designate a primary depository on or before the date he or she obtains the petitions. Each candidate shall at the same time he or she designates a campaign depository and appoints a treasurer also designate the office for which he or she is a candidate. If the candidate is running for an office which will be grouped on the ballot with two or more similar offices to be filled at the same election, the candidate must indicate for which group or district office he or she is running. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a candidate, at a later date, from changing the designation of the office for which he or she is a candidate. However, if a candidate changes the designated office for which he or she is a candidate, the candidate must notify all contributors in writing of the intent to seek a different office and offer to return pro rata, upon their request,

those contributions given in support of the original office sought. This notification shall be given within 15 days after the filing of the change of designation and shall include a standard form developed by the Division of Elections for requesting the return of contributions. The notice requirement shall not apply to any change in a numerical designation resulting solely from redistricting. If, within 30 days after being notified by the candidate of the intent to seek a different office, the contributor notifies the candidate in writing that the contributor wishes his or her contribution to be returned, the candidate shall return the contribution, on a pro rata basis, calculated as of the date the change of designation is filed. Any contributions not requested to be returned within the 30-day period may be used by the candidate for the newly designated office. No person shall accept any contribution or make any expenditure with a view to bringing about his or her nomination, election, or retention in public office, or authorize another to accept such contributions or make such expenditure on the person's behalf, unless such person has appointed a campaign treasurer and designated a primary campaign depository. A candidate for an office voted upon statewide may appoint not more than 15 deputy campaign treasurers, and any other candidate or political committee may appoint not more than 3 deputy campaign treasurers. The names and addresses of the campaign treasurer and deputy campaign treasurers so appointed shall be filed with the officer before whom such candidate is required to qualify or with whom such political committee is required to register pursuant to s. 106.03. Each candidate who qualifies with the Department of State for an office not voted upon statewide shall, at the same time, file a copy of the name and address of the campaign treasurer with the supervisor of elections in the county in which the candidate resides.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (d), each candidate and each political committee shall also designate one primary campaign depository for the purpose of depositing all contributions received, and disbursing all expenditures made, by the candidate or political committee. The candidate or political committee may also designate one secondary depository in each county in which an election is held in which the candidate or committee participates. Secondary depositories shall be for the sole purpose of depositing contributions and forwarding the deposits to the primary campaign depository. Any bank, savings and loan association, or credit union authorized to transact business in this state may be designated as a campaign depository. The candidate or political committee shall file the name and address of each primary and secondary depository so designated at the same time that, and with the same officer with whom, the candidate or committee files the name of his, her, or its campaign treasurer pursuant to paragraph (a). In addition, the campaign treasurer or a deputy campaign treasurer may deposit any funds which are in the primary campaign depository and which are not then currently needed for the disbursement of expenditures into a separate interest-bearing account in any bank, savings and loan association, or credit union authorized to transact busi-

ness in this state. The separate interest-bearing account shall be designated "(name of candidate or committee) separate interest-bearing campaign account." In lieu thereof, the campaign treasurer or deputy campaign treasurer may purchase a certificate of deposit with such unneeded funds in such bank, savings and loan association, or credit union. The separate interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit shall be separate from any personal or other account or certificate of deposit. Any withdrawal of the principal or earned interest or any part thereof shall only be made from the separate interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit for the purpose of transferring funds to the primary account and shall be reported as a contribution.

(c) Any campaign treasurer or deputy treasurer appointed pursuant to this section shall be a registered voter in this state and shall, before such appointment may become effective, have accepted appointment to such position in writing and filed such acceptance with the officer before whom the candidate is required to qualify or with the officer with whom the political committee is required to file reports. An individual may be appointed and serve as campaign treasurer of a candidate and a political committee or two or more candidates and political committees. A candidate may appoint herself or himself as campaign treasurer.

(d) Any political committee which deposits all contributions received in a national depository from which the political committee receives funds to contribute to state and local candidates shall not be required to designate a campaign depository in the state.

(2) A candidate or political committee may remove his, her, or its campaign treasurer or any deputy treasurer. In case of the death, resignation, or removal of a campaign treasurer before compliance with all obligations of a campaign treasurer under this chapter, the candidate or political committee shall appoint a successor and certify the name and address of the successor in the manner provided in the case of an original appointment. No resignation shall be effective until it has been submitted to the candidate or committee in writing and a copy thereof has been filed with the officer before whom the candidate is required to qualify or the officer with whom the political committee is required to file reports. No treasurer or deputy treasurer shall be deemed removed by a candidate or political committee until written notice of such removal has been given to such treasurer or deputy treasurer and has been filed with the officer before whom such candidate is required to qualify or with the officer with whom such committee is required to file reports.

(3) Except for independent expenditures, no contribution or expenditure, including contributions or expenditures of a candidate or of the candidate's family, shall be directly or indirectly made or received in furtherance of the candidacy of any person for nomination or election to political office in the state or on behalf of any political committee except through the duly appointed campaign treasurer of the candidate or political committee. However, expenditures may be made directly by any political committee or political party regulated by chapter 103 for obtaining time, space, or services in or by any communications medium for the pur-

pose of jointly endorsing three or more candidates, and any such expenditure shall not be considered a contribution or expenditure to or on behalf of any such candidates for the purposes of this chapter.

(4) A deputy campaign treasurer may exercise any of the powers and duties of a campaign treasurer as set forth in this chapter when specifically authorized to do so by the campaign treasurer and the candidate, in the case of a candidate, or the campaign treasurer and chair of the political committee, in the case of a political committee.

(5) For purposes of appointing a campaign treasurer and designating a campaign depository, candidates for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor on the same ticket shall be considered a single candidate.

*History.—*s. 2, ch. 73-128; s. 2, ch. 74-200; s. 1, ch. 75-139; s. 39, ch. 77-175; s. 2, ch. 79-378; s. 56, ch. 79-400; s. 23, ch. 81-304; s. 35, ch. 84-302; s. 3, ch. 89-256; s. 25, ch. 90-315; s. 10, ch. 91-107; s. 637, ch. 95-147; s. 9, ch. 97-13.

106.023 Statement of candidate.—Each candidate must file a statement with the qualifying officer within 10 days after filing the appointment of campaign treasurer and designation of campaign depository, stating that the candidate has read and understands the requirements of this chapter. Such statement shall be provided by the filing officer and shall be in substantially the following form:

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

I, _____, candidate for the office of _____, have received, read, and understand the requirements of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

(Signature of candidate)

(Date)

Willful failure to file this form is a violation of ss. 106.19(1)(c) and 106.25(3), F.S.

*History.—*s. 26, ch. 90-315; s. 638, ch. 95-147.

106.025 Campaign fund raisers.—

(1)(a) No campaign fund raiser may be held unless the person for whom such funds are to be so used is a candidate for public office.

(b) All money and contributions received with respect to such a campaign fund raiser shall be deemed to be campaign contributions, and shall be accounted for, and subject to the same restrictions, as other campaign contributions. All expenditures made with respect to such a campaign fund raiser which are made or reimbursed by a check drawn on the campaign depository of the candidate for whom the funds are to be used and shall be deemed to be campaign expenditures to be accounted for, and subject to the same restrictions, as other campaign expenditures.

(c) Any tickets or advertising for such a campaign fund raiser shall contain the following statement: "The purchase of a ticket for, or a contribution to, the campaign fund raiser is a contribution to the campaign of _____ (name of the candidate for whose benefit the campaign fund raiser is held)." Such tickets or advertising shall also comply with other provisions of this chapter relating to political advertising.

(d) Any person or candidate who holds a campaign fund raiser, or consents to a campaign fund raiser being held, in violation of the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(2) This section shall not apply to any campaign fund raiser held on behalf of a political party by the state or county executive committee of such party, provided that the proceeds of such campaign fund raiser are reported pursuant to s. 106.29.

*History.—*s. 40, ch. 77-175; s. 51, ch. 81-259; s. 24, ch. 81-304; s. 27, ch. 83-217; s. 4, ch. 89-256.

106.03 Registration of political committees.—

(1) Each political committee which anticipates receiving contributions or making expenditures during a calendar year in an aggregate amount exceeding \$500 or which is seeking the signatures of registered electors in support of an initiative shall file a statement of organization as provided in subsection (3) within 10 days after its organization or, if later, within 10 days after the date on which it has information which causes the committee to anticipate that it will receive contributions or make expenditures in excess of \$500. If a political committee is organized within 10 days of any election, it shall immediately file the statement of organization required by this section.

(2) The statement of organization shall include:

- (a) The name and address of the committee;
- (b) The names, addresses, and relationships of affiliated or connected organizations;
- (c) The area, scope, or jurisdiction of the committee;
- (d) The name, address, and position of the custodian of books and accounts;
- (e) The name, address, and position of other principal officers, including officers and members of the finance committee, if any;
- (f) The name, address, office sought, and party affiliation of:
 - 1. Each candidate whom the committee is supporting;
 - 2. Any other individual, if any, whom the committee is supporting for nomination for election, or election, to any public office whatever;
 - (g) Any issue or issues such organization is supporting or opposing;
 - (h) If the committee is supporting the entire ticket of any party, a statement to that effect and the name of the party;
 - (i) A statement of whether the committee is a continuing one;
 - (j) Plans for the disposition of residual funds which will be made in the event of dissolution;
 - (k) A listing of all banks, safe-deposit boxes, or other depositories used for committee funds; and
 - (l) A statement of the reports required to be filed by the committee with federal officials, if any, and the names, addresses, and positions of such officials.

(3)(a) A political committee which is organized to support or oppose statewide, legislative, or multicounty candidates or issues to be voted upon on a statewide or multicounty basis shall file a statement of organization with the Division of Elections.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c), a political committee which is organized to support or oppose candidates or issues to be voted on in a countywide election or candidates or issues in any election held on less than a countywide basis shall file a statement of organization with the supervisor of elections of the county in which such election is being held.

(c) A political committee which is organized to support or oppose only candidates for municipal office or issues to be voted on in a municipal election shall file a statement of organization with the officer before whom municipal candidates qualify.

(d) Any political committee which would be required under this subsection to file a statement of organization in two or more locations by reason of the committee's intention to support or oppose candidates or issues at state or multicounty and local levels of government need file only with the Division of Elections.

(4) Any change in information previously submitted in a statement of organization shall be reported to the agency or officer with whom such committee is required to register pursuant to subsection (3), within 10 days following the change.

(5) Any committee which, after having filed one or more statements of organization, disbands or determines it will no longer receive contributions or make expenditures during the calendar year in an aggregate amount exceeding \$500 shall so notify the agency or officer with whom such committee is required to file the statement of organization.

(6) If the filing officer finds that a political committee has filed its statement of organization consistent with the requirements of subsection (2), it shall notify the committee in writing that it has been registered as a political committee. If the filing officer finds that a political committee's statement of organization does not meet the requirements of subsection (2), it shall notify the committee of such finding and shall state in writing the reasons for rejection of the statement of organization.

(7) The Division of Elections shall promulgate rules to prescribe the manner in which inactive committees may be dissolved and have their registration canceled. Such rules shall, at a minimum, provide for:

(a) Notice which shall contain the facts and conduct which warrant the intended action, including but not limited to failure to file reports and limited activity.

(b) Adequate opportunity to respond.

(c) Appeal of the decision to the Florida Elections Commission. Such appeals shall be exempt from the confidentiality provisions of s. 106.25.

*History.—*s. 3, ch. 73-128; s. 3, ch. 74-200; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 41, ch. 77-175; s. 18, ch. 79-365; s. 25, ch. 81-304; s. 1, ch. 82-143; s. 36, ch. 84-302; s. 5, ch. 89-256; s. 27, ch. 90-315.

106.04 Committees of continuous existence.—

(1) In order to qualify as a committee of continuous existence for the purposes of this chapter, a group, organization, association, or other such entity which is involved in making contributions to candidates, political committees, or political parties, shall meet the following criteria:

(a) It shall be organized and operated in accordance with a written charter or set of bylaws which con-

tains procedures for the election of officers and directors and which clearly defines membership in the organization; and

(b) At least 25 percent of the income of such organization, excluding interest, must be derived from dues or assessments payable on a regular basis by its membership pursuant to provisions contained in the charter or bylaws.

(2) Any group, organization, association, or other entity may seek certification from the Department of State as a committee of continuous existence by filing an application with the Division of Elections on a form provided by the division. Such application shall provide the information required of political committees by s. 106.03(2). Each application shall be accompanied by the name and street address of the principal officer of the applying entity as of the date of the application; a copy of the charter or bylaws of the organization; a copy of the dues or assessment schedule of the organization, or formula by which dues or assessments are levied; and a complete financial statement or annual audit summarizing all income received, and all expenses incurred, by the organization during the 12 months preceding the date of application. A membership list shall be made available for inspection if deemed necessary by the division.

(3) If the Division of Elections finds that an applying organization meets the criteria for a committee of continuous existence as provided by subsection (1), it shall certify such findings and notify the applying organization of such certification. If it finds that an applying organization does not meet the criteria for certification, it shall notify the organization of such findings and shall state the reasons why such criteria are not met.

(4)(a) Each committee of continuous existence shall file an annual report with the Division of Elections during the month of January. Such annual reports shall contain the same information and shall be accompanied by the same materials as original applications filed pursuant to subsection (2). However, the charter or bylaws need not be filed if the annual report is accompanied by a sworn statement by the chair that no changes have been made to such charter or bylaws since the last filing.

(b)1. Each committee of continuous existence shall file regular reports with the Division of Elections at the same times and subject to the same filing conditions as are established by s. 106.07(1) and (2) for candidates' reports.

2. Any committee of continuous existence failing to so file a report with the Division of Elections pursuant to this paragraph on the designated due date shall be subject to a fine for late filing as provided by this section.

(c) All committees of continuous existence shall file the original and one copy of their reports with the Division of Elections. In addition, a duplicate copy of each report shall be filed with the supervisor of elections in the county in which the committee maintains its books and records, except that if the filing officer to whom the committee is required to report is located in the same county as the supervisor no such duplicate report is required to be filed with the supervisor. Reports shall be

on forms provided by the division and shall contain the following information:

1. The full name, address, and occupation of each person who has made one or more contributions to the committee during the reporting period, together with the amounts and dates of such contributions. For corporations, the report must provide as clear a description as practicable of the principal type of business conducted by the corporation. However, if the contribution is \$100 or less, the occupation of the contributor or principal type of business need not be listed. However, for any contributions which represent the payment of dues by members in a fixed amount pursuant to the schedule on file with the Division of Elections, only the aggregate amount of such contributions need be listed, together with the number of members paying such dues and the amount of the membership dues.

2. The name and address of each political committee or committee of continuous existence from which the reporting committee received, or the name and address of each political committee, committee of continuous existence, or political party to which it made, any transfer of funds, together with the amounts and dates of all transfers.

3. Any other receipt of funds not listed pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2., including the sources and amounts of all such funds.

4. The name and address of, and office sought by, each candidate to whom the committee has made a contribution during the reporting period, together with the amount and date of each contribution.

(d) The treasurer of each committee shall certify as to the correctness of each report and shall bear the responsibility for its accuracy and veracity. Any treasurer who willfully certifies to the correctness of a report while knowing that such report is incorrect, false, or incomplete commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(5) No committee of continuous existence shall contribute to any candidate or political committee an amount in excess of the limits contained in s. 106.08(1) or participate in any other activity which is prohibited by this chapter. If any violation occurs, it shall be punishable as provided in this chapter for the given offense. No funds of a committee of continuous existence shall be expended on behalf of a candidate, except by means of a contribution made through the duly appointed campaign treasurer of a candidate. No such committee shall make expenditures in support of, or in opposition to, an issue unless such committee first registers as a political committee pursuant to this chapter and undertakes all the practices and procedures required thereof; provided such committee may make contributions in a total amount not to exceed 25 percent of its aggregate income, as reflected in the annual report filed for the previous year, to one or more political committees registered pursuant to s. 106.03 and formed to support or oppose issues.

(6) All accounts and records of a committee of continuous existence may be inspected under reasonable circumstances by any authorized representative of the Division of Elections or the Florida Elections Commission. The right of inspection may be enforced by appropriate writ issued by any court of competent jurisdiction.

(7) If a committee of continuous existence ceases to meet the criteria prescribed by subsection (1), the Division of Elections shall revoke its certification until such time as the criteria are again met. The Division of Elections shall promulgate rules to prescribe the manner in which such certification shall be revoked. Such rules shall, at a minimum, provide for:

(a) Notice, which shall contain the facts and conduct that warrant the intended action.

(b) Adequate opportunity to respond.

(c) Appeal of the decision to the Florida Elections Commission. Such appeals shall be exempt from the confidentiality provisions of s. 106.25.

(8)(a) Any committee of continuous existence failing to file a report on the designated due date shall be subject to a fine. The fine shall be \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25 percent of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report. The fine shall be assessed by the filing officer, and the moneys collected shall be deposited in the Elections Commission Trust Fund. No separate fine shall be assessed for failure to file a copy of any report required by this section.

(b) Upon determining that a report is late, the filing officer shall immediately notify the treasurer of the committee as to the failure to file a report by the designated due date and that a fine is being assessed for each late day. Upon receipt of the report, the filing officer shall determine the amount of fine which is due and shall notify the treasurer of the committee. The filing officer shall determine the amount of the fine due based upon the earliest of the following:

1. When the report is actually received by such officer.

2. When the report is postmarked.

3. When the certificate of mailing is dated.

4. When the receipt from an established courier company is dated.

Such fine shall be paid to the filing officer within 20 days after receipt of the notice of payment due, unless appeal is made to the Florida Elections Commission pursuant to paragraph (c). An officer or member of a committee shall not be personally liable for such fine.

(c) Any treasurer of a committee may appeal or dispute the fine, based upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and shall be entitled to a hearing before the Florida Elections Commission, which shall have the authority to waive the fine in whole or in part. Any such request shall be made within 20 days after receipt of the notice of payment due. In such case, the treasurer of the committee shall, within the 20-day period, notify the filing officer in writing of his or her intention to bring the matter before the commission.

(d) The filing officer shall notify the Florida Elections Commission of the repeated late filing by a committee of continuous existence, the failure of a committee of continuous existence to file a report after notice, or the failure to pay the fine imposed.

*History.—*s. 4, ch. 73-128; ss. 4, 16, ch. 74-200; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 42, ch. 77-175; s. 57, ch. 79-400; s. 28, ch. 81-304; s. 5, ch. 85-226; s. 6, ch. 89-256; s. 28, ch. 90-315; s. 1, ch. 90-338; ss. 6, 12, ch. 91-107; s. 1, ch. 95-140; s. 639, ch. 95-147; s. 6, ch. 97-13.

106.05 Deposit of contributions; statement of campaign treasurer.—All funds received by the campaign treasurer of any candidate or political committee shall, prior to the end of the 5th business day following the receipt thereof, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays excluded, be deposited in a campaign depository designated pursuant to s. 106.021, in an account designated "(name of candidate or committee) Campaign Account." Except for contributions to political committees made by payroll deduction, all deposits shall be accompanied by a bank deposit slip containing the name of each contributor and the amount contributed by each. If a contribution is deposited in a secondary campaign depository, the depository shall forward the full amount of the deposit, along with a copy of the deposit slip accompanying the deposit, to the primary campaign depository prior to the end of the 1st business day following the deposit.

History.—s. 5, ch. 73-128; s. 1, ch. 76-88; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 43, ch. 77-175; s. 7, ch. 89-256; s. 29, ch. 90-315.

106.055 Valuation of in-kind contributions.—Any person who makes an in-kind contribution shall, at the time of making such contribution, place a value on such contribution, which valuation shall be the fair market value of such contribution.

History.—s. 44, ch. 77-175.

106.06 Treasurer to keep records; inspections.—

(1) The campaign treasurer of each candidate and the campaign treasurer of each political committee shall keep detailed accounts, current within not more than 2 days after the date of receiving a contribution or making an expenditure, of all contributions received and all expenditures made by or on behalf of the candidate or political committee that are required to be set forth in a statement filed under this chapter. The campaign treasurer shall also keep detailed accounts of all deposits made in any separate interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit and of all withdrawals made therefrom to the primary depository and of all interest earned thereon.

(2) Accounts, including separate interest-bearing accounts and certificates of deposit, kept by the campaign treasurer of a candidate or political committee may be inspected under reasonable circumstances before, during, or after the election to which the accounts refer by any authorized representative of the Division of Elections or the Florida Elections Commission. The right of inspection may be enforced by appropriate writ issued by any court of competent jurisdiction. The campaign treasurer of a political committee supporting a candidate may be joined with the campaign treasurer of the candidate as respondent in such a proceeding.

(3) Accounts kept by a campaign treasurer of a candidate shall be preserved by the campaign treasurer for a number of years equal to the term of office of the office to which the candidate seeks election. Accounts kept by a campaign treasurer of a political committee shall be preserved by such treasurer for at least 2 years after the date of the election to which the accounts refer.

History.—s. 6, ch. 73-128; s. 45, ch. 77-175; s. 3, ch. 79-378; s. 8, ch. 89-256; s. 30, ch. 90-315.

106.07 Reports; certification and filing.—

(1) Each campaign treasurer designated by a candidate or political committee pursuant to s. 106.021 shall file regular reports of all contributions received, and all expenditures made, by or on behalf of such candidate or political committee. Reports shall be filed on the 10th day following the end of each calendar quarter from the time the campaign treasurer is appointed, except that, if the 10th day following the end of a calendar quarter occurs on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the report shall be filed on the next following day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. Quarterly reports shall include all contributions received and expenditures made during the calendar quarter which have not otherwise been reported pursuant to this section.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), following the last day of qualifying for office, the reports shall be filed on the 32nd, 18th, and 4th days immediately preceding the first primary and on the 18th and 4th days immediately preceding the second primary and general election, for a candidate who is opposed in seeking nomination or election to any office, for a political committee, or for a committee of continuous existence.

(b) Following the last day of qualifying for office, any statewide candidate who has requested to receive contributions from the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund or any statewide candidate in a race with a candidate who has requested to receive contributions from the trust fund shall file reports on the 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, and 32nd days prior to the first primary and general elections, and on the 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th days prior to the second primary.

(c) Following the last day of qualifying for office, any unopposed candidate need only file a report within 90 days after the date such candidate became unopposed. Such report shall contain all previously unreported contributions and expenditures as required by this section and shall reflect disposition of funds as required by s. 106.141.

(d)1. When a special election is called to fill a vacancy in office, all political committees and committees of continuous existence making contributions or expenditures to influence the results of such special election shall file campaign treasurers' reports with the filing officer on the dates set by the Department of State pursuant to s. 100.111.

2. When an election is called for an issue to appear on the ballot at a time when no candidates are scheduled to appear on the ballot, all political committees making contributions or expenditures in support of or in opposition to such issue shall file reports on the 18th and 4th days prior to such election.

(e) The filing officer shall provide each candidate with a schedule designating the beginning and end of reporting periods as well as the corresponding designated due dates.

(2)(a) All reports required of a candidate by this section shall be filed with the officer before whom the candidate is required by law to qualify. All candidates who file with the Department of State shall file the original and one copy of their reports. In addition, a copy of each report for candidates for other than statewide

office who qualify with the Department of State shall be filed with the supervisor of elections in the county where the candidate resides. Reports shall be filed not later than 5 p.m. of the day designated; however, any report postmarked by the United States Postal Service no later than midnight of the day designated shall be deemed to have been filed in a timely manner. A certificate of mailing obtained from and dated by the United States Postal Service at the time of mailing, or a receipt from an established courier company, which bears a date on or before the date on which the report is due, shall be proof of mailing in a timely manner. Reports shall contain information of all previously unreported contributions received and expenditures made as of the preceding Friday, except that the report filed on the Friday immediately preceding the election shall contain information of all previously unreported contributions received and expenditures made as of the day preceding that designated due date. All such reports shall be open to public inspection.

(b)1. Any report which is deemed to be incomplete by the officer with whom the candidate qualifies shall be accepted on a conditional basis, and the campaign treasurer shall be notified by registered mail as to why the report is incomplete and be given 3 days from receipt of such notice to file an addendum to the report providing all information necessary to complete the report in compliance with this section. Failure to file a complete report after such notice constitutes a violation of this chapter.

2. In lieu of the notice by registered mail as required in subparagraph 1., the qualifying officer may notify the campaign treasurer by telephone that the report is incomplete and request the information necessary to complete the report. If, however, such information is not received by the qualifying officer within 3 days of the telephone request therefor, notice shall be sent by registered mail as provided in subparagraph 1.

(3) Reports required of a political committee shall be filed with the agency or officer before whom such committee registers pursuant to s. 106.03(3) and shall be subject to the same filing conditions as established for candidates' reports. Only committees that file with the Department of State shall file the original and one copy of their reports. Incomplete reports by political committees shall be treated in the manner provided for incomplete reports by candidates in subsection (2).

(4)(a) Each report required by this section shall contain:

1. The full name, address, and occupation, if any of each person who has made one or more contributions to or for such committee or candidate within the reporting period, together with the amount and date of such contributions. For corporations, the report must provide as clear a description as practicable of the principal type of business conducted by the corporation. However, if the contribution is \$100 or less or is from a relative, as defined in s. 112.312, provided that the relationship is reported, the occupation of the contributor or the principal type of business need not be listed.

2. The name and address of each political committee from which the reporting committee or the candidate received, or to which the reporting committee or

candidate made, any transfer of funds, together with the amounts and dates of all transfers.

3. Each loan for campaign purposes to or from any person or political committee within the reporting period, together with the full names, addresses, and occupations, and principal places of business, if any, of the lender and endorsers, if any, and the date and amount of such loans.

4. A statement of each contribution, rebate, refund, or other receipt not otherwise listed under subparagraphs 1. through 3.

5. The total sums of all loans, in-kind contributions, and other receipts by or for such committee or candidate during the reporting period. The reporting forms shall be designed to elicit separate totals for in-kind contributions, loans, and other receipts.

6. The full name and address of each person to whom expenditures have been made by or on behalf of the committee or candidate within the reporting period; the amount, date, and purpose of each such expenditure; and the name and address of, and office sought by, each candidate on whose behalf such expenditure was made. However, expenditures made from the petty cash fund provided by s. 106.12 need not be reported individually.

7. The full name and address of each person to whom an expenditure for personal services, salary, or reimbursement for authorized expenses has been made and which is not otherwise reported, including the amount, date, and purpose of such expenditure. However, expenditures made from the petty cash fund provided for in s. 106.12 need not be reported individually.

8. The total amount withdrawn and the total amount spent for petty cash purposes pursuant to this chapter during the reporting period.

9. The total sum of expenditures made by such committee or candidate during the reporting period.

10. The amount and nature of debts and obligations owed by or to the committee or candidate, which relate to the conduct of any political campaign.

11. A copy of each credit card statement which shall be included in the next report following receipt thereof by the candidate or political committee. Receipts for each credit card purchase shall be retained by the treasurer with the records for the campaign account.

12. The amount and nature of any separate interest-bearing accounts or certificates of deposit and identification of the financial institution in which such accounts or certificates of deposit are located.

(b) The filing officer shall make available to any candidate or committee a reporting form which the candidate or committee may use to indicate contributions received by the candidate or committee but returned to the contributor before deposit.

(5) The candidate and his or her campaign treasurer, in the case of a candidate, or the political committee chair and campaign treasurer of the committee, in the case of a political committee, shall certify as to the correctness of each report; and each person so certifying shall bear the responsibility for the accuracy and veracity of each report. Any campaign treasurer, candidate, or political committee chair who willfully certifies

the correctness of any report while knowing that such report is incorrect, false, or incomplete commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(6) The campaign depository shall return all checks drawn on the account to the campaign treasurer who shall retain the records pursuant to s. 106.06. The records maintained by the depository with respect to such account shall be subject to inspection by an agent of the Division of Elections or the Florida Elections Commission at any time during normal banking hours, and such depository shall furnish certified copies of any of such records to the Division of Elections or Florida Elections Commission upon request.

(7) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, in any reporting period during which a candidate, political committee, or committee of continuous existence has not received funds, made any contributions, or expended any reportable funds, the filing of the required report for that period is waived. However, the next report filed must specify that the report covers the entire period between the last submitted report and the report being filed, and any candidate, political committee, or committee of continuous existence not reporting by virtue of this subsection on dates prescribed elsewhere in this chapter shall notify the filing officer in writing on the prescribed reporting date that no report is being filed on that date.

(8)(a) Any candidate or political committee failing to file a report on the designated due date shall be subject to a fine as provided in paragraph (b) for each late day, and, in the case of a candidate, such fine shall be paid only from personal funds of the candidate. The fine shall be assessed by the filing officer and the moneys collected shall be deposited:

1. In the Elections Commission Trust Fund, in the case of a candidate for state office or a political committee that registers with the Division of Elections; or

2. In the general revenue fund of the political subdivision, in the case of a candidate for an office of a political subdivision or a political committee that registers with an officer of a political subdivision.

No separate fine shall be assessed for failure to file a copy of any report required by this section.

(b) Upon determining that a report is late, the filing officer shall immediately notify the candidate or chair of the political committee as to the failure to file a report by the designated due date and that a fine is being assessed for each late day. The fine shall be \$50 per day for the first 3 days late and, thereafter, \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25 percent of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report. However, for the reports immediately preceding each primary and general election, the fine shall be \$500 per day for each late day, not to exceed 25 percent of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report. Upon receipt of the report, the filing officer shall determine the amount of the fine which is due and shall notify the candidate or chair. The filing officer shall determine the amount of the fine due based upon the earliest of the following:

1. When the report is actually received by such officer.
2. When the report is postmarked.
3. When the certificate of mailing is dated.
4. When the receipt from an established courier company is dated.

Such fine shall be paid to the filing officer within 20 days after receipt of the notice of payment due, unless appeal is made to the Florida Elections Commission pursuant to paragraph (c). In the case of a candidate, such fine shall not be an allowable campaign expenditure and shall be paid only from personal funds of the candidate. An officer or member of a political committee shall not be personally liable for such fine.

(c) Any candidate or chair of a political committee may appeal or dispute the fine, based upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and shall be entitled to a hearing before the Florida Elections Commission, which shall have the authority to waive the fine in whole or in part. Any such request shall be made within 20 days after receipt of the notice of payment due. In such case, the candidate or chair of the political committee shall, within the 20-day period, notify the filing officer in writing of his or her intention to bring the matter before the commission.

(d) The appropriate filing officer shall notify the Florida Elections Commission of the repeated late filing by a candidate or political committee, the failure of a candidate or political committee to file a report after notice, or the failure to pay the fine imposed.

(9) The Department of State may prescribe by rule the requirements for filing campaign treasurers' reports as set forth in this chapter.

*History.—*s. 7, ch. 73-128; ss. 5, 15, 17, ch. 74-200; ss. 1, 2, ch. 75-8; s. 2, ch. 75-139; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 46, ch. 77-175; s. 23, ch. 79-164; ss. 7, 8, ch. 79-365; s. 4, ch. 79-378; s. 58, ch. 79-400; s. 52, ch. 81-259; s. 27, ch. 81-304; s. 2, ch. 82-143; s. 11, ch. 83-251; s. 37, ch. 84-302; s. 6, ch. 85-226; s. 1, ch. 86-134; s. 13, ch. 87-224; s. 9, ch. 89-256; s. 31, ch. 90-315; s. 2, ch. 90-338; s. 18, ch. 90-502; s. 7, ch. 91-107; s. 2, ch. 95-140; s. 640, ch. 95-147; s. 15, ch. 95-280; s. 7, ch. 97-13; s. 6, ch. 2001-75.

*Note.—*The trust fund expired, effective November 4, 1996, by operation of s. 19(f), Art. III of the State Constitution.

106.071 Independent expenditures; reports; disclaimers.—

(1) Each person who makes an independent expenditure with respect to any candidate or issue, which expenditure, in the aggregate, is in the amount of \$100 or more, shall file periodic reports of such expenditures in the same manner, at the same time, and with the same officer as a political committee supporting or opposing such candidate or issue. The report shall contain the full name and address of each person to whom and for whom each such expenditure has been made; the amount, date, and purpose of each such expenditure; a description of the services or goods obtained by each such expenditure; and the name and address of, and office sought by, each candidate on whose behalf such expenditure was made. Any political advertisement paid for by an independent expenditure shall prominently state "Paid political advertisement paid for by (Name of person or committee paying for advertisement) independently of any (candidate or committee)," and shall contain the name and address of the person paying for the political advertisement.

(2) Any person who fails to include the disclaimer prescribed in subsection (1) in any political advertisement which is required to contain such disclaimer is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(3) No person may make a contribution in excess of \$1,000 to any other person, to be used by such other person to make an independent expenditure.

History.—s. 47, ch. 77-175; s. 10, ch. 89-256.

106.075 Elected officials; report of loans made in year preceding election; limitation on contributions to pay loans.—

(1) A person who is elected to office must report all loans, exceeding \$500 in value, made to him or her and used for campaign purposes, and made in the 12 months preceding his or her election to office, to the filing officer. The report must be made, in the manner prescribed by the Department of State, within 10 days after being elected to office.

(2) Any person who makes a contribution to an individual to pay all or part of a loan incurred, in the 12 months preceding the election, to be used for the individual's campaign, may not contribute more than the amount which is allowed in s. 106.08(1).

History.—s. 11, ch. 89-256; s. 32, ch. 90-315; s. 12, ch. 91-107; s. 641, ch. 95-147.

106.08 Contributions; limitations on.—

(1)(a) Except for political parties, no person, political committee, or committee of continuous existence may, in any election, make contributions in excess of \$500 to any candidate for election to or retention in office or to any political committee supporting or opposing one or more candidates. Candidates for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor on the same ticket are considered a single candidate for the purpose of this section.

(b)1. The contribution limits provided in this subsection do not apply to contributions made by a state or county executive committee of a political party regulated by chapter 103 or to amounts contributed by a candidate to his or her own campaign.

2. Notwithstanding the limits provided in this subsection, an unemancipated child under the age of 18 years of age may not make a contribution in excess of \$100 to any candidate or to any political committee supporting one or more candidates.

(c) The contribution limits of this subsection apply to each election. For purposes of this subsection, the first primary, second primary, and general election are separate elections so long as the candidate is not an unopposed candidate as defined in s. 106.011(15). However, for the purpose of contribution limits with respect to candidates for retention as a justice or judge, there is only one election, which is the general election. With respect to candidates in a circuit holding an election for circuit judge or in a county holding an election for county court judge, there are only two elections, which are the first primary election and general election.

(2)(a) A candidate may not accept contributions from national, state, including any subordinate committee of a national, state, or county committee of a politi-

cal party, and county executive committees of a political party, which contributions in the aggregate exceed \$50,000, no more than \$25,000 of which may be accepted prior to the 28-day period immediately preceding the date of the general election.

(b) Polling services, research services, costs for campaign staff, professional consulting services, and telephone calls are not contributions to be counted toward the contribution limits of paragraph (a). Any item not expressly identified in this paragraph as nonallocable is a contribution in an amount equal to the fair market value of the item and must be counted as allocable toward the \$50,000 contribution limits of paragraph (a). Nonallocable, in-kind contributions must be reported by the candidate under s. 106.07 and by the political party under s. 106.29.

(3)(a) Any contribution received by a candidate with opposition in an election or by the campaign treasurer or a deputy campaign treasurer of such a candidate on the day of that election or less than 5 days prior to the day of that election must be returned by him or her to the person or committee contributing it and may not be used or expended by or on behalf of the candidate.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c), any contribution received by a candidate or by the campaign treasurer or a deputy campaign treasurer of a candidate after the date at which the candidate withdraws his or her candidacy, or after the date the candidate is defeated, becomes unopposed, or is elected to office must be returned to the person or committee contributing it and may not be used or expended by or on behalf of the candidate.

(c) With respect to any campaign for an office in which an independent or minor party candidate has filed as required in s. 99.0955 or s. 99.096, but whose qualification is pending a determination by the Department of State or supervisor of elections as to whether or not the required number of petition signatures was obtained:

1. The department or supervisor shall, no later than 3 days after that determination has been made, notify in writing all other candidates for that office of that determination.

2. Any contribution received by a candidate or the campaign treasurer or deputy campaign treasurer of a candidate after the candidate has been notified in writing by the department or supervisor that he or she has become unopposed as a result of an independent or minor party candidate failing to obtain the required number of petition signatures shall be returned to the person, political committee, or committee of continuous existence contributing it and shall not be used or expended by or on behalf of the candidate.

(4) Any contribution received by the chair, campaign treasurer, or deputy campaign treasurer of a political committee supporting or opposing a candidate with opposition in an election or supporting or opposing an issue on the ballot in an election on the day of that election or less than 5 days prior to the day of that election may not be obligated or expended by the committee until after the date of the election.

(5) A person may not make any contribution through or in the name of another, directly or indirectly, in any election. Candidates, political committees, and political parties may not solicit contributions from or make contributions to any religious, charitable, civic, or other causes or organizations established primarily for the public good. However, it is not a violation of this subsection for a candidate, political committee, or political party executive committee to make gifts of money in lieu of flowers in memory of a deceased person or for a candidate to continue membership in, or make regular donations from personal or business funds to, religious, political party, civic, or charitable groups of which the candidate is a member or to which the candidate has been a regular donor for more than 6 months. A candidate may purchase, with campaign funds, tickets, admission to events, or advertisements from religious, civic, political party, or charitable groups.

(6) A political party may not accept any contribution which has been specifically designated for the partial or exclusive use of a particular candidate. Any contribution so designated must be returned to the contributor and may not be used or expended by or on behalf of the candidate.

(7)(a) Any person who knowingly and willfully makes no more than one contribution in violation of subsection (1) or subsection (5), or any person who knowingly and willfully fails or refuses to return any contribution as required in subsection (3), commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. If any corporation, partnership, or other business entity or any political party, political committee, or committee of continuous existence is convicted of knowingly and willfully violating any provision punishable under this paragraph, it shall be fined not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$10,000. If it is a domestic entity, it may be ordered dissolved by a court of competent jurisdiction; if it is a foreign or non-resident business entity, its right to do business in this state may be forfeited. Any officer, partner, agent, attorney, or other representative of a corporation, partnership, or other business entity or of a political party, political committee, or committee of continuous existence who aids, abets, advises, or participates in a violation of any provision punishable under this paragraph commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(b) Any person who knowingly and willfully makes two or more contributions in violation of subsection (1) or subsection (5) commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. If any corporation, partnership, or other business entity or any political party, political committee, or committee of continuous existence is convicted of knowingly and willfully violating any provision punishable under this paragraph, it shall be fined not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$50,000. If it is a domestic entity, it may be ordered dissolved by a court of competent jurisdiction; if it is a foreign or nonresident business entity, its right to do business in this state may be forfeited. Any officer, partner, agent, attorney, or other representative of a corporation, partnership, or other business entity, or of a political committee, committee

of continuous existence, or political party who aids, abets, advises, or participates in a violation of any provision punishable under this paragraph commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(8) Except when otherwise provided in subsection (7), any person who knowingly and willfully violates any provision of this section shall, in addition to any other penalty prescribed by this chapter, pay to the state a sum equal to twice the amount contributed in violation of this chapter. Each campaign treasurer shall pay all amounts contributed in violation of this section to the state for deposit in the General Revenue Fund.

(9) This section does not apply to the transfer of funds between a primary campaign depository and a savings account or certificate of deposit or to any interest earned on such account or certificate.

*History.—*s. 8, ch. 73-128; s. 6, ch. 74-200; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 48, ch. 77-175; s. 1, ch. 78-403; s. 9, ch. 79-365; s. 5, ch. 79-378; s. 7, ch. 85-226; s. 4, ch. 86-134; s. 12, ch. 89-258; ss. 33, 46, ch. 90-315; s. 9, ch. 90-338; s. 11, ch. 91-107; s. 642, ch. 95-147; s. 3, ch. 97-13; s. 8, ch. 99-355.

106.082 Commissioner of Agriculture candidates; campaign contribution limits.—

(1) No business which is inspected, licensed, or otherwise authorized to do business as a food outlet or convenience store pursuant to chapter 500; or any director, officer, lobbyist, or controlling interest of that business; and no political committee or committee of continuous existence representing the interests of such business shall make or solicit a contribution in excess of \$100, for any election, to or on behalf of any candidate for the office of Commissioner of Agriculture. The provisions of this subsection shall not prevent any candidate for the office of Commissioner of Agriculture or members of that candidate's immediate family from contributing to that candidate's campaign as otherwise permitted by law.

(2) No candidate for the office of Commissioner of Agriculture may solicit or accept a campaign contribution in excess of \$100 from any business or person who is licensed or inspected or otherwise authorized to do business as a food outlet or convenience store pursuant to chapter 500; or any director, officer, lobbyist, or controlling interest of that person or business; or any political committee or committee of continuous existence that represents that person.

(3) No employee of the Department of Agriculture may solicit a campaign contribution for any candidate for the office of Commissioner of Agriculture from any person or business who is licensed, inspected, or otherwise authorized to do business as a food outlet or convenience store pursuant to chapter 500; or any director, officer, lobbyist, or controlling interest of that person; or any political committee or committee of continuous existence that represents that person. For purposes of this section, "employee of the department" means any person employed in the Department of Agriculture holding a position in the Senior Management Service as defined in s. 110.402; any person holding a position in the Selected Exempt Service as defined in s. 110.602; any person having authority over food outlet or convenience store regulation, or inspection supervision; or any person, hired on a contractual

106.125 Credit cards; conditions on use.—Any candidate for statewide office or any political committee created to support or oppose any candidate for statewide office or to support or oppose any statewide issue may obtain, and use in making travel-related campaign expenditures, credit cards. The obtention and use of credit cards by any such candidate or political committee shall be subject to the following conditions:

(1) Credit cards may be obtained only from the same bank which has been designated as the candidate's or political committee's primary campaign depository.

(2) Credit cards shall be in the name of the candidate or political committee and shall reflect that the account is a campaign account.

(3) Before a credit card may be used, a copy of the agreement or contract between the candidate and the bank, or the political committee and the bank, and a list of all persons who have been authorized to use the card shall be filed with the Secretary of State.

(4) All credit cards issued to candidates or political committees shall expire no later than midnight of the last day of the month of the general election.

(5) Each statement rendered by the issuer of a credit card shall be paid upon receipt.

(6) Campaign travel-related expenditures shall include transportation, lodging, meals, and other expenses incurred in connection with traveling for campaign purposes.

This section shall not be deemed to preclude the use of advance payments by a check drawn on the primary depository account for travel-related expenses. The treasurer shall require an accounting of actual expenses and reconcile any overpayment or underpayment to the original payee.

History.—s. 11, ch. 79-365; s. 2, ch. 86-134.

106.14 Utilities; deposits; prior authorization.—

(1) Utility companies providing utilities services to a candidate or political committee shall charge a deposit sufficient to meet all anticipated charges during a billing period.

(2) Authorization and payment for utilities used during the billing period must be made by the candidate or political committee when the bill is received from a utility company.

History.—s. 14, ch. 73-128; s. 48, ch. 77-175; s. 5, ch. 78-403; s. 59, ch. 79-400; s. 2, ch. 85-63; s. 14, ch. 89-256.

106.1405 Use of campaign funds.—A candidate or the spouse of a candidate may not use funds on deposit in a campaign account of such candidate to defray normal living expenses for the candidate or the candidate's family, other than expenses actually incurred for transportation, meals, and lodging by the candidate or a family member during travel in the course of the campaign.

History.—s. 49, ch. 77-175; s. 53, ch. 81-259; s. 644, ch. 95-147; s. 10, ch. 97-13.

106.141 Disposition of surplus funds by candidates.—

(1) Each candidate who withdraws his or her candidacy, becomes an unopposed candidate, or is elimi-

nated as a candidate or elected to office shall, within 90 days, dispose of the funds on deposit in his or her campaign account and file a report reflecting the disposition of all remaining funds. Such candidate shall not accept any contributions, nor shall any person accept contributions on behalf of such candidate, after the candidate withdraws his or her candidacy, becomes unopposed, or is eliminated or elected. However, if a candidate receives a refund check after all surplus funds have been disposed of, the check may be endorsed by the candidate and the refund disposed of under this section. An amended report must be filed showing the refund and subsequent disposition.

(2) Any candidate required to dispose of funds pursuant to this section may, prior to such disposition, be reimbursed by the campaign, in full or in part, for any reported contributions by the candidate to the campaign.

(3) The campaign treasurer of a candidate who withdraws his or her candidacy, becomes unopposed, or is eliminated as a candidate or elected to office and who has funds on deposit in a separate interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit shall, within 7 days after the date of becoming unopposed or the date of such withdrawal, elimination, or election, transfer such funds and the accumulated interest earned thereon to the campaign account of the candidate for disposal under this section. However, if the funds are in an account in which penalties will apply for withdrawal within the 7-day period, the campaign treasurer shall transfer such funds and the accumulated interest earned thereon as soon as the funds can be withdrawn without penalty, or within 90 days after the candidate becomes unopposed, withdraws his or her candidacy, or is eliminated or elected, whichever comes first.

(4)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), any candidate required to dispose of funds pursuant to this section shall, at the option of the candidate, dispose of such funds by any of the following means, or any combination thereof:

1. Return pro rata to each contributor the funds that have not been spent or obligated.

2. Donate the funds that have not been spent or obligated to a charitable organization or organizations that meet the qualifications of s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

3. Give not more than \$10,000 of the funds that have not been spent or obligated to the political party of which such candidate is a member.

4. Give the funds that have not been spent or obligated:

a. In the case of a candidate for state office, to the state, to be deposited in either the 'Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund or the General Revenue Fund, as designated by the candidate; or

b. In the case of a candidate for an office of a political subdivision, to such political subdivision, to be deposited in the general fund thereof.

(b) Any candidate required to dispose of funds pursuant to this section who has received contributions from the 'Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund shall return all surplus campaign funds to the 'Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund.

(5) A candidate elected to office or a candidate who will be elected to office by virtue of his or her being unopposed may, in addition to the disposition methods provided in subsection (4), transfer from the campaign account to an office account any amount of the funds on deposit in such campaign account up to:

(a) Ten thousand dollars, for a candidate for statewide office. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall be considered separate candidates for the purpose of this section.

(b) Five thousand dollars, for a candidate for multicounty office.

(c) Two thousand five hundred dollars multiplied by the number of years in the term of office for which elected, for a candidate for legislative office.

(d) One thousand dollars multiplied by the number of years in the term of office for which elected, for a candidate for county office or for a candidate in any election conducted on less than a countywide basis.

(e) Six thousand dollars, for a candidate for retention as a justice of the Supreme Court.

(f) Three thousand dollars, for a candidate for retention as a judge of a district court of appeal.

(g) One thousand five hundred dollars, for a candidate for county court judge or circuit judge.

The office account established pursuant to this subsection shall be separate from any personal or other account. Any funds so transferred by a candidate shall be used only for legitimate expenses in connection with the candidate's public office. Such expenses may include travel expenses incurred by the officer or a staff member, personal taxes payable on office account funds by the candidate or elected public official, or expenses incurred in the operation of his or her office, including the employment of additional staff. The funds may be deposited in a savings account; however, all deposits, withdrawals, and interest earned thereon shall be reported at the appropriate reporting period. If a candidate is reelected to office or elected to another office and has funds remaining in his or her office account, he or she may transfer surplus campaign funds to the office account. At no time may the funds in the office account exceed the limitation imposed by this subsection. Upon leaving public office, any person who has funds in an office account pursuant to this subsection remaining on deposit shall give such funds to a charitable organization or organizations which meet the requirements of s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or, in the case of a state officer, to the state to be deposited in the General Revenue Fund or, in the case of an officer of a political subdivision, to the political subdivision to be deposited in the general fund thereof.

(6) Prior to disposing of funds pursuant to subsection (4) or transferring funds into an office account pursuant to subsection (5), any candidate who filed an oath stating that he or she was unable to pay the election assessment or fee for verification of petition signatures without imposing an undue burden on his or her personal resources or on resources otherwise available to him or her, or who filed both such oaths, or who qualified by the alternative method and was not required to pay an election assessment, shall reim-

burse the state or local governmental entity, whichever is applicable, for such waived assessment or fee or both. Such reimbursement shall be made first for the cost of petition verification and then, if funds are remaining, for the amount of the election assessment. If there are insufficient funds in the account to pay the full amount of either the assessment or the fee or both, the remaining funds shall be disbursed in the above manner until no funds remain. All funds disbursed pursuant to this subsection shall be remitted to the qualifying officer. Any reimbursement for petition verification costs which are reimbursable by the state shall be forwarded by the qualifying officer to the state for deposit in the General Revenue Fund. All reimbursements for the amount of the election assessment shall be forwarded by the qualifying officer to the Department of State for deposit in the Elections Commission Trust Fund.

(7) Any candidate required to dispose of campaign funds pursuant to this section shall do so within the time required by this section and shall, on or before the date by which such disposition is to have been made, file with the officer with whom reports are required to be filed pursuant to s. 106.07 a form prescribed by the Division of Elections listing:

(a) The name and address of each person or unit of government to whom any of the funds were distributed and the amounts thereof;

(b) The name and address of each person to whom an expenditure was made, together with the amount thereof and purpose therefor; and

(c) The amount of such funds transferred to an office account by the candidate, together with the name and address of the bank in which the office account is located.

Such report shall be signed by the candidate and the campaign treasurer and certified as true and correct pursuant to s. 106.07. Any candidate failing to file a report on the designated due date shall be subject to a fine as provided in s. 106.07 for submitting late reports.

(8) Any candidate elected to office who transfers surplus campaign funds into an office account pursuant to subsection (5) shall file a report on the 10th day following the end of each calendar quarter until the account is closed. Such reports shall contain the name and address of each person to whom any disbursement of funds was made, together with the amount thereof and the purpose therefor, and the name and address of any person from whom the elected candidate received any refund or reimbursement and the amount thereof. Such reports shall be on forms prescribed by the Division of Elections, signed by the elected candidate, certified as true and correct, and filed with the officer with whom campaign reports were filed pursuant to s. 106.07(2).

(9) Any candidate, or any person on behalf of a candidate, who accepts contributions after such candidate has withdrawn his or her candidacy, after the candidate has become an unopposed candidate, or after the candidate has been eliminated as a candidate or elected to office commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(10) Any candidate who is required by the provisions of this section to dispose of funds in his or her campaign account and who fails to dispose of the funds in the manner provided in this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

History.—s. 50, ch. 77-175; s. 6, ch. 79-378; s. 60, ch. 79-400; s. 2, ch. 80-292; s. 54, ch. 81-259; s. 28, ch. 81-304; s. 1, ch. 82-404; s. 38, ch. 84-302; s. 10, ch. 85-228; s. 2, ch. 86-7; s. 2, ch. 86-278; s. 11, ch. 87-363; s. 15, ch. 89-258; s. 34, ch. 90-315; s. 15, ch. 91-107; s. 645, ch. 95-147; ss. 15, 18, 53, ch. 97-13.

Note.—The trust fund expired, effective November 4, 1996, by operation of s. 19(f), Art. III of the State Constitution.

106.143 Political advertisements circulated prior to election; requirements.—

(1) Any political advertisement and any campaign literature published, displayed, or circulated prior to, or on the day of, any election shall:

(a) Be marked "paid political advertisement" or with the abbreviation "pd. pol. adv."

(b) Identify the persons or organizations sponsoring the advertisement.

(c)1.a. State whether the advertisement and the cost of production is paid for or provided in kind by or at the expense of the entity publishing, displaying, broadcasting, or circulating the political advertisement; or

b. State who provided or paid for the advertisement and cost of production, if different from the source of sponsorship.

2. This paragraph shall not apply if the source of the sponsorship is patently clear from the content or format of the political advertisement or campaign literature.

This subsection does not apply to campaign messages used by a candidate and the candidate's supporters if those messages are designed to be worn by a person.

(2) Any political advertisement of a candidate running for partisan office shall express the name of the political party of which the candidate is seeking nomination or is the nominee. If the candidate for partisan office is running as a candidate with no party affiliation, any political advertisement of the candidate must state that the candidate has no party affiliation.

(3) It is unlawful for any candidate or person on behalf of a candidate to represent that any person or organization supports such candidate, unless the person or organization so represented has given specific approval in writing to the candidate to make such representation. However, this subsection does not apply to:

(a) Editorial endorsement by any newspaper, radio or television station, or other recognized news medium.

(b) Publication by a party committee advocating the candidacy of its nominees.

(4)(a) Any political advertisement, including those paid for by a political party, other than an independent expenditure, offered by or on behalf of a candidate must be approved in advance by the candidate. Such political advertisement must expressly state that the content of the advertisement was approved by the candidate and must state who paid for the advertisement. The candidate shall provide a written statement of authorization to the newspaper, radio station, television station, or other medium for each such advertisement submitted for publication, display, broadcast, or other distribution.

(b) Any person who makes an independent expenditure for a political advertisement shall provide a written statement that no candidate has approved the advertisement to the newspaper, radio station, television station, or other medium for each such advertisement submitted for publication, display, broadcast, or other distribution. The advertisement must also contain a statement that no candidate has approved the advertisement.

(c) This subsection does not apply to campaign messages used by a candidate and his or her supporters if those messages are designed to be worn by a person.

(5) No political advertisement of a candidate who is not an incumbent of the office for which the candidate is running shall use the word "re-elect." Additionally, such advertisement must include the word "for" between the candidate's name and the office for which the candidate is running, in order that incumbency is not implied. This subsection does not apply to bumper stickers or items designed to be worn by a person.

(6) This section does not apply to novelty items having a retail value of \$10 or less which support, but do not oppose, a candidate or issue.

(7) Any political advertisement which is published, displayed, or produced in a language other than English may provide the information required by this section in the language used in the advertisement.

(8) Any person who willfully violates any provision of this section is subject to the civil penalties prescribed in s. 106.265.

History.—s. 8, ch. 26870, 1951; s. 1, ch. 61-145; s. 21, ch. 65-379; s. 57, ch. 71-136; s. 30, ch. 73-128; s. 52, ch. 77-175; s. 30, ch. 81-304; s. 16, ch. 89-258; s. 35, ch. 90-315; s. 16, ch. 91-107; s. 646, ch. 95-147; s. 17, ch. 97-13; s. 18, ch. 99-318.

Note.—Former s. 104.37.

106.1435 Usage and removal of political campaign advertisements.—

(1) Each candidate, whether for a federal, state, county, or district office, shall make a good faith effort to remove all of his or her political campaign advertisements within 30 days after:

- (a) Withdrawal of his or her candidacy;
- (b) Having been eliminated as a candidate; or
- (c) Being elected to office.

However, a candidate is not expected to remove those political campaign advertisements which are in the form of signs used by an outdoor advertising business as provided in chapter 479. The provisions herein do not apply to political campaign advertisements placed on motor vehicles or to campaign messages designed to be worn by persons.

(2) If political campaign advertisements are not removed within the specified period, the political subdivision or governmental entity has the authority to remove such advertisements and may charge the candidate the actual cost for such removal. Funds collected for removing such advertisements shall be deposited to the general revenue of the political subdivision.

(3) Pursuant to chapter 479, no political campaign advertisements shall be erected, posted, painted, tacked, nailed, or otherwise displayed, placed, or

located on or above any state or county road right-of-way.

(4) The officer before whom a candidate qualifies for office shall notify the candidate, in writing, of the provisions in this section.

(5) This provision does not preclude municipalities from imposing additional or more stringent requirements on the usage and removal of political campaign advertisements.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 84-221; s. 20, ch. 84-302; s. 14, ch. 87-224; s. 647, ch. 95-147.

106.1437 Miscellaneous advertisements.—Any advertisement, other than a political advertisement, on billboards, bumper stickers, radio, or television, or in a newspaper, a magazine, or a periodical, intended to influence public policy or the vote of a public official, shall clearly designate the sponsor of such advertisement by including a clearly readable statement of sponsorship. If the advertisement is broadcast on television, the advertisement shall also contain a verbal statement of sponsorship. This section shall not apply to an editorial endorsement.

*History.—*s. 36, ch. 90-315.

106.144 Endorsements or opposition by certain groups and organizations.—

(1) Any group, club, association, or other organization, except organizations affiliated with political parties regulated by chapter 103, which intends to endorse or oppose the candidacy of one or more candidates for public office, or which endorses or opposes any referendum, by means of political advertisements shall, prior to publishing, issuing, broadcasting, or otherwise distributing such advertisement, file a statement as provided by this section with the officer or officers provided in this section. Such statement shall be filed with the officer before whom each candidate that the organization intends to endorse or oppose qualified for office pursuant to law. Each statement shall contain the following information:

(a) The date the organization was chartered and the number of members during the most recent 12 months and how many of these members, if any, have paid dues;

(b) A list of current officers or directors of such organization and a statement as to their method of selection;

(c) A statement of the procedures used by such organization in determining which candidates to endorse or oppose;

(d) If political advertisements for endorsement or opposition purposes are to be paid from funds other than the dues of the membership of the organization, a statement describing the sources of such funds; and

(e) The amount of funds paid to the organization by candidates for public office, including payments in the form of dues, and the name of, and office sought by, each such candidate.

(2) Any officer, director, or other person acting on behalf of an organization who willfully violates the provisions of subsection (1) is subject to the civil penalties prescribed in s. 106.265.

*History.—*s. 31, ch. 73-128; s. 53, ch. 77-175; s. 17, ch. 89-256.
Note.—Former s. 104.373.

106.147 Telephone solicitation; disclosure requirements; prohibitions; exemptions; penalties.—

(1)(a) Any telephone call supporting or opposing a candidate, elected public official, or ballot proposal must identify the persons or organizations sponsoring the call by stating either: "paid for by____" (insert name of persons or organizations sponsoring the call) or "paid for on behalf of____" (insert name of persons or organizations authorizing call). This paragraph does not apply to any telephone call in which both the individual making the call is not being paid and the individuals participating in the call know each other prior to the call.

(b) Any telephone call conducted for the purpose of polling respondents concerning a candidate or elected public official which is a part of a series of like telephone calls that consists of fewer than 1,000 completed calls and averages more than 2 minutes in duration is presumed to be a political poll and not subject to the provisions of paragraph (a).

(c) No telephone call shall state or imply that the caller represents any person or organization unless the person or organization so represented has given specific approval in writing to make such representation.

(d) No telephone call shall state or imply that the caller represents a nonexistent person or organization.

(2) Any telephone call, not conducted by independent expenditure, supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot proposal, requires prior written authorization by the candidate or sponsor of the ballot proposal that the call supports. A copy of such written authorization must be placed on file with the qualifying officer by the candidate or sponsor of the ballot proposal prior to the time the calls commence.

(3)(a) Any person who willfully violates any provision of this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(b) For purposes of paragraph (a), the term "person" includes any candidate; any officer of any political committee, committee of continuous existence, or political party executive committee; any officer, partner, attorney, or other representative of a corporation, partnership, or other business entity; and any agent or other person acting on behalf of any candidate, political committee, committee of continuous existence, political party executive committee, or corporation, partnership, or other business entity.

*History.—*s. 18, ch. 97-13.

106.1475 Telephone solicitation; registered agent requirements; penalty.—

(1) Any person or organization that conducts any business in this state which consists of making paid telephone calls supporting or opposing any candidate or elected public official must, prior to conducting such business, have and continuously maintain, for at least 180 days following the cessation of such business activities in the state, a registered agent for the purpose of any service of process, notice, or demand required or authorized by law and must file with the division a notice of such registered agent. Such registered agent must be an individual who is a resident of this state, a domestic corporation, or a foreign corporation author-

ized to do business in this state. However, this subsection does not apply to any person or organization already lawfully registered to conduct business in this state.

(2) For purposes of this section, conducting business in this state as specified in subsection (1) includes both placing telephone calls from a location in this state and placing telephone calls from a location outside this state to individuals located in this state.

(3)(a) The division shall create and maintain forms for the notice required by subsection (1), which, at a minimum, must elicit all of the following information:

1. The name, address, and telephone number of the registered agent.

2. The name, address, and telephone number of the person or organization conducting business in this state as specified in subsection (1).

(b) The person or organization conducting business in this state as specified in subsection (1) must immediately notify the division of any changes in the information required in paragraph (a).

(4) Any person or organization that violates this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

*History.—*s. 19, ch. 97-13.

106.148 Disclosure of on-line computer solicitation.—A message placed on an information system accessible by computer by a candidate, political party, political committee, or committee of continuous existence, or an agent of any such candidate, party, or committee, which message is accessible by more than one person, other than an internal communication of the party, committee, or campaign, must include a statement disclosing all information required of political advertisements under s. 106.143.

*History.—*s. 20, ch. 97-13.

106.15 Certain acts prohibited.—

(1) No person shall pay money or give anything of value for the privilege of speaking at a political meeting in the furtherance of his or her candidacy, nor shall anyone speaking for such a person pay money or give anything of value for such privilege.

(2) No candidate, in the furtherance of his or her candidacy for nomination or election to public office in any election, shall use any state-owned aircraft or motor vehicle, as provided in chapter 287, solely for the purpose of furthering his or her candidacy. However, in the event a candidate uses any state-owned aircraft or motor vehicle to conduct official state business and while on such trip performs any function in the furtherance of his or her candidacy for nomination or election to public office in any election, the candidate shall prorate the expenses incurred and reimburse the appropriate agency for any trip not exclusively for state business and shall pay either a prorated share of all fixed and variable expenses related to the ownership, operation, and use of such aircraft or one-half of the total fixed and variable expenses related to the ownership, operation, and use of such aircraft, whichever is greater. The reimbursement shall be made from the campaign account of the candidate.

(3) No candidate shall, in the furtherance of his or her candidacy for nomination or election to public office in any election, use the services of any officer or employee of the state during working hours.

(4) No person shall make and no person shall solicit or knowingly accept any political contribution in a building owned by a governmental entity. For purposes of this subsection, "accept" means to receive a contribution by personal hand delivery from a contributor or the contributor's agent. This subsection shall not apply when a government-owned building or any portion thereof is rented for the specific purpose of holding a campaign fund raiser.

(5) Any person violating the provisions of this section commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

*History.—*s. 15, ch. 73-128; s. 9, ch. 74-200; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 54, ch. 77-175; s. 61, ch. 79-400; s. 31, ch. 81-304; s. 28, ch. 83-217; s. 2, ch. 83-304; s. 16, ch. 91-45; s. 17, ch. 91-107; s. 648, ch. 95-147; s. 2, ch. 97-223.

106.16 Limitation on certain rates and charges.—No person or corporation within the state publishing a newspaper or other periodical or operating a radio or television station or network of stations in Florida shall charge one candidate for state or county public office for political advertising in a county, or for political broadcasts in a county, at a rate in excess of that charged another political candidate.

*History.—*s. 16, ch. 73-128; s. 55, ch. 77-175; s. 18, ch. 89-256.

106.161 Air time available at the lowest unit rate.—To the extent permitted by federal law, all broadcast radio and television stations and all cable television stations shall make air time available to candidates for public office at the lowest unit rate.

*History.—*s. 35, ch. 91-107.

106.17 Polls and surveys relating to candidacies. Any candidate, political committee, or state or county executive committee of a political party may authorize or conduct a political poll, survey, index, or measurement of any kind relating to candidacy for public office so long as the candidate, political committee, or political party maintains complete jurisdiction over the poll in all its aspects.

*History.—*s. 17, ch. 73-128; s. 1, ch. 77-174; s. 56, ch. 77-175; s. 32, ch. 81-304.

106.18 When a candidate's name to be omitted from ballot.—

(1) The name of a candidate shall not be printed on the ballot for an election if the candidate is convicted of violating s. 106.19.

(2) Any candidate whose name is removed from the ballot pursuant to subsection (1) is disqualified as a candidate for office. If the disqualification of such candidate results in a vacancy in nomination, such vacancy shall be filled by a person other than such candidate in the manner provided by law.

(3) No certificate of election shall be granted to any candidate until all preelection reports required by s. 106.07 have been filed in accordance with the provisions of such section. However, no candidate shall be prevented from receiving a certificate of election for failure to file any copy of a report required by this chapter.

*History.—*s. 18, ch. 73-128; s. 57, ch. 77-175; s. 11, ch. 85-228; s. 37, ch. 90-315; s. 3, ch. 90-338.

106.19 Violations by candidates, persons connected with campaigns, and political committees.—

(1) Any candidate; campaign manager, campaign treasurer, or deputy treasurer of any candidate; committee chair, vice chair, campaign treasurer, deputy treasurer, or other officer of any political committee; agent or person acting on behalf of any candidate or political committee; or other person who knowingly and willfully:

- (a) Accepts a contribution in excess of the limits prescribed by s. 106.08;
- (b) Fails to report any contribution required to be reported by this chapter;
- (c) Falsely reports or deliberately fails to include any information required by this chapter; or
- (d) Makes or authorizes any expenditure in violation of s. 106.11(3) or any other expenditure prohibited by this chapter;

is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(2) Any candidate, campaign treasurer, or deputy treasurer; any chair, vice chair, or other officer of any political committee; any agent or person acting on behalf of any candidate or political committee; or any other person who violates paragraph (1)(a), paragraph (1)(b), or paragraph (1)(d) shall be subject to a civil penalty equal to three times the amount involved in the illegal act. Such penalty may be in addition to the penalties provided by subsection (1) and shall be paid into the General Revenue Fund of this state.

(3) A political committee sponsoring a constitutional amendment proposed by initiative which submits a petition form gathered by a paid petition circulator which does not provide the name and address of the paid petition circulator on the form is subject to the civil penalties prescribed in s. 106.265.

*History.—*s. 19, ch. 73-128; s. 57, ch. 77-175; s. 62, ch. 79-400; s. 12, ch. 91-107; s. 649, ch. 95-147; ss. 24, 45, ch. 97-13.

106.191 Signatures gathered for initiative petition; effect of ch. 97-13.—Any signature gathered on an authorized form for an initiative petition by a paid petition circulator which has been submitted prior to the effective date of this act may be kept and counted, if otherwise valid, and that form is not required to have the name and address of the paid petition circulator, nor is any such signature affected by the prohibition against filing an undue burden oath in lieu of paying the fee to have signatures verified, as provided by this act. However, any signature gathered on or after the effective date of this act is subject to the provisions of this act and, if payment is made to any person to solicit signatures after the effective date of this act, an undue burden oath may not be filed in lieu of paying the fee to have signatures verified. In addition, any initiative petition form approved by the Secretary of State prior to the effective date of this act may continue to be circulated.

*History.—*s. 25, ch. 97-13.

106.21 Certificates of election not to be issued upon conviction.—

(1) If a successful candidate is convicted of violating s. 106.19(1) prior to the issuance of his or her certifi-

cate of election, such certificate shall not be issued, and a vacancy shall be declared and filled as provided by law.

(2) If a successful candidate is convicted of violating s. 106.19(1) subsequent to the issuance of a certificate of election but prior to taking office, such certificate shall be rescinded by the issuing body and declared void, and a vacancy in office shall exist and be filled as provided by law.

*History.—*s. 21, ch. 73-128; s. 57, ch. 77-175; s. 650, ch. 95-147.

106.22 Duties of the Division of Elections.—It is the duty of the Division of Elections to:

(1) Prescribe forms for statements and other information required to be filed by this chapter. Such forms shall be furnished by the Department of State or office of the supervisor of elections to persons required to file such statements and information with such agency.

(2) Prepare and publish manuals or brochures setting forth recommended uniform methods of bookkeeping and reporting, and including appropriate portions of the election code, for use by persons required by this chapter to file statements.

(3) Develop a filing, coding, and cross-indexing system consonant with the purposes of this chapter.

(4) Preserve statements and other information required to be filed with the division pursuant to this chapter for a period of 10 years from date of receipt.

(5) Prepare and publish such reports as it may deem appropriate.

(6) Make, from time to time, audits and field investigations with respect to reports and statements filed under the provisions of this chapter and with respect to alleged failures to file any report or statement required under the provisions of this chapter. The division shall conduct a postelection audit of the campaign accounts of all candidates receiving contributions from the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund.

(7) Report to the Florida Elections Commission any failure to file a report or information required by this chapter or any apparent violation of this chapter.

(8) Employ such personnel or contract for such services as are necessary to adequately carry out the intent of this chapter.

(9) Prescribe rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this chapter. Such rules shall be prescribed pursuant to chapter 120.

(10) Make an annual report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives concerning activities of the division and recommending improvements in the election code.

(11) Conduct preliminary investigations into any irregularities or fraud involving voter registration or voting and report its findings to the state attorney for the judicial circuit in which the alleged violation occurred for prosecution, where warranted. The Department of State may prescribe by rule requirements for filing a complaint of voter fraud and for investigating any such complaint.

(12) Conduct random audits with respect to reports and statements filed under this chapter and with respect to alleged failure to file any reports and statements required under this chapter.

History.—s. 22, ch. 73-128; s. 57, ch. 77-175; s. 13, ch. 79-365; s. 4, ch. 84-254; s. 3, ch. 86-276; s. 9, ch. 90-338; s. 46, ch. 97-13; s. 7, ch. 2001-75.
 *Note.—The trust fund expired, effective November 4, 1996, by operation of s. 19(f), Art. III of the State Constitution.

106.23 Powers of the Division of Elections.—

(1) In order to carry out the responsibilities prescribed by s. 106.22, the Division of Elections is empowered to subpoena and bring before its duly authorized representatives any person in the state, or any person doing business in the state, or any person who has filed or is required to have filed any application, document, papers, or other information with an office or agency of this state or a political subdivision thereof and to require the production of any papers, books, or other records relevant to any investigation, including the records and accounts of any bank or trust company doing business in this state. Duly authorized representatives of the division are empowered to administer all oaths and affirmations in the manner prescribed by law to witnesses who shall appear before them concerning any relevant matter. Should any witness fail to respond to the lawful subpoena of the division or, having responded, fail to answer all lawful inquiries or to turn over evidence that has been subpoenaed, the division may file a complaint before any circuit court of the state setting up such failure on the part of the witness. On the filing of such complaint, the court shall take jurisdiction of the witness and the subject matter of said complaint and shall direct the witness to respond to all lawful questions and to produce all documentary evidence in the witness's possession which is lawfully demanded. The failure of any witness to comply with such order of the court shall constitute a direct and criminal contempt of court, and the court shall punish said witness accordingly. However, the refusal by a witness to answer inquiries or turn over evidence on the basis that such testimony or material will tend to incriminate such witness shall not be deemed refusal to comply with the provisions of this chapter.

(2) The Division of Elections shall provide advisory opinions when requested by any supervisor of elections, candidate, local officer having election-related duties, political party, political committee, committee of continuous existence, or other person or organization engaged in political activity, relating to any provisions or possible violations of Florida election laws with respect to actions such supervisor, candidate, local officer having election-related duties, political party, committee, person, or organization has taken or proposes to take. Requests for advisory opinions must be submitted in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of State. A written record of all such opinions issued by the division, sequentially numbered, dated, and indexed by subject matter, shall be retained. A copy shall be sent to said person or organization upon request. Any such person or organization, acting in good faith upon such an advisory opinion, shall not be subject to any criminal penalty provided for in this chapter. The opinion, until amended or revoked, shall be binding on any person or organization who sought the opinion or with reference to whom the opinion was sought, unless material facts were omitted or misstated in the request for the advisory opinion.

History.—s. 23, ch. 73-128; s. 3, ch. 76-233; s. 58, ch. 77-175; s. 651, ch. 95-147; s. 47, ch. 97-13; s. 8, ch. 2001-75.

106.24 Florida Elections Commission; membership; powers; duties.—

(1)(a) There is created within the Department of Legal Affairs, Office of the Attorney General, a Florida Elections Commission, hereinafter referred to as the commission. The commission shall be a separate budget entity, and its director shall be the agency head for all purposes. The commission shall not be subject to control, supervision, or direction by the Department of Legal Affairs or the Attorney General in the performance of its duties, including, but not limited to, personnel, purchasing transactions involving real or personal property, and budgetary matters.

(b) The commission shall be composed of nine members. The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the Senate, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall each provide a list of six nominees to the Governor for initial appointment to the commission. The Governor may appoint two members to the commission from each list. If the Governor refuses to appoint two members from any of the respective lists, the Governor shall so inform the nominating officer and the nominating officer shall submit a new list of six nominees within 30 days. The new list must contain at least three nominees not included on the prior nominating list. The ninth commission member, who shall serve as chair of the commission, shall be appointed by the Governor. Each member of the commission is subject to confirmation by the Senate. The chair of the commission shall serve for a maximum term of 4 years, such term to run concurrently with the term of the appointing Governor and until a future successor is appointed. Other members of the commission shall serve for 4-year terms and until their successors are appointed.

(c) As the terms of members expire, excluding the chair, successors shall be appointed to 4-year terms and shall serve until their successors are appointed. Six months prior to the expiration of a commission member's term, the ranking officer of the political party in the respective house originally nominating the commission member shall submit a list of three nominees to the Governor. The Governor may appoint one of the listed nominees to the commission. If no nominee is selected from the list, the Governor shall so inform the nominating officer, who shall submit a list of three different nominees to the Governor within 30 days. Vacancies on the commission shall expeditiously be filled for the unexpired terms in the same manner.

(d) As the term of the chair of the commission expires or becomes vacant, a successor shall be appointed in the manner of the original appointment, and shall serve for a maximum of 4 years, such term to run concurrently with the term of the appointing Governor and until a future successor is appointed.

(e) In no event may any member of the commission serve more than two full terms. Members of the commission shall be paid travel and per diem as provided in s. 112.061 while in performance of their duties and in traveling to, from, and upon same. Of the nine members of the commission, no more than five members shall be from the same political party at any one time.

(2) No member of the commission shall be a member of any county, state, or national committee of a political party; be an officer in any partisan political club or organization; or hold, or be a candidate for, any other public office. No person shall be appointed as a member of the commission who has held an elective public office or office in a political party within the year immediately preceding his or her appointment.

(3) The commission shall convene at the call of its chair or at the request of a majority of the members of the commission. The presence of five members is required to constitute a quorum, and the affirmative vote of the majority of the members present is required for any action or recommendation by the commission. The commission may meet in any city of the state.

(4) The commission shall appoint an executive director, who shall serve under the direction, supervision, and control of the commission. The executive director, with the consent of the commission, shall employ such staff as are necessary to adequately perform the functions of the commission, within budgetary limitations. All employees, except the executive director and attorneys, are subject to part II of chapter 110. The executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the commission and be subject to part III of chapter 110, except that the commission shall have complete authority for setting the executive director's salary. Attorneys employed by the commission shall be subject to part V of chapter 110.

(5) Hearings shall be held before the commission, except that the chair may direct that any hearing be held before one member of the commission or a panel of less than the full commission. The commission shall adopt rules to provide for the filing of a report when hearings are held by a single commissioner or a panel, which rules shall prescribe the time for filing the report and the contents of the report.

(6) There is hereby established in the State Treasury an Elections Commission Trust Fund to be utilized by the Division of Elections and the Florida Elections Commission in order to carry out their duties pursuant to ss. 106.24-106.28. The trust fund may also be used by the division, pursuant to its authority under s. 106.22(11), to provide rewards for information leading to criminal convictions related to voter registration fraud, voter fraud, and vote scams.

(7) The commission shall develop a budget request pursuant to chapter 216 annually. The budget is not subject to change by the Department of Legal Affairs or the Attorney General, but it shall be submitted by the Department of Legal Affairs to the Governor for transmittal to the Legislature.

(8) The commission is authorized to contract or consult with appropriate agencies of state government for such professional assistance as may be needed in the discharge of its duties.

*History.—*s. 24, ch. 73-128; s. 10, ch. 74-200; s. 59, ch. 77-175; s. 63, ch. 79-400; s. 1, ch. 82-48; s. 2, ch. 83-265; s. 19, ch. 89-256; s. 36, ch. 89-338; s. 38, ch. 90-315; ss. 4, 14, 15, ch. 90-338; s. 5, ch. 91-429; s. 1, ch. 93-262; s. 652, ch. 95-147; s. 48, ch. 97-13.

106.25 Reports of alleged violations to Florida Elections Commission; disposition of findings.—

(1) Jurisdiction to investigate and determine violations of this chapter and chapter 104 is vested in the Florida Elections Commission; however, nothing in this section limits the jurisdiction of any other officers or agencies of government empowered by law to investigate, act upon, or dispose of alleged violations of this code.

(2) The commission shall investigate all violations of this chapter and chapter 104, but only after having received either a sworn complaint or information reported to it by the Division of Elections. Any person, other than the division, having information of any violation of this chapter or chapter 104 shall file a sworn complaint with the commission. Such sworn complaint shall state whether a complaint of the same violation has been made to any state attorney. Within 5 days after receipt of a sworn complaint, the commission shall transmit a copy of the complaint to the alleged violator. All sworn complaints alleging violations of the Florida Election Code over which the commission has jurisdiction shall be filed with the commission within 2 years of the alleged violations. The period of limitations is tolled on the day a sworn complaint is filed with the commission.

(3) For the purposes of commission jurisdiction, a violation shall mean the willful performance of an act prohibited by this chapter or chapter 104 or the willful failure to perform an act required by this chapter or chapter 104.

(4) The commission shall undertake a preliminary investigation to determine if the facts alleged in a sworn complaint or a matter initiated by the division constitute probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred. Upon completion of the preliminary investigation, the commission shall, by written report, find probable cause or no probable cause to believe that this chapter or chapter 104 has been violated.

(a) If no probable cause is found, the commission shall dismiss the case and the case shall become a matter of public record, except as otherwise provided in this section, together with a written statement of the findings of the preliminary investigation and a summary of the facts which the commission shall send to the complainant and the alleged violator.

(b) If probable cause is found, the commission shall so notify the complainant and the alleged violator in writing. All documents made or received in the disposition of the complaint shall become public records upon a finding by the commission.

In a case where probable cause is found, the commission shall make a preliminary determination to consider the matter or to refer the matter to the state attorney for the judicial circuit in which the alleged violation occurred.

(5) When there are disputed issues of material fact in a proceeding conducted under ss. 120.569 and 120.57, a person alleged by the Elections Commission to have committed a violation of this chapter or chapter 104 may elect, within 30 days after the date of the filing of the commission's allegations, to have a hearing conducted by an administrative law judge in the Division of Administrative Hearings.

(6) It is the duty of a state attorney receiving a complaint referred by the commission to investigate the complaint promptly and thoroughly; to undertake such criminal or civil actions as are justified by law; and to report to the commission the results of such investigation, the action taken, and the disposition thereof. The failure or refusal of a state attorney to prosecute or to initiate action upon a complaint or a referral by the commission shall not bar further action by the commission under this chapter.

(7) Every sworn complaint filed pursuant to this chapter with the commission, every investigation and investigative report or other paper of the commission with respect to a violation of this chapter or chapter 104, and every proceeding of the commission with respect to a violation of this chapter or chapter 104 is confidential, is exempt from the provisions of ss. 119.07(1) and 286.011, and is exempt from publication in the Florida Administrative Weekly of any notice or agenda with respect to any proceeding relating to such violation, except under the following circumstances:

- (a) As provided in subsection (6);
- (b) Upon a determination of probable cause or no probable cause by the commission; or
- (c) For proceedings conducted with respect to appeals of fines levied by filing officers for the late filing of reports required by this chapter.

However, a complainant is not bound by the confidentiality provisions of this section. In addition, confidentiality may be waived in writing by the person against whom the complaint has been filed or the investigation has been initiated. If a finding of probable cause in a case is entered within 30 days prior to the date of the election with respect to which the alleged violation occurred, such finding and the proceedings and records relating to such case shall not become public until noon of the day following such election. When two or more persons are being investigated by the commission with respect to an alleged violation of this chapter or chapter 104, the commission may not publicly enter a finding of probable cause or no probable cause in the case until a finding of probable cause or no probable cause for the entire case has been determined. However, once the confidentiality of any case has been breached, the person or persons under investigation have the right to waive the confidentiality of the case, thereby opening up the proceedings and records to the public. Any person who discloses any information or matter made confidential by the provisions of this subsection commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(8) Any person who files a complaint pursuant to this section while knowing that the allegations contained in such complaint are false or without merit commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

*History.—*s. 25, ch. 73-128; s. 11, ch. 74-200; s. 60, ch. 77-175; s. 3, ch. 78-403; s. 1, ch. 82-46; s. 2, ch. 83-265; s. 39, ch. 84-302; s. 20, ch. 89-256; ss. 5, 14, 15, ch. 90-338; s. 21, ch. 90-360; s. 18, ch. 91-107; s. 5, ch. 91-429; s. 26, ch. 96-406; s. 49, ch. 97-13; s. 34, ch. 98-129.

106.26 Powers of commission; rights and responsibilities of parties; findings by commission.—

(1) The commission shall, pursuant to rules adopted and published in accordance with chapter 120, consider all sworn complaints filed with it and all matters reported to it by the Division of Elections. In order to carry out the responsibilities prescribed by this chapter, the commission is empowered to subpoena and bring before it, or its duly authorized representatives, any person in the state, or any person doing business in the state, or any person who has filed or is required to have filed any application, document, papers, or other information with an office or agency of this state or a political subdivision thereof and to require the production of any papers, books, or other records relevant to any investigation, including the records and accounts of any bank or trust company doing business in this state. Duly authorized representatives of the commission are empowered to administer all oaths and affirmations in the manner prescribed by law to witnesses who shall appear before them concerning any relevant matter. Should any witness fail to respond to the lawful subpoena of the commission or, having responded, fail to answer all lawful inquiries or to turn over evidence that has been subpoenaed, the commission may file a complaint before any circuit court of the state setting up such failure on the part of the witness. On the filing of such complaint, the court shall take jurisdiction of the witness and the subject matter of said complaint and shall direct the witness to respond to all lawful questions and to produce all documentary evidence in the witness's possession which is lawfully demanded. The failure of any witness to comply with such order of the court shall constitute a direct and criminal contempt of court, and the court shall punish said witness accordingly. However, the refusal by a witness to answer inquiries or turn over evidence on the basis that such testimony or material will tend to incriminate such witness shall not be deemed refusal to comply with the provisions of this chapter. The sheriffs in the several counties shall make such service and execute all process or orders when required by the commission. Sheriffs shall be paid for these services by the commission as provided for in s. 30.231. Any person who is served with a subpoena to attend a hearing of the commission also shall be served with a general statement informing him or her of the subject matter of the commission's investigation or inquiry and a notice that he or she may be accompanied at the hearing by counsel of his or her own choosing.

(2) All witnesses summoned before the commission, other than on the request of the subject of a hearing, shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses and per diem at the rates provided in s. 112.061. However, the fact that such reimbursement is not tendered at the time the subpoena is served shall not excuse the witness from appearing as directed therein.

(3) Upon request of any person having business before the commission, and with the approval of a majority of the commission, the chair or, in the chair's absence, the vice chair shall instruct all witnesses to leave the hearing room and retire to a designated place. The witness will be instructed by the chair or, in the chair's absence, the vice chair not to discuss his or her testimony or the testimony of any other person with

anyone until the hearing has been adjourned and the witness discharged by the chair. The witness shall be further instructed that should any person discuss or attempt to discuss the matter under investigation with him or her after receiving such instructions the witness shall bring such matter to the attention of the commission. No member of the commission or representative thereof may discuss any matter or matters pertinent to the subject matter under investigation with witnesses to be called before the commission from the time that these instructions are given until the hearing has been adjourned and the witness discharged by the chair.

(4) The commission, when interrogating witnesses as provided herein, shall cause a record to be made of all proceedings in which testimony or other evidence is demanded or adduced. This record shall include rulings of the chair, questions of the commission and its counsel, testimony or responses of witnesses, sworn written statements submitted to the commission, and all other pertinent matters. A witness at a hearing, upon his or her advance request and at his or her own expense, shall be furnished a certified transcript of all testimony taken at the hearing.

(5) Before or during a hearing, any person noticed to appear before the commission, or the person's counsel, may file with the commission, for incorporation into the record of the hearing, sworn written statements relevant to the purpose, subject matter, and scope of the commission's investigation or inquiry. Any such person shall, however, prior to filing such statement, consent to answer questions from the commission regarding the contents of the statement.

(6) Any person whose name is mentioned or who is otherwise identified during a hearing being conducted by the commission and who, in the opinion of the commission, may be adversely affected thereby may, upon his or her request or upon the request of any member of the commission, appear personally before the commission and testify on his or her own behalf or, with the commission's consent, file a sworn written statement of facts or other documentary evidence for incorporation into the record of the hearing. Any such person shall, however, prior to filing such statement, consent to answer questions from the commission regarding the contents of the statement.

(7) Upon the consent of a majority of its members, the commission may permit any other person to appear and testify at a hearing or submit a sworn written statement of facts or other documentary evidence for incorporation into the record thereof. No request to appear, appearance, or submission shall limit in any way the commission's power of subpoena. Any such person shall, however, prior to filing such statement, consent to answer questions from the commission regarding the contents of the statement.

(8) Any person who appears before the commission pursuant to this section shall have all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a witness appearing before a court of competent jurisdiction.

(9) If the commission fails in any material respect to comply with the requirements of this section, any person subject to subpoena or subpoena duces tecum who is injured by such failure shall be relieved of any

requirement to attend the hearing for which the subpoena was issued or, if present, to testify or produce evidence therein; and such failure shall be a complete defense in any proceeding against such person for contempt or other punishment.

(10) Whoever willfully affirms or swears falsely in regard to any material matter or thing before the commission shall be guilty of a felony of the third degree and punished as provided by s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(11) At the conclusion of its hearings concerning an alleged violation, the commission shall immediately begin deliberations on the evidence presented at such hearings and shall proceed to determine by affirmative vote of a majority of the members present whether a violation of this chapter or chapter 104 has occurred. Such determination shall promptly be made public. The order shall contain a finding of violation or no violation, together with brief findings of pertinent facts, and the assessment of such civil penalties as are permitted by this chapter or no such assessment and shall bear the signature or facsimile signature of the chair or vice chair.

(12) The commission by rule may determine violations which constitute minor offenses that can be resolved without further investigation by means of a plea of nolo contendere and payment of a fine.

(13) The commission may not issue advisory opinions and must, in all its deliberations and decisions, adhere to statutory law and advisory opinions of the division.

History.—s. 26, ch. 73-128; s. 12, ch. 74-200; s. 60, ch. 77-175; s. 4, ch. 78-403; s. 64, ch. 79-400; s. 1, ch. 82-46; s. 2, ch. 83-265; s. 21, ch. 89-256; ss. 6, 14, 15, ch. 90-338; s. 74, ch. 91-45; s. 5, ch. 91-429; s. 2, ch. 94-170; s. 1396, ch. 95-147; s. 50, ch. 97-13; s. 35, ch. 98-129.

106.265 Civil penalties.—

(1) The commission is authorized upon the finding of a violation of this chapter or chapter 104 to impose civil penalties in the form of fines not to exceed \$1,000 per count. In determining the amount of such civil penalties, the commission shall consider, among other mitigating and aggravating circumstances:

(a) The gravity of the act or omission;

(b) Any previous history of similar acts or omissions;

(c) The appropriateness of such penalty to the financial resources of the person, political committee, committee of continuous existence, or political party; and

(d) Whether the person, political committee, committee of continuous existence, or political party has shown good faith in attempting to comply with the provisions of this chapter or chapter 104.

(2) If any person, political committee, committee of continuous existence, or political party fails or refuses to pay to the commission any civil penalties assessed pursuant to the provisions of this section, the commission shall be responsible for collecting the civil penalties resulting from such action.

(3) Any civil penalty collected pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be deposited into the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, any fine assessed pursuant to the provisions

of this chapter, which fine is designated to be deposited or which would otherwise be deposited into the General Revenue Fund of the state, shall be deposited into the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund.

*History.—*s. 61, ch. 77-175; s. 1, ch. 82-46; s. 2, ch. 83-265; s. 4, ch. 86-276; ss. 7, 14, 15, ch. 90-338; s. 5, ch. 91-429; s. 51, ch. 97-13; s. 36, ch. 98-129; s. 3, ch. 2000-355.

*Note.—*The trust fund expired, effective November 4, 1996, by operation of s. 19(f), Art. III of the State Constitution.

106.27 Determinations by commission; legal disposition.—

(1) Criminal proceedings for violations of this chapter or chapter 104 may be brought in the appropriate court of competent jurisdiction. Any such action brought under this chapter or chapter 104 shall be advanced on the docket of the court in which filed and put ahead of all other actions.

(2) Civil actions may be brought by the commission for relief, including permanent or temporary injunctions, restraining orders, or any other appropriate order for the imposition of civil penalties provided by this chapter. Such civil actions shall be brought by the commission in the appropriate court of competent jurisdiction, and the venue shall be in the county in which the alleged violation occurred or in which the alleged violator or violators are found, reside, or transact business. Upon a proper showing that such person, political committee, committee of continuous existence, or political party has engaged, or is about to engage, in prohibited acts or practices, a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order shall be granted without bond by such court, and the civil fines provided by this chapter may be imposed.

(3) Civil actions may be brought to enjoin temporarily the issuance of certificates of election to successful candidates who are alleged to have violated the provisions of this chapter or chapter 104. Such injunctions shall issue upon a showing of probable cause that such violation has occurred. Such actions shall be brought in the circuit court for the circuit in which is located the officer before whom the candidate qualified for office.

*History.—*s. 27, ch. 73-128; s. 13, ch. 74-200; s. 62, ch. 77-175; s. 1, ch. 82-46; s. 2, ch. 83-265; ss. 8, 14, 15, ch. 90-338; s. 5, ch. 91-429; s. 37, ch. 98-129.

106.28 Limitation of actions.—Actions for violation of this chapter must be commenced before 2 years have elapsed from the date of the violation.

*History.—*s. 28, ch. 73-128; s. 1, ch. 82-46; s. 2, ch. 83-265; s. 22, ch. 89-256; s. 14, ch. 90-338.

106.29 Reports by political parties; restrictions on contributions and expenditures; penalties.—

(1) The state executive committee and each county executive committee of each political party regulated by chapter 103 shall file regular reports of all contributions received and all expenditures made by such committee. Such reports shall contain the same information as do reports required of candidates by s. 106.07 and shall be filed on the 10th day following the end of each calendar quarter, except that, during the period from the last day for candidate qualifying until the general election, such reports shall be filed on the Friday immediately preceding the first primary election, the second primary election, and the general election. Each state executive committee shall file the original and one copy

of its reports with the Division of Elections. Each county executive committee shall file its reports with the supervisor of elections in the county in which such committee exists. Any state or county executive committee failing to file a report on the designated due date shall be subject to a fine as provided in subsection (3). No separate fine shall be assessed for failure to file a copy of any report required by this section.

(2) The chair and treasurer of each state or county executive committee shall certify as to the correctness of each report filed by them on behalf of such committee. Any committee chair or treasurer who certifies the correctness of any report while knowing that such report is incorrect, false, or incomplete commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(3)(a) Any state or county executive committee failing to file a report on the designated due date shall be subject to a fine as provided in paragraph (b) for each late day. The fine shall be assessed by the filing officer, and the moneys collected shall be deposited in the Elections Commission Trust Fund.

(b) Upon determining that a report is late, the filing officer shall immediately notify the chair of the executive committee as to the failure to file a report by the designated due date and that a fine is being assessed for each late day. The fine shall be \$1,000 for a state executive committee, and \$50 for a county executive committee, per day for each late day, not to exceed 25 percent of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late report. However, if an executive committee fails to file a report on the Friday immediately preceding the general election, the fine shall be \$10,000 per day for each day a state executive committee is late and \$500 per day for each day a county executive committee is late. Upon receipt of the report, the filing officer shall determine the amount of the fine which is due and shall notify the chair. The filing officer shall determine the amount of the fine due based upon the earliest of the following:

1. When the report is actually received by such officer.
2. When the report is postmarked.
3. When the certificate of mailing is dated.
4. When the receipt from an established courier company is dated.

Such fine shall be paid to the filing officer within 20 days after receipt of the notice of payment due, unless appeal is made to the Florida Elections Commission pursuant to paragraph (c). An officer or member of an executive committee shall not be personally liable for such fine.

(c) The chair of an executive committee may appeal or dispute the fine, based upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and shall be entitled to a hearing before the Florida Elections Commission, which shall have the authority to waive the fine in whole or in part. Any such request shall be made within 20 days after receipt of the notice of payment due. In such case, the chair of the executive committee shall, within the 20-day period, notify the filing officer in writing of his

or her intention to bring the matter before the commission.

(d) The appropriate filing officer shall notify the Florida Elections Commission of the repeated late filing by an executive committee, the failure of an executive committee to file a report after notice, or the failure to pay the fine imposed.

(4) Any contribution received by a state or county executive committee less than 5 days before an election shall not be used or expended in behalf of any candidate, issue, or political party participating in such election.

(5) No state or county executive committee, in the furtherance of any candidate or political party, directly or indirectly, shall give, pay, or expend any money, give or pay anything of value, authorize any expenditure, or become pecuniarily liable for any expenditure prohibited by this chapter. However, the contribution of funds by one executive committee to another or to established party organizations for legitimate party or campaign purposes is not prohibited, but all such contributions shall be recorded and accounted for in the reports of the contributor and recipient.

(6)(a) The national, state, and county executive committees of a political party may not contribute to any candidate any amount in excess of the limits contained in s. 106.08(2), and all contributions required to be reported under s. 106.08(2) by the national executive committee of a political party shall be reported by the state executive committee of that political party.

(b) A violation of the contribution limits contained in s. 106.08(2) is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. A civil penalty equal to three times the amount in excess of the limits contained in s. 106.08(2) shall be assessed against any executive committee found in violation thereof.

*History.—*s. 29, ch. 73-128; s. 14, ch. 74-200; s. 62, ch. 77-175; s. 65, ch. 79-400; ss. 14, 33, ch. 81-304; s. 1, ch. 82-48; s. 13, ch. 82-143; s. 2, ch. 83-265; s. 40, ch. 84-302; s. 23, ch. 89-256; s. 39, ch. 90-315; ss. 10, 14, ch. 90-338; ss. 8, 12, ch. 91-107; s. 3, ch. 95-140; s. 653, ch. 95-147; s. 8, ch. 97-13.

106.295 Leadership fund.—

(1) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Leadership fund" means accounts comprised of any moneys contributed to a political party, directly or indirectly, which are designated to be used at the partial or total discretion of a leader.

(b) "Leader" means the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader and the minority leader of each house, and any person designated by a political caucus of members of either house to succeed to any such position.

(2) Leadership funds are prohibited in this state. No leader shall accept any leadership funds.

(3) This section applies to leadership funds in existence on or after January 1, 1990.

*History.—*s. 24, ch. 89-256.

106.30 Short title.—Sections 106.30-106.36 may be cited as the "Florida Election Campaign Financing Act."

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 86-276.

106.31 Legislative Intent.—The Legislature finds that the costs of running an effective campaign for statewide office have reached a level which tends to discourage persons from becoming candidates and to limit the persons who run for such office to those who are independently wealthy, who are supported by political committees representing special interests which are able to generate substantial campaign contributions, or who must appeal to special interest groups for campaign contributions. The Legislature further finds that campaign contributions generated by such political committees are having a disproportionate impact vis-a-vis contributions from unaffiliated individuals, which leads to the misperception of government officials unduly influenced by those special interests to the detriment of the public interest. Furthermore, it is the intent of the Legislature that the purpose of public campaign financing is to make candidates more responsive to the voters of the State of Florida and as insulated as possible from special interest groups. The Legislature intends ss. 106.30-106.36 to alleviate these factors, dispel the misperception, and encourage qualified persons to seek statewide elective office who would not, or could not otherwise do so and to protect the effective competition by a candidate who uses public funding.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 86-276; s. 67, ch. 2001-40.

106.32 Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund.

(1) There is hereby established in the State Treasury an Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund to be utilized by the Department of State as provided in ss. 106.30-106.36. If necessary, each year in which a general election is to be held for the election of the Governor and Cabinet, additional funds shall be transferred to the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund from general revenue in an amount sufficient to fund qualifying candidates pursuant to the provisions of ss. 106.30-106.36.

(2) Proceeds from filing fees pursuant to ss. 99.092, 99.093, and 105.031 shall be deposited into the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund as designated in those sections.

(3) Proceeds from assessments pursuant to ss. 106.04, 106.07, and 106.29 shall be deposited into the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund as designated in those sections.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 86-276; s. 19, ch. 91-107.

*Note.—*The trust fund expired, effective November 4, 1996, by operation of s. 19(f), Art. III of the State Constitution.

106.33 Election campaign financing; eligibility.—

Each candidate for the office of Governor or member of the Cabinet who desires to receive contributions from the Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund shall, upon qualifying for office, file a request for such contributions with the filing officer on forms provided by the Division of Elections. If a candidate requesting contributions from the fund desires to have such funds distributed by electronic fund transfers, the request shall include information necessary to implement that procedure. For the purposes of ss. 106.30-106.36, candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor on the same ticket shall be considered as a single candidate. To be eligible to receive contributions from the fund, a

candidate may not be an unopposed candidate as defined in s. 106.011(15) and must:

(1) Agree to abide by the expenditure limits provided in s. 106.34.

(2)(a) Raise contributions as follows:

1. One hundred fifty thousand dollars for a candidate for Governor.

2. One hundred thousand dollars for a candidate for Cabinet officer.

(b) Contributions from individuals who at the time of contributing are not state residents may not be used to meet the threshold amounts in paragraph (a). For purposes of this paragraph, any person validly registered to vote in this state shall be considered a state resident.

(3) Limit loans or contributions from the candidate's personal funds to \$25,000 and contributions from national, state, and county executive committees of a political party to \$25,000 in the aggregate, which loans or contributions shall not qualify for meeting the threshold amounts in subsection (2).

(4) Submit to a postelection audit of the campaign account by the division.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 86-278; s. 40, ch. 90-315; s. 20, ch. 91-107; s. 68, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—*The trust fund expired, effective November 4, 1996, by operation of s. 19(f), Art. III of the State Constitution.

106.34 Expenditure limits.—

(1) Any candidate for Governor and Lieutenant Governor or Cabinet officer who requests contributions from the 'Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund shall limit his or her total expenditures as follows:

(a) Governor and Lieutenant Governor: \$5 million.

(b) Cabinet officer: \$2 million.

(2) The expenditure limit for any candidate with primary election opposition only shall be 60 percent of the limit provided in subsection (1).

(3) The expenditure limit shall be adjusted by the Secretary of State quadrennially to reflect the rate of inflation or deflation as indicated in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items, 1967=100, or successor reports as reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(4) For the purposes of this section, the term "expenditure" does not include the payment of compensation for legal and accounting services rendered on behalf of a candidate.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 86-278; s. 41, ch. 90-315; s. 21, ch. 91-107; s. 654, ch. 95-147.

*Note.—*The trust fund expired, effective November 4, 1996, by operation of s. 19(f), Art. III of the State Constitution.

106.35 Distribution of funds.—

(1) The division shall review each request for contributions from the 'Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund and certify whether the candidate is eligible for such contributions. Notice of the certification decision shall be provided to the candidate. An adverse decision may be appealed to the Florida Elections Commission. The division shall adopt rules providing a procedure for such appeals.

(2)(a) Each candidate who has been certified to receive contributions from the 'Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund shall be entitled to distribution of funds as follows:

1. For qualifying matching contributions making up all or any portion of the threshold amounts specified in s. 106.33(2), distribution shall be on a two-to-one basis.

2. For all other qualifying matching contributions, distribution shall be on a one-to-one basis.

(b) Qualifying matching contributions are those of \$250 or less from an individual, made after September 1 of the calendar year prior to the election. Any contribution received from an individual who is not a state resident at the time the contribution is made shall not be considered a qualifying matching contribution. For purposes of this paragraph, any person validly registered to vote in this state shall be considered a state resident. Aggregate contributions from an individual in excess of \$250 will be matched only up to \$250. A contribution from an individual, if made by check, must be drawn on the personal bank account of the individual making the contribution, as opposed to any form of business account, regardless of whether the business account is for a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, trust, or other form of business arrangement. For contributions made by check from a personal joint account, the match shall only be for the individual who actually signs the check.

(3)(a) Certification and distribution of funds shall be based on contributions to the candidate reported to the division for such purpose. The division shall review each report and verify the amount of funds to be distributed prior to authorizing the release of funds. The division may prescribe separate reporting forms for candidates for Governor and Cabinet officer.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 106.11, a candidate who is eligible for a distribution of funds based upon qualifying matching contributions received and certified to the division on the report due on the 4th day prior to the election, may obligate funds not to exceed the amount which the campaign treasurer's report shows the candidate is eligible to receive from the 'Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund without the funds actually being on deposit in the campaign account.

(4) Distribution of funds shall be made within 7 days after the close of qualifying and every 7 days thereafter.

(5) The division shall adopt rules providing for the weekly reports and certification and distribution of funds pursuant thereto required by this section. Such rules shall, at a minimum, provide for:

(a) Specifications for printed campaign treasurer's reports outlining the format for such reports, including size of paper, typeface, color of print, and placement of required information on the form.

(b)1. Specifications for electronically transmitted campaign treasurer's reports outlining communication parameters and protocol, data record formats, and provisions for ensuring security of data and transmission.

2. All electronically transmitted campaign treasurer's reports must also be filed in printed format. Printed format shall not include campaign treasurer's reports submitted by electronic facsimile transmission.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 86-278; s. 25, ch. 89-258; s. 42, ch. 90-315; s. 22, ch. 91-107; s. 69, ch. 2001-40.

*Note.—*The trust fund expired, effective November 4, 1996, by operation of s. 19(f), Art. III of the State Constitution.

106.353 Candidates voluntarily abiding by election campaign financing limits but not requesting public funds; irrevocable statement required; penalty.—

(1) Not later than qualifying for office, each candidate for the office of Governor or member of the Cabinet who has not made a request to receive contributions from the 'Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund, but who wishes to voluntarily abide by the applicable expenditure limit set forth in s. 106.34 and the contribution limits on personal and party funds set forth in s. 106.33, shall file an irrevocable statement to that effect with the Secretary of State.

(2) Any candidate who files such a statement and subsequently exceeds such limits shall pay to the 'Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund an amount equal to the amount of the excess contributions or expenditures. Such penalty shall not be an allowable campaign expense and shall be paid from personal funds of the candidate. However, if a nonparticipating candidate exceeds the expenditure limit as described in s. 106.355, a candidate signing the statement pursuant to this section may exceed the applicable expenditure limit to the extent the nonparticipating candidate exceeded the limit without being subject to a penalty.

*History.—*s. 23, ch. 91-107.

*Note.—*The trust fund expired, effective November 4, 1996, by operation of s. 19(f), Art. III of the State Constitution.

106.355 Nonparticipating candidate exceeding limits.—Whenever a candidate for the office of Governor or member of the Cabinet who has elected not to participate in election campaign financing under the provisions of ss. 106.30-106.36 exceeds the applicable expenditure limit provided in s. 106.34, all opposing candidates participating in such election campaign financing are, notwithstanding the provisions of s. 106.33 or any other provision requiring adherence to such limit, released from such expenditure limit to the extent the nonparticipating candidate exceeded the limit, are still eligible for matching contributions up to such limit, and shall not be required to reimburse any matching funds provided pursuant thereto. In addition,

the Department of State shall, within 7 days after a request by a participating candidate, provide such candidate with funds from the 'Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund equal to the amount by which the nonparticipating candidate exceeded the expenditure limit, not to exceed twice the amount of the maximum expenditure limits specified in s. 106.34(1)(a) and (b), which funds shall not be considered matching funds.

*History.—*s. 24, ch. 91-107.

*Note.—*The trust fund expired, effective November 4, 1996, by operation of s. 19(f), Art. III of the State Constitution.

106.36 Penalties; fines.—In addition to any other penalties which may be applicable under the election code, any candidate who receives contributions from the 'Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund and who exceeds the applicable expenditure limit, except as authorized in ss. 106.353 and 106.355, or falsely reports qualifying matching contributions and thereby receives contributions from the 'Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund to which the candidate was not entitled shall be fined an amount equal to three times the amount at issue, which shall be deposited in the 'Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 86-276; s. 11, ch. 90-338; s. 25, ch. 91-107; s. 655, ch. 95-147.

*Note.—*The trust fund expired, effective November 4, 1996, by operation of s. 19(f), Art. III of the State Constitution.

106.37 Willful violations.—A person willfully violates a provision of this chapter if the person commits an act while knowing that, or showing reckless disregard for whether, the act is prohibited under this chapter, or does not commit an act while knowing that, or showing reckless disregard for whether, the act is required under this chapter. A person knows that an act is prohibited or required if the person is aware of the provision of this chapter which prohibits or requires the act, understands the meaning of that provision, and performs the act that is prohibited or fails to perform the act that is required. A person shows reckless disregard for whether an act is prohibited or required under this chapter if the person wholly disregards the law without making any reasonable effort to determine whether the act would constitute a violation of this chapter.

*History.—*s. 1, ch. 97-13.

A

ACCOUNTS

Election campaign treasurers, 106.06

ADVERTISEMENTS AND ADVERTISING

Public policy or vote of public official, advertisements intended to influence, 106.1437

**AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF****Employees**

Soliciting campaign contributions for Commissioner of Agriculture candidates, restriction, 106.082

AGRICULTURE, COMMISSIONER OF

Campaign financing, 106.082, 106.32, 106.33, 106.34, 106.35

Election, 100.041

Membership on

Political party state executive committee, 103.091

Term of office, 100.041

AIRCRAFT**State aircraft**

Candidates for public office, use, 106.15

Charges, 106.15

Limitation on use, 106.15

APPELLATE PROCEDURE

Campaign financing violation decisions, 106.04, 106.07, 106.29

Voter registration list, name removal proceedings, 98.075

APPROPRIATIONS

Elections, campaign financing for statewide offices, 106.32

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES

Administrators, 101.655

Personnel

Administrators, 101.655

Residents

Absent electors, 101.62, 101.655

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Campaign financing, state funds, 106.32, 106.33, 106.34, 106.35

Election, 100.041

Membership on

Political party state executive committee, 103.091

Term of office, 100.041

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Campaign financing violation hearings, right to counsel, 106.26

Elections Commission attorneys, Selected Exempt Service status, 106.24

Elections Commission hearings, right to counsel, 106.26

United States attorneys, notice to Department of State of federal court felony convictions, 98.093

ATTORNEYS' FEES

Political party executive committees, member removal actions, 103.141, 103.151

AUDITS

Campaign financing reports and statements, 106.22

AUDITS (Cont.)

Candidates for statewide office, public campaign funding, 106.22, 106.33

Political party executive committees, 103.121

Voting systems, 101.591

B

BIDS

Voting machines and equipment purchases, 101.293

BILLS OF RIGHTS

Voters, 101.031

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COUNCILS

Constitution Revision Commission, 101.161

Elections

Election boards, 101.45, 101.5614, 102.012

Elections Canvassing Commission, 100.111, 100.191,

101.698, 102.111, 102.112, 102.121, 102.131,

102.166, 102.168

Federal Election Commission, 97.052

Federal Election Commission, 97.052

BONDS**Validation**

Intervention of parties, 100.321

Referendum, contesting validity of, 100.321

BONDS (SURETY)

Political party executive committee officers, 103.121

BRIBERY

Elections, 102.168, 104.061

Voter registration, interfering with or influencing, 104.012

BUILDINGS (PUBLICLY OWNED)**County buildings**

Solicitation of political contributions in, 106.15

Polling places, use as, 101.71

Solicitation of political contributions in, 106.15

State buildings and facilities

Solicitation of political contributions in, 106.15

C

CABINET

Campaign financing, state funds, 106.32, 106.33, 106.34, 106.35

Election of members, 100.041

Membership on

Elections Canvassing Commission, 102.111

Terms of members, 100.041

CAMPAIGN FINANCING

Accounting records, 106.06

Advisory opinions, 106.23

Appeals of violation decisions, 106.04, 106.07, 106.29

Audits, 106.22

Candidate's or spouse's living expenses, campaign funds for, 106.1405

Certificates of deposit, 106.021, 106.06, 106.07, 106.141

Civil actions, relief from violations, 106.25, 106.27, 106.28

Committees of continuous existence, 106.04, 106.08

Complaints alleging violations, 106.25, 106.26

Confidential information, 106.25

CAMPAIGN FINANCING (Cont.)

Contributions
 Accounting records, 106.06
 After candidate's election or elimination, 106.141
 Agriculture, Commissioner of; restrictions, 106.082
 Assessments on, 106.32
 Campaign account withdrawals, 106.021
 Campaign treasurer, receipt through, 106.021
 Candidate's own funds, 106.021, 106.08, 106.141, 106.33
 Cash, 106.09
 Certificate of deposit withdrawals, 106.021
 Change in office sought, refund offer, 106.021
 Checks, 106.09, 106.35
 Contributor identification, 106.04, 106.05, 106.07
 Day of election or less than 5 days before, return, 106.08
 Definition, 106.011
 Deposit procedures, 106.05
 Fund raisers, 106.025
 In-kind contributions, 106.055, 106.08
 In name of another, 106.08
 Independent expenditures, 106.011, 106.071, 106.085, 106.087
 Limitations, 106.08
 Nonresidents, 106.33, 106.35
 Other candidates, 104.071
 Political party executive committees, 106.08, 106.33
 Records, 106.06
 Reports
 Candidates or political committees, 106.07
 Certificate of deposit or account withdrawals, 106.021
 Committees of continuous existence, 106.04, 106.07
 Election campaign financing contributions, 106.35, 106.36
 Loan repayments, 106.075
 Political party executive committees, 106.29
 Special election to fill vacancy, 100.111, 106.07
 Return, 106.07, 106.08
 Separate interest-bearing accounts, deposits and withdrawals, 106.021, 106.06
 Surplus campaign funds, disposition, 106.141
 Unlawful acts; penalties
 After candidate's withdrawal, defeat, becoming unopposed, or election, 106.08, 106.141
 Cash or cashier's check exceeding \$100, 106.09
 Contribution restriction violations, 106.082
 Contributions through or in name of another, 106.08
 Day of election or less than 5 days before, failure to return, 106.08
 Exceeding limits, 106.08, 106.087, 106.19, 106.21, 106.29
 Matching contributions, false reporting, 106.36
 Soliciting in public buildings, 106.15
 Soliciting near polling places, 102.031
 Unopposed candidacy, 106.08, 106.141
 Withdrawn candidacy, 106.08, 106.141
 Credit cards, 106.07, 106.11, 106.125
 Criminal prosecution of violations, 106.27, 106.28
 Definitions, 106.011
 Depositories
 Checks, 106.07, 106.11
 Deposit procedures, 106.05
 Inspection of account records, 106.07
 Petty cash withdrawals, 106.12
 Political committees, national depositories, 106.021
 Primary campaign depository, 106.021, 106.05, 106.11

CAMPAIGN FINANCING (Cont.)

Depositories (Cont.)
 Requirement, 106.021
 Secondary campaign depositories, 106.021, 106.05
 Withdrawal of funds, 106.11, 106.12
 Elected officers' office accounts, transfer of surplus campaign funds to, 106.141
 Elections Commission investigations and hearings, alleged violations, 106.04, 106.07, 106.25, 106.26
 Elections, Division of; powers and duties, generally, 106.22, 106.23, 106.35
 Eliminated candidates, funds disposal, 106.141
 Expenditures
 Accounting records, 106.06
 Campaign treasurer, making expenditures through, 106.021
 Candidate's or spouse's living expenses, 106.1405
 Candidate's own funds, 106.021
 Checks, 106.11
 Credit cards, 106.07, 106.11, 106.125
 Exceeding limitations, 106.36
 Fund raisers, 106.025
 Independent expenditures, 106.011, 106.071, 106.085, 106.087
 Petty cash funds, 106.12
 Political parties, purchases from, 106.08
 Political party executive committees, 106.087, 106.29
 Public utility services, 106.14
 Records, 106.06
 Religious, civic, or charitable groups; purchases from, 106.08
 Reports, 100.111, 106.04, 106.07, 106.071, 106.29
 State funds, 106.32, 106.33, 106.34, 106.35
 Unopposed, withdrawn, or eliminated candidates, 106.11
 Fund raisers, 106.025
 Injunctive relief from violations, 106.27
 Inspection of records, 106.04, 106.06, 106.07
 Investigations of alleged violations, 106.23, 106.25, 106.26
 Judicial office candidates, 105.071, 105.08
 Limitation of enforcement actions, 106.25, 106.28
 Loans, reporting, 106.07, 106.075
 Petty cash funds, 106.07, 106.12
 Political party executive committees, 106.08, 106.33
 Public funding
 Appropriations, 106.32
 Audits, 106.22, 106.33
 Denial, appeal, 106.35
 Distributions, 106.35
 Election Campaign Financing Act, 106.30
 Eligibility, 106.33, 106.35
 Expenditure limitations, 106.34, 106.35, 106.353, 106.355, 106.36
 Legislative intent, 106.31
 Matching contributions, 106.35, 106.36
 Nonparticipating candidates exceeding limits, 106.355
 Qualifications for funding, 106.33
 Reporting requirements, 106.07, 106.35
 Request for funding, procedure, 106.33
 Surplus campaign funds, disposition, 106.141
 Voluntary abiding by limits without accepting public funds, irrevocable statement, 106.353
 Reports
 Audits, 106.22
 Campaign treasurers, 106.04, 106.07
 Certification of incorrect, false, or incomplete reports, 106.04, 106.07, 106.29

CAMPAIGN FINANCING (Cont.)**Reports (Cont.)**

- Committees making contributions or expenditures to influence results, 100.111, 106.07
- Committees of continuous existence, 106.04, 106.07
- Elected officers, 106.075, 106.141
- Elections, Division of, 106.22
- Expenditures, 100.111, 106.04, 106.07, 106.071, 106.29
- Failure to submit reports
 - Audits, 106.22
 - Candidates and political committees, 106.07, 106.18, 106.19, 106.21
 - Committees of continuous existence, 106.04
 - Political parties, 106.29
 - Surplus funds, disposition, 106.141
- Financial reports, content and filing, 106.04, 106.07
- Investigative findings, alleged violations, 106.25
- Judicial office candidates, 105.08
- Loans, 106.07, 106.075
- Political committees, 106.07
- Political party executive committees, 106.29
- Special elections or special primary elections, filing dates, 100.111, 106.07
- Surplus campaign funds, disposal, 106.141
- Transfers of funds, 106.04, 106.07
- Unopposed candidates, 106.07
- School board candidates, 105.08
- Separate interest-bearing accounts, 106.021, 106.06, 106.07, 106.141
- State-owned aircraft and vehicles, payment for use, 106.15
- Surplus funds, disposition, 106.141
- Treasurers
 - Accounting records, 106.06
 - Appointment, 106.021
 - Candidates, surplus funds disposition, 106.141
 - Committees of continuous existence, 106.04
 - Deputy campaign treasurers, 106.021
 - Duties, generally, 106.021
 - Names and addresses, filing, 106.021
 - Qualifications, 106.021
 - Removal or resignation, 106.021
 - Replacement, 106.021
 - Reports, 106.04, 106.07
 - Unlawful acts; penalties, 106.04, 106.07, 106.19, 106.29
- Unlawful acts; penalties
 - Administrative penalties
 - Committees of continuous existence, violations, 106.04, 106.087
 - Fines
 - Constitutional amendment initiative sponsor violations, 106.19, 106.265
 - Contribution limits, violations, 106.19, 106.29
 - Expenditure violations, 106.087, 106.19, 106.36
 - Generally, 106.265
 - Judicial office candidates, violations, 105.071
 - Reporting violations, 106.04, 106.07, 106.19, 106.29, 106.36
 - Generally, 106.265
 - Rebates, ineligibility to receive, 106.087
 - Certificate of election, denial or rescission, 106.18, 106.21
 - Criminal activities
 - Campaign treasurers, 106.04, 106.07, 106.19, 106.29
 - Candidates, failure to file statement of understanding of campaign financing provisions, 106.023

CAMPAIGN FINANCING (Cont.)**Unlawful acts; penalties (Cont.)****Criminal activities (Cont.)**

- Committees of continuous existence, 106.04
- Complaints containing false allegations, 106.25
- Confidential investigative information, disclosing, 106.25
- Expenditure violations, 106.19
- Financial reports, failure to submit, 106.18, 106.19, 106.21
- Fund raisers, violations, 106.025
- Generally, 106.08, 106.19
- Incorrect, false, or incomplete reports; certification, 106.04, 106.07, 106.29
- Political party executive committees, 106.29
- Speaking at political meetings, paying for privilege of, 106.15
- Surplus campaign funds, failure to dispose of, 106.141
- Witnesses before Elections Commission, false swearing, 106.26
- Expenditure violations, 106.087, 106.19, 106.353, 106.36
- Generally, 106.19, 106.265
- Public funding for statewide office, violations, 106.353, 106.36
- Removal of candidate from ballot and disqualification, 106.18
- Willful violations, elements, 106.37
- Unopposed candidates, funds disposal, 106.141
- Willful violations, elements, 106.37
- Withdrawal of candidate, funds disposal, 106.141

CANDIDATES

- Advisory opinions, Division of Elections, 106.23
- Campaign financing provisions, filing of statement of understanding, 106.023
- Campaign fund raisers, 106.025
- Contest of election by unsuccessful candidate, 102.168
- Deadline for qualifying, 99.061
- Death, 99.092, 100.111, 101.253
- Defeated candidates, return of contributions, 106.08
- Definitions, 97.021, 105.011, 106.011
- Delegates to national convention, 103.101
- Designation of office sought, 106.021
- Disclosures
 - Financial interests, 99.061
- Disqualification, 106.18
- Donations to political parties or religious, charitable, or civic groups, 106.08
- Election Code pamphlets, distribution, 97.025
- Endorsements
 - Endorsing organizations, filing requirements, 106.144
 - Joint endorsements, 106.021, 106.087
 - Judicial office candidates, 105.09
 - News media, 106.143
 - Political advertisements, 106.021, 106.143, 106.144
 - Political party executive committees, 103.121
 - Unlawful acts; penalties, 103.121, 105.09, 106.143, 106.144
- False or malicious charges by opponents, complaint procedures, 104.271
- Federal office candidates, 99.061, 99.095, 99.0955, 99.096
- Gifts in memory of deceased persons, 106.08
- Gubernatorial candidates, running mates, 99.063
- Independent (no party affiliation) candidates
 - Apportionment year, signature requirements, 99.09651

CANDIDATES (Cont.)

Independent (no party affiliation) candidates (Cont.)
 Ballots, placing names on, 99.0955, 101.151, 103.021
 Generally, 99.0955
 Petitioning for qualification, 99.0955, 100.111, 103.021
 Presidential elections, 103.021
 Qualification pending, determination notice, 106.08
 Qualifying fees, 99.0955
 Vacancy in nomination, filling, 100.111

Judicial office
 Ballot format, 105.041
 Campaign contributions and expenses, 105.071, 105.08
 Conflicting statutory provisions, 105.10
 Definitions, 105.011
 Endorsement or support by political party, 105.09
 Nonpartisan office, 105.011
 Oaths, 105.031, 105.035
 Party affiliation, 105.011, 105.041, 105.071
 Petition for qualification, 105.035
 Political activity by candidates, limitation, 105.071
 Political party or organization activity on behalf of, 105.09
 Qualifying dates and fees, 105.031, 105.035
 Write-in candidates, 105.031, 105.041

Lieutenant Governor, 99.063, 100.111

Living expenses, defrayal from campaign funds, 106.1405

Manual recount of overvotes and undervotes, entitlement, 102.166

Minor party candidates
 Apportionment year, signature requirements, 99.09651
 Ballots, placing names on, 99.096, 101.151, 103.021
 Generally, 99.096
 Nominations, 99.0965
 Petitioning for qualification, 99.096, 100.111, 103.021, 104.185
 Presidential elections, 103.021
 Qualification pending, determination notice, 106.08
 Qualifying fees, 99.096
 Selection by state executive committee, 99.096, 99.0965
 Vacancy in nomination, filling, 100.111

National convention delegates, 103.101

Nomination
 Certification, 99.121
 Contesting, 102.168
 County commissioners, 100.081
 County executive committees, endorsements or recommendations, 103.121
 Minor parties, 99.0965
 Petition for nomination, 99.095
 President, 103.101
 Presidential electors, 103.021, 103.091
 Primary elections, 100.061, 100.091
 Special primary elections, 100.101, 100.102, 100.111, 100.141
 Vacancies in nomination or office, 100.101, 100.111, 100.141, 101.253

Oaths
 Form of oath, 99.021, 105.031
 Generally, 99.021, 99.095
 Judicial office, 105.031, 105.035
 Presidential and Vice Presidential write-in candidates, 103.022
 School board candidates, 105.031, 105.035

Officeholders, resign-to-run requirement, 99.012

Opposing organizations, filing requirements, 106.144

Opposition by party committees, 103.091

CANDIDATES (Cont.)

Party assessments
 Amount, 99.092, 103.121
 Distribution, 103.121
 Exemptions, 99.061, 99.095
 Forfeiture upon endorsement of candidates for nomination, 103.121
 Payment, 99.061, 99.092
 Refund, 106.087
 Remission to party executive committees, 99.103, 100.111, 103.121
 Vacancy in nomination or office, filling, 100.111
 Write-in candidates, 99.061

Petitioning for qualification
 Alternative method of qualifying, 99.095, 99.0955, 99.096, 99.09651, 100.111, 105.035
 Campaign depositories, designation and filing of name and address, 106.021
 Campaign treasurer, appointment, 106.021
 Contesting signatures verification, 99.097
 Groups or districts, candidates in, 99.095, 101.254, 105.035, 106.021
 Independent (no party affiliation) candidates, 99.0955, 100.111, 103.021
 Judicial office, 105.035
 Minor party candidates, 99.096, 100.111, 103.021
 School board candidates, 105.035
 Signatures verification, 99.0955, 99.096, 99.097
 Signing more than once, 104.185
 Political meetings, paying for speaking privilege, 106.15

Political party contributions, 106.08

Poll watchers, designation, 101.131

Polls and surveys, 106.17

President, 103.021, 103.022, 103.101

Presidential electors, 103.021, 103.091

Public employees, 99.012

Qualifying fees
 Amount, 99.092, 99.093, 105.031
 Disposition, 99.061, 99.092, 99.093, 99.103
 Election assessments, 99.061, 99.092, 99.093, 105.031, 106.141
 Exemptions, 99.095, 99.0955
 Filing fee, 99.061, 99.092, 105.031
 Independent (no party affiliation) candidates, 99.0955
 Judicial office, 105.031
 Minor party candidates, 99.096
 Municipal elections, 99.093
 Party assessments, 99.061, 99.092
 Payment, 99.061, 99.092
 Refund, 99.092, 106.087
 School board candidates, 105.031
 State executive committees, remission to, 99.061, 99.103
 Vacancy in nomination or office, filling, 100.111
 Write-in candidates, 99.061

Qualifying for nomination or election
 Alternative method
 Apportionment year, signature requirements, 99.09651
 Dates, 99.061, 100.111, 105.031, 105.035
 Generally, 99.095
 Independent (no party affiliation) candidates, 99.0955
 Judicial office candidates, 105.031, 105.035
 Nonpartisan candidates, 105.031
 School board candidates, 105.035
 Special election to fill vacancy in office, 100.111
 Campaign depositories, designation and filing of name and address, 106.021

CANDIDATES (Cont.)

Qualifying for nomination or election (Cont.)
 Campaign treasurer, appointment and filing of name and address, 106.021
 Dates, 99.061, 100.111, 105.031, 105.035
 Federal office candidates, 99.061, 99.095, 99.0955, 99.096
 Generally, 99.061
 Independent (no party affiliation) candidates, 99.0955, 100.111
 Judicial office, 105.031, 105.035
 Minor party candidates, 99.096, 100.111
 National convention delegates, 103.101
 Nonpartisan candidates, 105.031
 Oath
 Alternative method, candidates qualifying by, 99.095
 Form of oath, 99.021, 105.031
 Generally, 99.021
 Independent (no party affiliation) candidates, 99.0955
 Judicial office candidates, 105.031, 105.035
 Minor party candidates, 99.096
 Petition signature verification fee, inability to pay, 99.097
 School board candidates, 105.031, 105.035
 Office of candidacy, designation, 106.021
 Political party office, 103.091
 Restrictions, 99.012
 School board candidates, 105.031, 105.035
 Vacancies in nomination, 100.111, 106.18
 Vacancies in office, 100.111
 Write-in candidates, 99.061, 103.022, 105.031
 Removal, 100.111, 101.253
 Resign-to-run requirement, public officers, 99.012
 School board, 105.031, 105.035, 105.041, 105.051, 105.08
 Solicitation of charitable contributions, 106.08
 State employees and officers, using services during working hours, 106.15
 State-owned aircraft and vehicles, use, 106.15
 Surplus campaign funds, disposition, 106.141
 Unlawful acts; penalties
 Communications media, unauthorized remuneration, 104.071
 Contributions to charitable or civic organizations, 106.08
 Gubernatorial candidates, failure to designate running mate, 99.063
 Judicial office candidates, 105.071, 105.09
 News media, unauthorized payments or gifts to, 104.071
 Opposing candidates, false or malicious charges of election violations against, 104.271
 Other candidates, unauthorized remuneration, 104.071
 Petitions, signature violations, 104.185
 Political meetings, paying for speaking privilege, 106.15
 Poll-taking or publishing concerns, advocating or opposing candidate for pay, 104.071
 Promises to appoint or secure appointment for another, 104.071
 State officers or employees, using services to further candidacy, 106.15
 State-owned aircraft and vehicles, unauthorized use, 106.15
 Support by persons or organizations, unauthorized representation of, 106.143
 Unopposed candidates, 101.151, 101.252, 101.27, 106.08
 Voter registration information, access, 98.0979

CANDIDATES (Cont.)

Voting machines and automatic tabulating equipment, preelection inspection and testing, 101.35, 101.5612
 Withdrawal, 99.092, 100.111, 101.253, 106.08, 106.141
 Write-in candidates
 Judicial office, 105.031, 105.041
 Oath, requirement, 99.021
 President and Vice President, 101.151, 103.022
 Qualification, 99.061, 103.022, 105.031
 Qualifying fees, 99.061
 School board candidates, 105.041
 Voting procedure, 101.011, 101.445, 101.5608, 104.19

CAREER SERVICE SYSTEM

Exempt positions
 Elections Commission, executive director and attorneys, 106.24

CERTIFICATES

Elections
 Certificates of results, 101.55, 102.071, 102.121, 102.151

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

Candidate surplus campaign funds, donation to, 106.141

CHECKS

Candidates for office, payment of filing fees, 99.061, 105.031
 Political campaign contributions, 106.09, 106.35

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES

Chief judge
 Recall of municipal or charter county officers, calling special election to fill vacancies, 100.361
 Election contests, powers, 102.168
 Merit selection and retention, local option, 101.161, 105.036, 105.102

CIRCUIT COURTS

Appellate review
 Voter registration books, name removal, 98.075

CITIZENSHIP

Electors, 97.041
 Voter registration, 97.041, 97.051, 97.052

CIVIL ACTIONS

Campaign financing violations, 106.25, 106.27, 106.28
 Political party executive committee members, removal, 103.141, 103.151
 Voter registration or removal violations, 97.023

CIVIL RIGHTS

Voting rights, 104.0515

CLERKS OF CIRCUIT COURTS

Election, 98.093, 100.041
 Reports
 Voters, felony convictions or mental incapacity, 98.093
 Terms of office, 100.041
 Voter registration, duties, 98.093

COERCION OR DURESS

Elections, interference with voter, 104.061
 Public officers and employees, political pressure, 104.31
 Voting rights, interference with, 104.0515, 104.061

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (PRIVATE)

Students
 Voter registration, 97.052, 97.0583

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (PRIVATE) (Cont.)

Voter registration, 97.052, 97.0583

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Students

Voter registration, 97.052, 97.0583

Voter registration, 97.052, 97.0583

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

Election costs, payment, 100.011

COMPTROLLER

Campaign financing, 106.32, 106.33, 106.34, 106.35

Candidate petition signature verification, reimbursement of supervisor of elections for fees waived, 99.097

Election, 100.041

Membership on

Political party state executive committee, 103.091

Term of office, 100.041

COMPUTERS

Internet

Political solicitation, 106.148

Voter registration database website, 98.0977

State systems

State, Department of; voter registration database, 98.0977

Voter registration database, 98.097

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Absentee ballots, record of requests, 101.62

Campaign financing complaints and investigative information, 106.25

Election violation complaints and investigative information, 106.25

CONGRESS

Candidates, resignation from state or local office, 99.012

Political party state executive committees, at-large membership, 103.091

Representatives

General election, 99.091

New offices, election for, 99.091

Political party assessments, 103.121

Qualification for election, 99.061

Vacancy in office, 100.101, 100.111

Senators

General election, 99.081, 100.161

Political party assessments, 103.121

Qualification for election, 99.061

Temporary appointment, 100.161

Vacancy in office, 100.161

CONSTITUTION (FLORIDA)

Amendment procedure

Elections, 100.371, 101.161, 101.171

Revision commission, 101.161

Oath to uphold, 97.051

Revision Commission, 101.161

CONSTITUTION (UNITED STATES)

Oath to uphold, 97.051

Presidential electors, 103.051

CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION, 101.161**CONTEMPT**

Election investigations, subpoena violations, 106.23, 106.26

CONVENIENCE STORES AND CONVENIENCE BUSINESSES

Campaign contributions to Commissioner of Agriculture candidates, restrictions, 106.082

CONVENTIONS

Political parties, national convention delegates, 103.091, 103.101

COUNTERFEITING

Identification cards, 104.013

Voter registration identification cards, 104.013

COUNTIES

Ordinances

Charter county governing board members, terms of office commencement, 100.041

Voter registration list name removal proceeding appeals, payment of court costs, 98.075

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Election, 100.041

Nomination, 100.081

Recall petitions and elections (charter counties), 100.361

Term of office, 100.041

COUNTY COURT JUDGES

Merit selection and retention, local option, 101.161, 105.036, 105.101

COUNTY OFFICERS

Candidates for another office, resignation, 99.012

Election, 100.041

Terms of office, 100.041

COURT COSTS

Voter registration list, name removal proceedings, 98.075

CREDIT CARDS

Political campaign use, 106.07, 106.11, 106.125

CRIMES

Election violations

Political party officers, violations by, 103.121, 106.29

Elections, supervisors of, 104.051, 104.32

Employers, acts against employees, 104.081

Political advertising violations, 106.071

Political party officers, violations by, 103.121, 106.29

Political telephone solicitation violations, 106.147, 106.1475

CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

Campaign financing violations, 106.27

Election violations, 106.27

Failure to prosecute, 106.25

Voter registration violations, 106.27

CUSTODIANS

Voting machines and equipment, 101.34, 101.341, 101.35

D**DEATH**

Candidate for office, filing fee refund, 99.092

Voter lists, purging, 98.045, 98.065, 98.093

DISABILITIES, PERSONS WITH

Absentee ballots, assistance in casting, 101.65, 101.661

DISABILITIES, PERSONS WITH (Cont.)

- Voter registration
 - Offices serving persons with disabilities, 97.021, 97.023, 97.052, 97.053, 97.058
 - Special registration, 97.061
 - Voting assistance, 101.051, 101.715

DISASTERS

- Absentee ballots to electors, mailing, 101.62

DISCRIMINATION

- Voting rights, deprivation of or interference with, 104.0515

DRIVER LICENSES

- Address change, 97.057
- Application
 - Voter registration information, transfer to voter registration application, 97.057
- Examiners, 97.057
- Lists of drivers purged from database, provision to supervisors of elections, 97.057
- Motor voter law, 97.053, 97.057
- Offices, voter registration, 97.053, 97.057
- Renewal
 - Voter registration at time of renewal, 97.057
- Voter identification, 98.461, 98.471, 101.657
- Voter registration, 97.053, 97.057

E**EDUCATION**

- Election-fraud education, 97.012

EDUCATION, COMMISSIONER OF

- Campaign financing, state funds, 106.32, 106.33, 106.34, 106.35
- Election, 100.041
- Membership on
 - Political party state executive committee, 103.091
- Term of office, 100.041

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- Voter registration, 97.052, 97.0583

ELDERLY PERSONS

- Election polling places, accessibility, 101.715

ELECTION CODE

- Citation, 97.011
- Definitions, 97.021
- Distribution, 97.025
- Municipal elections, conduct governed by, 100.3605

ELECTIONS

- Absentee ballots and voting
 - Assistance in casting ballot, 101.051, 101.655, 101.661, 104.047
 - Assisted living facility residents, 101.655
 - Cancellation, elector voting in person, 101.69
 - Canvass of ballots, 101.5614, 101.657, 101.68, 102.141
 - Challenge, 101.6104, 101.657, 101.68
 - Change of legal residence, 101.045, 101.663
 - Custody of marked ballot envelopes, 101.67, 101.68
 - Deadline, 101.67
 - Delivery of ballots, 101.62, 101.64, 104.047
 - Electronic voting systems, 101.5612, 101.5614, 101.68

ELECTIONS (Cont.)

- Absentee ballots and voting (Cont.)
 - Envelopes, 101.6103, 101.64, 101.657, 101.694
 - Federal postcard application, 101.694
 - General election ballot, 99.063
 - Inspection of ballots by public, 101.572
 - Instructions, form, 101.65
 - Mail ballot elections, 101.6103, 101.6105
 - Mailing or transmission of ballots, 101.6103, 101.62, 101.6952, 101.697
 - Nonessential materials, delivering with ballot, 101.62
 - Nursing home residents, supervised voting, 101.655
 - Overseas residing citizens, 100.025, 101.6103, 101.62, 101.65, 101.694, 101.6951, 101.6952, 101.697, 101.698
 - Primary election ballot, 101.62
 - Receipt by supervisor, deadline, 101.6103, 101.67
 - Rejection of ballots, 101.68
 - Requests for ballots, 101.62, 101.6951, 101.697, 104.047
 - Voter's certificate, 101.64, 101.68
 - Voting absentee ballots, 101.65, 101.661
 - Voting in person after casting, 101.69, 104.17
 - Voting in person at office of supervisor of elections, 101.657
 - Witness, 101.64, 101.65, 101.68
 - Write-in absentee ballots, 101.6951
- Advisory opinions, Division of Elections, 106.23
- Agriculture, Commissioner of, 100.041
- Attorney General, 100.041
- Ballots
 - Ballot box
 - Ballots, placement in, 101.5608
 - Certificates of results, placement in, 102.071
 - Concealing, prohibition, 100.011
 - Defacing, destroying, or removing, 104.22
 - Opening to count ballots, 101.5614
 - Placement at polling places, 101.24, 101.5608
 - Blocks of numbered ballots, distribution to municipalities, 101.635
 - Candidates' names
 - Arrangement, 101.151, 103.021
 - Certification of nominees' names, 99.121
 - Change of name, 99.061, 105.031
 - Districts or groups, placement of candidates in, 101.254
 - General elections, 100.051, 101.151, 103.021
 - Independent (no party affiliation) candidates, 99.0955, 101.151, 103.021
 - Judicial office candidates, 105.041
 - Minor party candidates, 99.096, 101.151, 103.021
 - National convention delegates, 103.101
 - Nonpartisan candidates, 105.041
 - Political party executive committee candidates, 101.252
 - Presidential candidates, 103.021, 103.101
 - Primary elections, 99.063, 100.091, 101.151, 101.252, 103.101
 - Removal, campaign finance violations, 106.18
 - Removal, resign-to-run violations, 99.012
 - Replacement nominee, 100.111, 101.253
 - School board candidates, 105.041
 - Second primary election, 100.091
 - Unopposed candidates, 101.151, 101.252, 101.27
 - Withdrawal of candidate, 101.253
 - Write-in candidates, 99.061
 - Casting more than one ballot, 101.5611, 101.64, 104.17, 104.18

ELECTIONS (Cont.)**Ballots (Cont.)**

- Changing elector's ballot, 104.21
- Constitutional amendments, 100.371, 101.161
- Copies, printing or possession, 104.20
- Cost of printing, 101.21
- Counting, 101.5614, 101.6103, 102.012, 102.061
- Destruction or defacing, 104.26
- Display or exposure by elector, 104.20
- Elector instructions, 101.031, 101.6103
- Forms, 101.048, 101.151
- Fraudulent ballot, voting or soliciting use, 101.5611, 101.64, 104.16
- General elections
 - Candidates' names, printing on ballot, 100.051, 101.151, 103.021, 105.041
 - Independent (no party affiliation) candidates, 99.0955, 101.151, 103.021
 - Judicial office, 101.161, 105.036, 105.041
 - Minor party candidates, 99.096, 101.151, 103.021
 - President and Vice President, 101.151, 101.28, 103.021
 - School board members, 105.041
 - Unopposed candidates, 101.151, 101.27
- Grouping candidates for office, 101.254
- Identifying marks, placing on ballots, 104.20
- Instructions for obtaining and using, 101.031, 101.6103
- Intermingling improper with proper ballots, 104.13
- Lost, stolen, destroyed, or misdelivered, 101.43, 101.6103
- Minor party candidates, 99.096, 101.151, 103.021
- Nonpartisan offices and nonpartisan candidates, 105.041
- Number required, 101.21
- Paper ballot
 - Ballot box, 101.24, 101.5608
 - Continuation of voting machine ballot, 101.27
 - Number required, 101.21
 - Provisional ballots, 101.048
 - Recounts, 102.141
 - Voting procedure, 101.011, 101.22
- President and Vice President, 101.151, 101.28, 103.021, 103.022, 103.101
- Primary elections
 - Candidates' names, printing on ballot, 100.091, 101.252, 103.101
 - Electors, political party affiliation, 101.021
 - Grouping candidates for office, 101.254
 - Judicial office, 105.041
 - Presidential preference primary, 103.101
 - School board members, 105.041
 - Second primary, candidates, 100.091
 - Unopposed candidates, 101.252
- Provisional ballots, 101.048, 101.5614, 101.69, 102.141
- Public measures, 101.161
- Recall elections, municipalities and charter counties, 100.361
- Rejected ballots, 101.048, 101.5608
- Removal from polling place, 101.5614, 104.20
- Sample ballots, mailing and publication, 101.20
- Secret ballots, 101.041, 101.6103
- Specifications, content, and format, 101.151
- Spoil ballots, replacement limit, 101.5608
- Substitute ballots, 101.43
- Translation for language minority groups, statewide ballot issues, 101.2515
- Unofficial ballots, use in lieu of defective voting machine, 101.40

ELECTIONS (Cont.)**Ballots (Cont.)**

- Unopposed candidates, 101.151, 101.252, 101.27
- Unused, void, or defective ballots, 101.5614
- Voting machines
 - Arrangement, 101.27, 101.36
 - Inoperable machine, unofficial ballots, 101.40
 - Lost, stolen, or destroyed ballots, 101.43
 - Number of ballots per machine, 101.21
 - Paper ballot continuation, 101.27
 - Specifications, format, and captions, 101.27
 - Unopposed candidates, 101.27
 - Write-in candidates, 101.27, 101.445
- Voting procedure, paper ballots, 101.011, 101.22
- Write-in candidates
 - Blank space provided for, 101.151
 - Casting, handwritten, 104.19
 - Electronic voting systems, 101.5608
 - Judicial office, 105.041
 - Name, printing on ballots, 99.061
 - President and Vice President, 103.022
 - Returning ballots after tabulation, 101.54, 101.56
 - School board candidates, 105.041
 - Voting machines, 101.27, 101.445
- Canvass of returns
 - Absentee ballots, 101.5614, 101.68, 102.141
 - Electronic voting systems, 101.5614
 - Federal officers, 102.111, 102.121, 102.131
 - Generally, 102.141, 102.151
 - Location, 101.5614, 102.141
 - Mail ballot elections, 101.6103, 101.6104
 - Multi-county officers, 102.111
 - Notice requirement, 102.141
 - Overvotes and undervotes, recounts, 102.166
 - Provisional ballots, 101.5614, 102.141
 - Special elections, 100.111
 - State officers, 102.111, 102.121, 102.131
- Canvassing boards (county)
 - Absentee ballots, canvass procedure, 101.5614, 101.657, 101.68, 102.141
 - Canvass procedure, 101.5614, 101.68, 102.141
 - Certificate of results, 102.151
 - Electronic voting systems, duties, 101.5612, 101.5614
 - Filing returns, 102.112, 102.141
 - Mail ballot elections, duties, 101.6103, 101.6104
 - Membership, 102.141
 - Misconduct of member as grounds for contesting election, 102.168
 - Provisional ballots, duties, 101.048
 - Recounts, 101.5615, 102.141, 102.166
 - Release of results before closing of polls, 101.5614, 101.68
 - Special election returns, 100.111, 100.191
 - Unofficial returns containing counting errors, duties, 102.141
- Canvassing Commission, 100.111, 100.191, 101.698, 102.111, 102.112, 102.121, 102.131, 102.166, 102.168
- Certificates of election
 - Campaign violations, withholding or rescission, 106.18, 106.21
 - Contest, 102.168
 - Injunction to enjoin issuance, 106.27
 - Issuance, 102.155
 - Preelection reports, granting prior to filing, 106.18
 - Prima facie evidence of election, 102.155
 - Recording, 102.121
- Certificates of results, 101.55, 102.071, 102.121, 102.151
- Civil actions
 - Campaign finance violations, 106.27, 106.28

ELECTIONS (Cont.)

Civil actions (Cont.)
 Injunctive relief from violations, 106.27
 Petition signatures verification, contest, 99.097
 Political party executive committee member, removal, 103.141
 Relief from violations, actions for, 106.25, 106.27
 Clerks of circuit courts, 98.093, 100.041
 Community development districts, 100.011
 Complaints alleging violations, 106.25
 Comptroller, 100.041
 Confidential information, 106.25
 Constitutional amendments, 100.371, 101.161, 101.171
 Contesting election
 Electronic voting systems, procedure, 101.5615, 102.166
 Generally, 102.168
 Judgment of ouster, 102.1682
 Legislative elections, 102.171
 Petition signatures, contest of verification, 99.097
 Pleadings, 102.168
 Quo warranto, remedy by, 102.169
 Venue, 102.1685
 County commissioners
 Appropriation to investigate election violations, 104.42
 Canvassing board, membership, 102.141
 Election and term of office, 100.041
 Election districts, approval, 103.091
 Nomination, 100.081
 Recall petitions and elections (charter counties), 100.361
 Special elections, call by commissioners, 100.151
 Voting precincts, creation and alteration, 101.001, 101.002
 County officers, 99.061, 100.041
 Criminal prosecution of violations, 106.27
 Definitions
 Campaign financing, 106.011
 Election emergencies, 101.732
 Electronic voting systems, 101.5603
 Generally, 97.021
 Judicial officer elections, 105.011
 Voting equipment purchasing, 101.292
 Education, Commissioner of, 100.041
 Election boards, 101.45, 101.5614, 102.012
 Election Code, 97.011
 Election emergencies
 Absentee voting by overseas voters, 101.698
 Change of polling place, 101.71, 101.74
 Definitions, 101.732
 Elections Emergency Act, 101.731
 Emergency contingency plan, 101.733
 Notices, 101.71, 101.733
 Rescheduling election, 101.733
 Returns filing deadline, determination, 102.112
 Suspension or delay of elections, 101.733
 Election officials
 Assisting electors, 101.051, 101.655
 Challenging electors, 101.111
 Clerks
 Appointment, qualifications, and duties, 102.014
 Certification of precinct results, posting, 102.071
 Oath of office, 102.012
 Recruitment, 102.014
 Solicitation at polling places, maintenance of order, 102.031
 Substitute ballots, 101.43
 Training, 102.014

ELECTIONS (Cont.)

Election officials (Cont.)
 Clerks (Cont.)
 Voter identification, 101.47, 101.49, 101.5608
 Compensation, 102.021
 Disclosure of elector's vote, 104.23
 Election boards, 101.45, 101.5614, 101.68, 102.012
 Elector signature identification slips, duties, 101.22, 101.47, 101.49, 101.5608
 Electronic voting systems, duties, 101.5610, 101.5613, 101.5614
 Eligibility for appointment, 102.012
 Influencing or interfering with ballot voting, 104.051
 Inspection of ballots, 101.5610
 Inspectors
 Appointment, qualifications, and duties, 102.014
 Ballots, 101.011, 101.5608, 102.071
 Certification of precinct results, posting, 102.071
 List of electors voting, 101.23
 Oath of office, 102.012
 Recruitment, 102.014
 Training, 102.014
 Voter identification, 101.22, 101.47, 101.49, 101.5608
 Maintaining order at polls, 102.031
 Misconduct as grounds for election contest, 102.168
 Neglect of duty or corrupt practices, 102.168, 104.051
 Oath of office, 102.012
 Poll closing procedures, 100.011, 101.54
 Poll opening procedures, 100.011, 101.45
 Polling place management, 101.71
 Qualifications, 102.012
 Rejected ballots, duties, 101.5608
 Signature of prospective voter in question, 101.49
 Supervised voting teams, 101.655
 Training, 102.014
 Travel expenses, 102.021
 Unlawful acts; penalties, 101.341, 101.5614, 101.68, 104.051, 104.23, 104.29, 104.32
 Vacancy on election day, filling, 102.014
 Voting machine vendors, employment by, 101.341
 Voting machines and equipment
 Custodians, 101.34, 101.341, 101.35
 Inspection, 101.37
 Keys, counters, and seals, 101.45
 Locking, sealing, and reading results, 101.54, 101.56
 Signature identification slips, 101.47
 Signature of prospective voter in question, 101.49
 Watchers, 101.131, 104.29
 Elections Canvassing Commission, 100.111, 100.191, 101.698, 102.111, 102.112, 102.121, 102.131, 102.166, 102.168
 Electors
 Age, 97.041
 Assumed name, use, 104.24
 Blind persons, 101.051
 Bribery, menace, threat, or corrupt influence of electors, 102.168, 104.061, 104.081, 104.31
 Challenge procedure, 98.481, 101.111
 Change of name or legal residence, 97.1031, 101.045, 101.663
 Citizenship, 97.041
 Contesting election, 102.168
 Disabilities, electors with, 97.061, 101.051
 Display or exposure of ballot, 104.20
 Disqualification, 97.041
 Failure to vote, registration status, 98.055
 Felons, 97.041, 98.045, 98.065, 98.093

ELECTIONS (Cont.)**Electors (Cont.)**

Freeholders, 100.241
 Illiterate electors, 97.061, 101.051
 Judicial elections, eligibility to vote in, 105.061
 Mental incapacity adjudication with respect to voting, disqualification, 97.041, 98.093
 Name lists, distribution, 98.095
 Oath, 97.051, 101.051, 101.111, 101.49
 Overseas residing citizens, notice of elections, 100.025
 Qualifications, 97.041, 104.0515
 Residency, 97.041
 Right to vote, 104.0515
 School board elections, eligibility to vote in, 105.061

Electronic voting systems
 Absentee ballots, 101.5612, 101.5614, 101.68
 Adoption by county commissioners, 101.36, 101.5604
 Audits, 101.591

Ballots
 Absentee ballots, 101.5614, 101.68
 Canvassing and counting, 101.5614
 Damage or error by voter, 101.5608, 101.5614
 Inspection before polls open, 101.5610
 Instruction for use, 101.5611
 Manual counting, damaged ballot cards, 101.5614
 Paper balloting procedures, applicability, 101.5608
 Provisional ballots, 101.048, 101.5614
 Recount procedures, 101.5615
 Rejected ballots, 101.5608
 Specifications, 101.151
 Spoil ballots, replacement limit, 101.5608
 Unused, void, or defective ballots, 101.5614
 Write-in candidates, 101.5608

Canvassing board, duties, 101.5612, 101.5614
 Computer hardware, 101.015, 102.166
 Computer software, 101.015, 101.5607, 102.141, 102.166
 Contest and recount procedures, 101.5615, 102.166
 Definitions, 101.5603
 Election officials, 101.5610, 101.5613, 101.5614
 Electronic Voting Systems Act, 101.5601

Equipment
 Approval, 101.015, 101.5604, 101.5605
 Computer hardware, 101.015, 102.166
 Construction standards, 101.5606
 Examination, cost reimbursement, 101.5605
 Examination during voting, 101.5613
 Inspection and testing prior to election or recount, 101.5612, 102.141
 Recounts and contests, test prior to, 101.5615
 Instructions to voters, 101.5611
 Legislative intent, 101.5602
 Paper balloting procedures, applicability, 101.5608
 Political party computer expert, presence at testing and vote counting, 101.5612
 Polling place, 101.71
 Preelection or prerecount inspection and testing, 101.5612, 102.141
 Programs and ballots used in testing, custody, 101.5612
 Provisionally approved system, 101.015
 Punch card type systems, prohibition, 101.56042
 Purchase, procurement, and use, 101.5604
 Recounts, 101.5615
 Requirements for approval, 101.5606
 Returns, canvass and post results, 101.5614
 Review of system, 101.5607
 Secret voting, 101.5606

ELECTIONS (Cont.)**Electronic voting systems (Cont.)**

Security guidelines, 101.015, 101.5614
 Standards and certification, 101.015, 101.017, 102.166
 Tabulation, 101.5604, 101.5606, 101.5612, 101.5614
 Transmission of returns, 101.5614
 Voting procedure, 101.5608
 Write-in candidates, 101.5608

Expenses
 Community development districts, 100.011
 County and state offices, payment, 100.011
 Freeholder elections, generally, 100.241
 Mail ballot elections, 101.6102
 Petition signature challenge, 99.097
 Special districts, generally, 100.011
 Special election or special primary election, 100.102

Forms
 Absentee voter's certificate, 101.64
 Absentee voting instructions, 101.65
 Campaign financing requests, statewide elections, 106.33
 Candidate oath, 99.021, 105.031
 Challenge of elector, 101.111
 Change of legal residence of registered elector, 101.045
 Change of name of registered elector, 101.045
 Declaration to secure assistance, 101.051
 Elector affidavit, 101.49
 Precinct register, 98.461
 Provisional ballot voter's certificate, 101.048
 Signature identification slip, 101.47
 Uniform ballot forms, 101.151

Fraud
 Assumed name, use, 104.24
 Contest of election, 102.168
 Investigations or examinations, 106.22
 Records, fraudulent entries, 104.22

Freeholders, 100.241

General elections
 Bond referendum combined with, 100.261
 Cabinet officer, 100.041
 Constitutional amendment or revision, 100.371
 Dates for holding, 100.031
 Governor, 100.041
 Holding, 100.031
 Judgment of ouster, 102.1682
 Judicial office, 105.051
 Legislators, 100.041
 Notice, 100.021
 Polls, opening and closing time, 100.011
 President and Vice President, 103.011
 State and county officers, 100.041
 Tie votes, 100.181
 United States Representatives, 99.091
 United States Senators, 99.081
 Winner, determination, 100.181
 Write-in candidates, 101.011, 101.151

Governor
 Election and term of office, 100.041
 Election emergencies, powers, 101.733
 Elections Canvassing Commission, member, 102.111
 Lieutenant Governor, running jointly, 101.151
 Presidential elector, nomination, 103.021
 Protested election, revocation of ousted officer's commission, 102.1682
 Special elections, 100.111, 100.141
 Special investigation officers, appointment, 102.091
 United States Senate vacancies, calling election and temporary appointment, 100.161

ELECTIONS (Cont.)

Grand jury investigation, alleged violations, 104.43
 House of Representatives (state), 100.041, 100.101, 100.111
 Initiatives
 Judicial selection initiatives, 101.161, 105.036
 Paid petition circulators, use, 100.371, 106.19
 Political committee sponsors, 100.371, 105.036, 106.19
 Procedure for placement on ballot, 100.371
 Signatures gathered for petition, effect of Ch. 97-13, Laws of Florida, 106.191
 Verification of petitions and signatures, 100.371, 105.036
 Insurance Commissioner and Treasurer, 100.041
 Investigations, 101.58, 102.091, 104.42, 104.43, 106.25
 Judges
 Ballots, 101.161, 105.036, 105.041
 Circuit courts and county courts
 Ballots, 105.041
 Direct election or merit selection and retention, local option, 101.161, 105.036
 Generally, 105.051
 Initiatives for judicial selection, 105.036
 Transition provisions, 105.101, 105.102
 Unopposed candidates, 105.051
 Conflicting statutory provisions, 105.10
 Definitions, 105.011
 Electors qualified to vote for judges, 105.061
 General election, 105.051
 Nonpartisan office, 105.011
 Primary election, 105.051
 Retention elections, 105.041, 105.051
 Supreme Court justices, 105.041, 105.051
 Law enforcement officers, duties, 102.031, 102.101, 104.11
 Legislators, 100.041, 100.101, 100.111
 Lieutenant Governor, 101.151
 National convention delegates, 103.101
 Notices
 Ballot, publishing, 101.20
 Candidates endorsed for nomination by county executive committees, 103.121
 Election emergencies, 101.71, 101.733
 General election, 100.021
 Overseas residing citizens, notice of elections, 100.025
 Poll opening time, 100.011
 Polling place, change, 101.71
 Public officeholders, resignation to qualify for another office, 99.012
 Registration, 97.073, 97.1031, 98.055, 98.065
 Rejection of elector's absentee ballot as illegal, 101.68
 Special election, 100.141, 100.151
 Voter fraud, penalties, 101.5611
 Voting equipment preparation and testing, 101.35, 101.5612
 Voting precincts, change, 101.001
 Oaths
 Administration and attestation, 101.665
 Challenged voter and challenger, 101.111
 Clerks and inspectors, 102.012
 Election board members, 102.012
 Elections, Division of; authority of representatives to administer, 106.23
 Electors, 97.051, 101.051, 101.111, 101.49
 False swearing, 104.011
 Precinct lists, persons acquiring, 98.095
 Petitions, signature violations, 104.185
 Poll list, 101.23, 102.071

ELECTIONS (Cont.)

Polling places
 Accessibility, 101.71, 101.715
 Ballot box, 100.011, 101.24, 101.5608, 104.22
 Ballot counting system, 102.061
 Change of location, 101.001, 101.71, 101.74
 Closing procedure, 100.011, 101.54
 Distributing political or campaign material near polls, 102.031
 Election board preopening duties, 101.45
 Emergency relocation, 101.71, 101.74
 Law enforcement officers, presence, 102.031, 102.101
 Location and physical accommodations, 101.71
 Maintenance of order, 102.031
 Opening and closing hours, 100.011
 Persons allowed to vote, 102.031
 Polling rooms, admission, 102.031
 Results posted at polls, 102.071
 Sample ballots, 101.20
 Sign denoting location, 101.71
 Site selection standards, 101.715
 Soliciting votes, opinions, contributions, or petition signatures near polls, 102.031
 Voting machine location, 101.37
 Precincts
 Boundary change, 101.001
 Certificate of returns, posting, 101.55
 Consolidation of smaller precincts, 101.001
 Constitutional amendments, posting, 101.171
 Election boards, 101.45, 101.5614, 102.012
 Mapping, 101.001
 Municipal, boundaries, 101.002
 Numbering, 101.001
 Poll watchers, 101.131
 Registration records
 Erroneous omission of elector's name, restoration, 101.045
 Furnishing to precincts, 102.012
 Precinct registers, 98.461, 98.471, 98.481, 98.491
 Return after polls close, 102.071
 President and Vice President
 Ballots, 101.151, 101.28, 103.021, 103.022, 103.101
 Canvass of election returns, 102.131
 Date for general election, 103.011
 Date for primary election, 103.101
 Independent (no party affiliation) candidates, 103.021
 Minor political party candidates, 103.021
 National convention delegates and alternates, 103.101
 Primary election, 103.101
 Vacancies in offices, special election, 100.101
 Write-in candidates, 101.151, 103.022
 Presidential Candidate Selection Committee, 103.101
 Presidential electors
 Absence from meeting place, 103.061
 Canvass of election returns, 102.131
 Certification of election, 103.011
 Date of election, 103.011
 General election ballot, appearance on, 103.021
 Meeting, 103.051
 Minor political parties, 103.021
 Nomination, 103.021, 103.091
 Notice of readiness to perform duties, 103.061
 Qualifications, 103.021
 Special election, 100.101
 Travel expenses, 103.071
 Vacancy, 100.101, 103.021, 103.061, 103.062
 Presidential preference primary, 103.101
 Primary elections
 Ballot specifications and format, 101.151

ELECTIONS (Cont.)

Primary elections (Cont.)

- County commissioners, nomination, 100.081
- Date, 100.061
- Electors, political party affiliation, 101.021
- Grouping of candidates on ballot, 101.254
- Gubernatorial candidates, running without lieutenant governor candidates, 99.063
- Judicial office, 105.051
- National convention delegates, congressional district level, 103.101
- Polls, hours of operation, 100.011
- Presidential preference, 103.101
- Returns, filing deadline, 102.112
- School board members, 105.051
- Second primary, 100.061, 100.091, 100.096, 100.111
- Special primary elections, 100.101, 100.102, 100.111, 100.141
- Tie votes, determination of person elected, 100.091
- Time, 100.061
- Unopposed candidate, 101.252
- Vacancies in nomination, 100.101, 100.111, 100.141
- Property appraisers, 100.041
- Recall elections, municipalities and charter counties, 100.361
- Records
 - Committees of continuous existence, 106.04
 - Contributions and expenses, 106.06
 - Elections Commission hearings, 106.26
 - Electronic tabulation devices, preelection testing records, 101.5612
 - Retention period, 98.015
 - Stealing, destroying, or making fraudulent entries, 104.22
- Representatives (state), 100.041, 100.101, 100.111
- Resign-to-run requirement, public officers, 99.012
- Results
 - Absentee ballots, 101.68, 102.141
 - Ballot counting system, 102.012, 102.061
 - Canvassing Commission, duties, 100.111, 100.191, 102.111, 102.121, 102.131
 - Certificates, 101.55, 102.071, 102.121, 102.151
 - Certification by county canvassing boards, 102.141, 102.151
 - Certification by federal and state officers, 102.121, 102.131
 - Count watchers, denial of privilege or interference with, 104.29
 - False or irregular returns, certification, 102.131
 - Filing deadlines, 102.112, 102.141
 - Fraudulent entry or alteration of record tally sheets, 104.22
 - Judicial nonpartisan elections, 105.051
 - Posting results, 101.55, 101.5614, 102.071
 - Recounts, 101.5615, 102.141, 102.166
 - Release before closing of polls, 101.5614, 101.68
 - State, Department of; duties, 100.351, 102.112, 102.151
 - Supervisor of elections, transmission by, 102.151
 - Tabulation of votes, 101.54, 101.5614, 102.071
- Right to vote, 104.0515
- Senators (state), 100.041, 100.101, 100.111
- Sheriffs
 - Compensation of deputies, 102.021
 - Duties, generally, 102.091
 - Election and term of office, 100.041
 - Entry to polling places or polling rooms, limitation, 102.101

ELECTIONS (Cont.)

Sheriffs (Cont.)

- Maintenance of order at polls, 102.031
- Neglect of duties, 104.11
- Notice of general election, posting, 100.021
- Refusal to assist sheriff or deputy at polls, 104.101
- Training for deputies, 102.014
- Special elections
 - Applicable statutory provisions, 100.191
 - Bond issue combined with special election, 100.261
 - Canvass of returns and declaration of nominees, 100.111
 - County commissioners, call by, 100.151
 - Date, 100.101, 100.111, 100.141
 - Governor, call by, 100.111, 100.141
 - Municipal governing authority, call by, 100.151
 - Notice, 100.141, 100.151
 - Polls, hours of operation, 100.011
 - Recall elections, municipalities and charter counties, 100.361
 - Registration books, availability, 100.151
 - Return of results, 100.111
 - Second primary election combined with special election, 100.096
 - State reimbursement of counties, 100.102
 - Vacancies, filling, 100.101, 100.102, 100.111, 100.141
- State, Department of
 - Ballot specifications, 101.151, 101.27, 103.101
 - Candidate filing fees, disposition, 99.103, 105.031
 - Candidates qualifying for election, report, 99.092
 - Certificates of election, recording, 102.121
 - Constitutional amendments, 101.161, 101.171
 - Deputies to examine registration and election processes, 101.58
 - Election Code pamphlets, distribution, 97.025
 - Electronic voting systems
 - Approval, 101.5605, 101.5606
 - County voting systems, compliance review, 101.5607
 - Examination, 101.5605
 - Performance report, preparation, 101.595
 - Rulemaking authority, 101.015, 101.5608, 102.166
 - Software development, 101.5607
 - Unofficial returns containing counting errors, tabulation software verification, 102.141
 - Voting system information, maintenance, 101.5607
 - Examination of election and registration processes, deputies for, 101.58
 - Independent (no party affiliation) candidates, duties, 99.0955, 106.08
 - Minor party candidates, duties, 99.096, 106.08
 - Nominees, certification, 99.061, 99.121
 - Notice of elections, publication, 100.021, 100.141
 - Overvote and undervote identification and sorting hardware and software, certification, 102.166
 - Political party executive committee filings, 103.101, 103.121
 - Presidential electors, certification, 103.011
 - Registered electors, report, 98.231
 - Results of election, duties, 100.351, 102.112, 102.151
 - Special elections, duties, 100.102, 100.111, 100.141
 - Uniform polling place procedures manual, duties, 102.014
 - Voting equipment, certification for use, 101.294
 - Voting system performance reports, preparation, 101.595
- State, Secretary of
 - Chief elections officer, duties as, 97.012
 - Election and term of office, 100.041

ELECTIONS (Cont.)

- State, Secretary of (Cont.)
 - Expenditure limits, adjustment, 106.34
 - Initiatives, duties, 105.036
 - Presidential preference primary, duties, 103.101
- Statistical information, furnishing, 98.212
- Supreme Court justices, 105.041, 105.051
- Tax collectors, 100.041
- Time limitation for filing complaints of violations, 106.25
- Treasurer (state), 100.041
- Unlawful acts; penalties
 - Aiding, abetting, or advising violations, 104.091
- Ballots
 - Absentee and in-person ballots cast by same elector, 104.17
 - Ballot boxes; defacing, destroying, or removing, 104.22
 - Casting more than one ballot, 101.5611, 101.64, 104.17, 104.18
 - Changing elector's ballot, 104.21
 - Copies prepared to be voted, printing or possessing, 104.20
 - Counting, refusal to allow watchers, 104.29
 - Defacing or destroying ballot, 104.26
 - Display or exposure by elector, 104.20
 - Fraudulent ballot, voting or attempting to vote, 101.5611, 101.64, 104.16
 - Identifying marks, placing on ballots, 104.20
 - Improper ballots, placing in ballot box or intermingling with proper ballots, 104.13
 - Record tally sheets and returns; altering, destroying, or stealing, 104.22
 - Removal from polling place, 104.20
 - Write-in ballots, casting other than in handwriting, 104.19
- Community development districts, failure to pay election expenses, 100.011
- Complaints containing false allegations, 106.25
- Confidential investigative information, disclosure, 106.25
- Election officials, 101.341, 104.051, 104.23, 104.29, 104.32
- Generally, 104.41, 106.265
- Law enforcement officers, neglect of duty, 104.11
- Law enforcement officers, refusal to assist, 104.101
- Municipal recall elections, 100.361
- Oath, false swearing to, 104.011
- Petitions, signature violations, 104.185
- Political party officers, 103.121, 106.29
- Poll-taking or publishing concerns, advocating or opposing candidate for pay, 104.071
- Public officers and employees, political activities, 104.31
- Results, release before closing of polls, 101.5614, 101.68
- Soliciting votes, opinions, contributions, or petition signatures near polls, 102.031
- Special districts, failure to pay election expenses, 100.011
- Supervisors of elections, 104.051, 104.32
- Voter identification card; destruction, sale, or unauthorized use, 104.013
- Voting
 - Absentee and in-person ballots by same elector, 104.17
 - Assistance, false declaration for, 104.031
 - Assisting elector in voting booth, unauthorized persons, 101.051

ELECTIONS (Cont.)

- Unlawful acts; penalties (Cont.)
 - Voting (Cont.)
 - Assumed name, use, 104.24
 - Buying votes, 104.061
 - Carrying items into voting booth, 104.19
 - Casting more than one ballot, 101.5611, 101.64, 104.17, 104.18
 - Changing elector's vote, 104.21
 - Denial of right to vote, 104.0515
 - Disclosure of elector's vote, 104.20, 104.23
 - Employers, discharging or threatening to discharge employees for voting, 104.081
 - Fraud in casting vote, 101.5611, 101.64, 104.041, 104.16, 104.24
 - Interference with free exercise of right to vote, 104.0515, 104.061
 - Remaining in voting booth longer than time allowance, 104.20
 - Selling vote, 104.045
 - Stickers or rubber stamps, use on ballot, 104.19
 - Threats to influence voter, 104.061, 104.081, 104.31
 - Unqualified elector, voting by, 104.15
 - Write-in ballot in other than handwriting, 104.19
 - Voting booths or compartments; defacing, destroying, or removal, 104.26
 - Voting machines or voting systems, 101.295, 101.341, 104.30
- Vacancies in office
 - Ballot, printing names on, 101.253
 - Elective offices not filled by appointment, 100.111
 - Legislature, 100.101, 100.111
 - Presidential electors, 100.101, 103.021, 103.061, 103.062
 - Recall elections, municipalities and charter counties, 100.361
 - Special elections, 100.101, 100.102, 100.111, 100.141
 - U.S. House of Representatives, 100.101, 100.111
 - U.S. Senate, 100.161
- Voting
 - Assistance, 97.061, 101.051, 101.655, 104.031
 - Buying votes, 104.061
 - Carrying mechanical devices, memoranda, or papers into voting booth, 104.19
 - Casting more than one ballot, 101.5611, 101.64, 104.17, 104.18
 - Challenging voter, 101.111
 - Changing elector's vote, 104.21
 - Deprivation of voting rights, 104.0515
 - Disclosure of elector's vote, 104.23
 - District, 101.045
 - Educational programs, 98.255
 - Employers, discharging or threatening to discharge employees for voting, 104.081
 - Failure to vote, registration status, 98.055
 - Fraud
 - Absentee ballots, 101.64
 - Assumed name, use, 104.24
 - Election fraud education, 97.012
 - Fraudulent ballot, voting, 104.16
 - Investigations by Division of Elections, 106.22
 - Notice to voters, 101.5611, 101.64
 - Penalties, 101.5611, 101.64, 104.041, 104.16, 104.24
 - Reward for information leading to conviction, 106.24
 - State, Secretary of; duties, 97.012
 - Voter fraud hotline, 97.012
 - Freeholder, 100.241

ELECTIONS (Cont.)

Voting (Cont.)

Identification of electors, 98.471, 101.22, 101.23, 101.47, 101.49, 101.657
 Instructions to elector, 101.031, 101.46, 101.6103
 Interference with voting, 101.71, 104.0515, 104.061
 Legal residence change, procedure, 101.045, 101.663
 Name change, procedure, 101.045
 Paper ballots, procedure, 101.011, 101.22
 Poll list of electors, 101.23, 102.071
 Poll watchers, 101.131
 Precincts, 101.045
 Provisional ballots, 101.045, 101.048, 101.69
 Remaining in voting booth longer than time allowance, 104.20
 Removal of elector from voting booth, excessive time taken, 101.51
 Right to vote, 104.0515
 Secret vote, 101.041, 101.28, 101.5606
 Selling votes, 104.045
 Signature identification slips, 101.47, 101.49, 101.5608
 Soliciting votes near polls, 102.031
 Stickers or rubber stamps, use in casting ballot, 104.19
 Supervision, 101.58
 Threats to influence voter, use, 104.061, 104.081, 104.31
 Time allowed to cast ballot, 101.51
 Time polls open and close, 100.011
 Unqualified elector, voting by, 104.15
 Write-in candidates, 101.011, 101.445, 101.5608, 104.19

Voting booths

Admission, voting machine booth, 101.47
 Carrying items into booth, 104.19
 Defacing, destroying, or removal, 104.26
 Occupancy by elector, 101.051, 101.51, 101.71
 Paper ballot booth, number and arrangement, 101.72
 Removal from booth, excessive time taken, 101.51

Voting machines and equipment

Acquisition, 101.293, 101.294, 101.295
 Adoption and use, 101.29, 101.32
 Broken or damaged machines while polls are open, 101.40
 Counter, 101.35, 101.45, 101.54, 101.56
 County-owned machines, use by public and private organizations, 101.36
 Curtains and clearance lever, 101.39
 Custodians, 101.34, 101.341, 101.35
 Custody and repair responsibilities, 101.29
 Definitions, 101.292
 Experimental use of voting systems, 101.32
 Exposure to public view, 101.39
 Identification of electors, 101.47
 Inspection, 101.37, 101.58
 Inspectors, number per precinct, 102.012
 Instruction in use and operation, 101.46
 Keys, 101.35, 101.38, 101.45, 104.30
 Location in polling place, 101.37
 Locking machines, postelection period, 101.56
 Municipalities, use by, 101.36
 Number of electors per machine, 101.33
 Out-of-order while polls open, 101.40
 Payments for rent or purchase, 101.29
 Petition for inspection, 101.58
 Possession, unauthorized, 104.30
 Preelection or prerecount inspection and testing, 101.35, 101.5612, 102.141
 Purchase, use, and sale standards, 101.28, 101.293, 101.294

ELECTIONS (Cont.)

Voting machines and equipment (Cont.)

Sealing and certifying counter setting prior to election, 101.35
 Signature identification slips, 101.47, 101.49
 Specifications, 101.28
 Standards and certification, 101.017
 Storage, 101.38
 Substitute ballots, 101.43
 Tabulation of votes, 101.54
 Tampering, 104.30
 Testing, 101.35, 101.5612, 102.141
 Unofficial ballots, use in place of defective machine, 101.40
 Vendors, employment of election officials, 101.341
 Witnesses, election violations, 104.39

ELECTIONS CANVASSING COMMISSION, 100.111,

100.191, 101.698, 102.111, 102.112, 102.121, 102.131, 102.166, 102.168

ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Budget, 106.24
 Campaign financing contributions denial, appeal, 106.35
 Campaign financing violations, duties, 106.04, 106.07, 106.25, 106.26, 106.265, 106.29
 Campaign treasurers' accounts, inspection, 106.06
 Complaints by aggrieved candidates, 104.271
 Confidentiality of complaints and proceedings, waiver, 106.25
 Creation, 106.24
 Election violations, duties, 106.25, 106.26, 106.265
 Executive director, 106.24
 Hearings
 Campaign financing violations, 106.04, 106.07, 106.25, 106.26, 106.29
 Election violations, 106.25, 106.26
 False or malicious charges against opponents, 104.271
 Single commissioner or partial panel, hearings before, 106.24
 Voter registration violations, 106.25, 106.26
 Meetings, 106.24
 Membership, 106.24
 Oaths, authority to administer, 106.26
 Penalties, assessment, 106.26, 106.265
 Powers and duties, 106.25, 106.26
 Quorum and voting, 106.24
 Rulemaking authority, 104.271, 106.24, 106.26
 Service of process and orders, 106.26
 Staff, 106.24
 Subpoena power, 106.26
 Voter registration violations, duties, 106.25, 106.26, 106.265

ELECTIONS, DIVISION OF

Campaign depository records, inspection, 106.07
 Campaign financing, powers and duties; generally, 106.22, 106.23, 106.33, 106.35
 Campaign treasurers' accounts, inspection, 106.06
 Central voter file, duties, 98.097
 Committees of continuous existence, duties, 106.04
 Constitutional amendments, initiative petition duties, 100.371
 County canvassing boards, reports to, 102.141
 Elections Canvassing Commission, staff services for, 102.111
 Investigation, campaign financing violations, 106.23
 Judicial office candidates, duties, 105.031, 105.035

ELECTIONS, DIVISION OF (Cont.)

- Oaths, authority to administer, 106.23
- Rewards for voting fraud information, provision, 106.24
- Rulemaking authority
 - Absentee ballots, envelope specifications, 101.694
 - Campaign financing, 106.04, 106.35
 - Committees of continuous existence, revocation of certification, 106.04
 - Elections emergency contingency plan, 101.733
 - Generally, 106.22
 - Initiatives, 100.371
 - Political committees, dissolution, 106.03
 - Voting machines and equipment, 101.294, 101.35
- School board candidates, duties, 105.035
- Subpoena power, 106.23
- Telephone solicitor registered agent forms, duties, 106.1475
- Voter registration applications or changes, acceptance, 97.053
- Voter registration information, provision, 98.0979
- Voting equipment purchase, use, and sale; duties, 101.293, 101.294
- Voting Systems Certification, Bureau of, 101.017
- Voting systems, duties, 101.015

ELECTIONS, SUPERVISORS OF

- Absentee ballots, 101.6952, 101.697
- Ballots
 - Absentee ballots, furnishing envelopes, 101.64
 - Box, duty to furnish, 101.24, 101.5608
 - Box, sealing and delivery to counting location, 101.5614
 - Illegal absentee ballots, notice to electors, 101.68
 - Inspection by public, duties, 101.572
 - Mail ballot elections, duties, 101.6103
 - Printing, 100.051, 101.21
 - Provisional ballots, provision to polling places, 101.048
 - Sample ballot, publishing, 101.20
 - Voting machines, 101.27
- Candidate filing fees, duties, 105.031
- Candidate list, submission to Department of State, 99.092
- Certificates of election, issuance, 102.155
- Community development district elections, duties, 100.011
- Compensation
 - Payment by county, 98.015
- Constitutional amendments, posting, 101.171
- County canvassing boards, members, 102.141
- Delivery of registration books to successor, refusal, 104.32
- Deputy supervisors, 98.015, 101.35, 101.5614, 101.665, 101.68
- Duties, generally, 98.015
- Election, 98.015
- Election boards, appointment, 102.012
- Election clerks, inspectors, and deputy sheriffs; training and certification, 102.014
- Election Code pamphlets, distribution, 97.025
- Election districts, provision, 103.091
- Electronic voting systems, use of provisionally approved system, 101.015
- Independent (no party affiliation) candidates, duties, 99.0955, 106.08
- Influencing or interfering with ballot voting, 104.051
- Initiative petitions, signature verification, 100.371, 105.036
- Judicial office candidates, duties, 105.035
- Mail ballot elections, duties, 101.6102, 101.6103
- Materials retention or destruction, 101.545

ELECTIONS, SUPERVISORS OF (Cont.)

- Minor party candidates, duties, 99.096, 106.08
- Municipal elections, duties, 101.002
- Nominees, certification from Department of State, 99.121
- Oath, 98.015
- Oaths, authority to administer, 101.665
- Office hours, 98.015
- Petition signatures, verification, 99.095, 99.0955, 99.096, 99.097, 103.021, 105.035
- Petitions, retention period, 99.097
- Poll watchers, 101.131
- Pollworker recruitment and training, duties, 102.014
- Precinct boundary changes, 101.001
- Results, release before closing of polls, 101.5614, 101.68
- Results, transmission, 102.151
- School board candidates, duties, 105.035
- Seal, 98.015
- Security procedures, 101.015
- Solicitation at polling places, determination of unlawful activity, 102.031
- Special district elections, duties, 100.011
- Special elections, notice, 100.141, 100.151
- Statistical information, furnishing, 98.212
- Supervised voting for assisted living facility and nursing home residents, duties, 101.655
- Uniform polling place procedures manual, availability to precincts, 102.014
- Unlawful acts; penalties, 98.0977, 101.5614, 101.68, 104.051, 104.32
- Voter educational programs, duties, 98.255
- Voter errors, reports, 101.595
- Voter's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, posting at each polling place, 101.031
- Voting machines, custodian, 101.34
- Write-in voting, duties, 101.5608

EMERGENCIES

- Voting equipment purchases, 101.293

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Definitions, 101.732
- Governor
 - Elections; suspension, delay, or rescheduling, 101.733

ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT

- Candidates for public office
 - Financial interests, disclosure, 99.061
- Disclosure
 - Financial interests, generally, 99.061

EVIDENCE

- Bond referenda results, 100.291
- Presumptions
 - Absentee ballots from overseas voters, date of mailing, 101.6952

F**FACSIMILE TRANSMISSIONS (FAX)**

- Absentee ballot requests and absentee ballots from overseas voters, 101.697

FALSE PERSONATION

- Elector, 104.24

FEDERAL COURTS

- Felony convictions, notice to Department of State, 98.093

FELONS

- Voting
 - Disqualification, 97.041
 - Lists, delivery to supervisor of elections, 98.093
 - Registration application, felons with civil rights restored, 97.052
 - Registration books, removal of name from, 98.045, 98.065, 98.093

FINES AND PENALTIES

- Candidates, false or malicious charges against opponents, 104.271

FORFEITURES

- Political parties, candidate assessments, 103.121

FORGERY

- Identification cards, 104.013
- Voter registration identification cards, 104.013

FRAUD

- Voter registration, 97.052, 104.42, 106.22, 106.24

FREEHOLDERS

- Elections, generally, 100.241

G**GENERAL REVENUE FUND**

- Deposits
 - Campaign financing violation penalties, 106.08, 106.19
 - Candidate filing fees, 99.0955, 99.103, 106.087
 - Candidate surplus campaign funds, 106.141
 - Candidates, false or malicious charge penalties, 104.271
 - Political party candidate assessments, 103.121, 106.087

GIFTS

- Political candidates; donations to political parties or religious, charitable, or civic groups, 106.08
- Voting, influencing with gifts, 104.061

GOVERNOR

- Appointments
 - Elections Canvassing Commission, 102.111
 - Elections Commission, 106.24
 - Presidential electors, 103.021
 - United States Senate, temporary appointment, 100.161
 - Voter registration or removal complaint dispute mediators, 97.023
- Campaign financing, state funds, 106.32, 106.33, 106.34, 106.35
- Election, 100.041
- Emergency powers
 - Election emergencies, 101.733
- Gubernatorial candidates, 99.063
- Membership on
 - Elections Canvassing Commission, 102.111
 - Political party state executive committee, 103.091
- Presidential electors, nomination, 103.021
- Term of office, 100.041
- Vacancies in public offices
 - Election to fill, calling, 100.111, 100.141, 100.161

GRAND JURIES

- Elections, special investigations, 104.43

GROCERY STORES

- Campaign contributions to Commissioner of Agriculture candidates, restrictions, 106.082

GUARDIANS

- Absentee ballots for electors, requests for, 101.62

H**HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF**

- Deceased voters, list compilation, 98.093

HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES, DEPARTMENT OF

- Records
 - Voter registration declinations, 97.057
 - Voter registration, 97.023, 97.052, 97.057

HOLIDAYS

- Voter registration, 97.055

HOMESTEAD PROPERTY

- Tax exemptions
 - Termination, voter registration fraud, 97.052

HOSPITALS

- Patients
 - Absentee ballots, mailing to patients, 101.62

I**IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

- Counterfeiting, 104.013
- Forgery, 104.013
- Voter identification, 98.461, 98.471, 101.657

INCOME

- Financial disclosure; candidates, public officers, and public employees, 99.061

INCOMPETENT OR INCAPACITATED PERSONS

- Legal disabilities
 - Voting or registering to vote, disqualification, 97.041, 98.045, 98.065, 98.093
- Voter registration, 97.052

INDIGENT AND LOW-INCOME PERSONS

- Voter registration list name removal proceeding appeals, waiver of court costs, 98.075

INJUNCTIONS

- Campaign financing, 106.27
- Election violations, 106.27
- Voter registration or removal violations, 97.023, 106.27

INSPECTIONS

- Voter registration records, 98.0979

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER AND TREASURER

- Campaign financing, 106.32, 106.33, 106.34, 106.35
- Election, 100.041
- Membership on
 - Political party state executive committee, 103.091
- Term of office, 100.041

INTEREST AND INTEREST RATES

- Community development districts, failure to pay election expenses; interest penalty, 100.011

INTEREST AND INTEREST RATES (Cont.)

Special districts, failure to pay election expenses; interest penalty, 100.011

J**JAILS**

Prisoners
Absentee ballots, mailing to, 101.62

JUDGMENTS

Election contest, ouster, 102.1682

JURISDICTION

Elections Commission, 106.25
Legislative election contests, 102.171
Voter registration or removal complaints, 97.023

L**LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**

Discharge from employment
Voting, 104.081
Voting, employer coercion, 104.081

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Political candidates, resign-to-run, 99.012
Polling places, entry into, 102.101

LEGAL AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF

Trust funds
Elections Commission Trust Fund
Creation, 106.24
Deposits
Candidate filing fees, 99.092, 99.093, 99.0955, 105.031
Candidates, reporting violation fines, 106.07
Committees of continuous existence, fines, 106.04
Political committees, fines, 106.07
Political party executive committees, reporting violation fines, 106.29
Surplus funds, 106.141
Disbursements, 106.24

LEGISLATURE

Apportionment
Candidates seeking ballot position in apportionment year, signature requirements, 99.09651
House of Representatives
Majority leader, leadership funds, 106.295
Minority leader, 103.091, 103.101, 106.24, 106.295
Speaker
Appointments
Political party state executive committee, at-large members, 103.091
Elections Commission, nomination of members, 106.24
Leadership funds, 106.295
Political party state executive committee, at-large member, 103.091
Presidential Candidate Selection Committee, member, 103.101
Members
Election, 100.041, 100.101, 100.111, 102.171
Political party executive committees, at-large membership, 103.091

LEGISLATURE (Cont.)

Members (Cont.)
Term of office, 100.041
Vacancy in office, 100.111
Senate
Confirmation of appointments
Elections Commission, 106.24
Majority leader, leadership funds, 106.295
Minority leader, 103.091, 103.101, 106.24, 106.295
President
Appointments
Political party state executive committee, at-large members, 103.091
Elections Commission, nomination of members, 106.24
Leadership funds, 106.295
Political party state executive committee, at-large member, 103.091
Presidential Candidate Selection Committee, member, 103.101
Voting systems, audits, 101.591

LIBRARIES

Voter registration agency status and duties, 97.021, 97.023, 97.052, 97.053, 97.058

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Campaign financing, state funds, 106.33, 106.34
Candidates for office, 99.063, 100.111
Election, 101.151
Political party state executive committee, member, 103.091

LIMITATION OF ACTIONS

Criminal prosecutions
Campaign finance violations, 106.28
Elections
Bond referendum, testing validity, 100.321
Campaign finance violations, 106.25, 106.28
Contesting election, generally, 102.168
Election Code violation complaints, 106.25
Voter registration violation complaints, 106.25

LOANS

Election campaign financing, 106.07, 106.075

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Elections, statistical information, 98.212
Voter registration database, duties, 98.0977

LOCAL OPTION

Circuit court judges, direct election or merit selection and retention, 101.161, 105.036
County court judges, direct election or merit selection and retention, 101.161, 105.036

M**MAGAZINES**

Advertisements intended to influence public policy or vote of public official, sponsorship designation, 106.1437
Political advertising, rates and charges, 106.16

MAIL

Absentee ballots, 101.6103, 101.62

MALFEASANCE AND MISFEASANCE

Public officers and employees, generally
Municipal officers, 100.361

MARRIED PERSONS

Absentee ballots, request for by spouse of absent elector, 101.62

MEDIATION

Mediators
Voter registration disputes, 97.023
Voter registration or removal complaints, 97.023

MERGER AND CONSOLIDATION

Election precincts, 101.001

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Oaths, administration, 101.665
Recruitment offices, voter registration, 97.012, 97.023, 97.052, 97.053

MINORITY GROUPS

Voting rights, deprivation or interference with, 104.0515

MINORS

Voting, preregistration for, 97.041

MOTOR VEHICLES

State motor pool
Candidates for public office, use of vehicles, 106.15
Charges for use of vehicles, 106.15
Limitation on use of vehicles, 106.15

MOTOR VOTER LAW, 97.053, 97.057**MUNICIPALITIES**

Annexation or contraction
Mail ballot elections, 101.6102
Referenda, 101.6102
Elections
Annexation or contraction, 101.6102
Ballot printing costs, 101.21
Candidates, qualifying fees, 99.093
Dates, change of, 100.3605, 101.75
Election Code, conduct governed by, 100.3605
Permanent single registration system, 97.105, 101.002
Precinct boundaries, 101.001, 101.002
Recall, governing body members, 100.361
Registered persons with no permanent address, voting, 101.045
Registration records and indexes, 98.181
Special elections, call, 100.151
Voting machines, county-owned, 101.36
Employees
Political candidates, resignation from employment, 99.012
Governing bodies
Recall petitions and elections, 100.361
Officers
Candidates for another office, resignation, 99.012
Ordinances
Elections, 100.3605, 101.75
Political advertising, restrictions on, 106.1435
Voter registration information, access, 98.0979

N**NAMES**

Fictitious or false names
Candidate petitions, signing with fictitious name, 104.185

NAMES (Cont.)

Fictitious or false names (Cont.)
Elections, fraudulently assuming name, 104.24
Political parties, use restrictions, 103.081

NEWSPAPERS

Elections
Absentee ballots, notice of canvass of returns, 102.141
Ballot, publishing, 101.20
Candidate support or opposition, remuneration, 104.071
Electronic tabulating equipment testing, notice, 101.5612
Emergencies, rescheduled elections, 101.733
General election, notice, 100.021
Special election, notice, 100.141
Voting machines, notice of sealing, 101.35
Emergencies, public service messages, 101.733
Political advertising, rates and charges, 106.16

NONRESIDENTS

Campaign contributions from, 106.33, 106.35

NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS

Supervised voting for residents, request for, 101.655

NURSING HOMES

Residents
Absent electors, 101.62, 101.655

O**OATHS**

Authority to administer
Deputy supervisors of elections, 101.665
Elections Commission, 106.26
Elections, supervisors of, 101.665
Military officers, 101.665
Public officers and employees, 101.665
Public officers and employees, generally
Authority to administer, generally, 101.665
Vacancy in office, nominees and appointees, 100.111
Registered voter lists, persons acquiring, 98.0979

OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

Exemptions from statutory provisions, 106.1435
Local government regulation
Political signs, 106.1435
Political signs, 106.1435, 106.1437
Public policy or vote of official, advertisements intended to influence; sponsorship designation, 106.1437
Removal
Political signs, 106.1435

P**PERJURY**

Elections, false swearing to oath, 104.011

PLANNING (STATE)

Elections emergency contingency plan, 101.733

PLEADINGS

Election contest, 102.168
Voter registration or removal violations, complaints, 97.023

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS

Campaign fund raisers, 106.025
 Candidate approval, 106.143
 Candidates; purchasing from political parties or religious, charitable, or civic groups, 106.08
 Content, 106.143
 Definitions, 106.011
 Distribution near polling places, 102.031
 Endorsements, 106.021, 106.143, 106.144
 Independent (no party affiliation) candidates, 106.143
 Independent expenditures for, 106.071, 106.085
 Language other than English, 106.143
 Nonincumbent candidates, 106.143
 Online computer solicitation, disclosures, 106.148
 Opposition, 106.144
 Party name or symbol, use, 103.081, 106.143
 Petty cash funds, purchases from, 106.12
 Public policy or vote of public official, advertisements intended to influence; sponsorship designation, 106.1437
 Rates and charges, limitation, 106.16, 106.161
 Removal, 106.1435
 Required statements, 106.071, 106.143
 Signs, displaying, 106.1435
 Telephone calls, 106.085, 106.147, 106.1475
 Telephone solicitation, 106.085, 106.147, 106.1475
 "Thank you" advertisements, 106.11
 Unlawful acts; penalties
 Civil penalties, 106.085, 106.265
 Criminal penalties, 106.071, 106.147, 106.1475
 Distribution near polling places, 102.031
 Endorsing or opposing groups, failure to file disclosure statement, 106.144
 Independent expenditure violations, 106.071, 106.085
 Rates and charges, excessive, 106.16
 Required contents, failure to include, 106.143
 Telephone solicitation violations, 106.147, 106.1475

POLITICAL COMMITTEES

Accounting records, 106.06
 Campaign depositories, 106.021, 106.05, 106.07, 106.11
 Campaign treasurer, appointment, 106.021
 Committees of continuous existence
 Contributions
 Agriculture, Commissioner of; candidates for office, 106.082
 Limitations, 106.08, 106.082
 Reports, 106.04, 106.07
 Expenditures, 106.011, 106.087
 Generally, 106.04
 Voter registration information, access, 98.0979
 Constitutional amendment initiative petition sponsors, 100.371, 106.19
 Contesting verification of signatures on candidate's petition for qualification, 99.097
 Contributions
 Campaign treasurer, receipt through, 106.021
 Deposit procedure, 106.05
 Legislative intent, 106.31
 Limitations, 106.08, 106.082, 106.19
 National depository, deposit in, 106.021, 106.07
 Reports, 106.07, 106.19
 Definitions, 106.011
 Deputy campaign treasurers, 106.021
 Disbanding, notice, 106.03
 Expenditures
 Campaign treasurer, making through, 106.021
 Checks, 106.11

POLITICAL COMMITTEES (Cont.)

Expenditures (Cont.)
 Credit card purchases, 106.07, 106.11, 106.125
 Independent expenditures, 106.011, 106.087
 Joint endorsements of candidates, advertising expenditures, 106.021
 Petty cash funds, 106.12
 Public utility services, 106.14
 Reports, 106.07
 Unauthorized expenditures, 106.19
 Financial reports, content and filing, 106.07, 106.19
 Gifts in memory of deceased persons, 106.08
 Judicial selection initiative sponsors, 105.036
 Manual recount of overvotes and undervotes, entitlement, 102.166
 Petty cash funds, 106.11, 106.12
 Polls and surveys, conducting, 106.17
 Registration, 106.03
 Statement of organization, content and filing, 106.03
 Voter registration information, access, 98.0979

POLITICAL PARTIES

Candidate contributions or purchases, 106.08
 Candidate qualifying fees, remission, 99.061, 99.103
 Candidate surplus campaign funds, distribution, 106.141
 Constitution and bylaws, 103.091, 103.121
 Contesting verification of signatures on candidate's petition for qualification, 99.097
 Contributions received, reporting, 106.29
 County executive committees
 At-large members, 103.091
 Audits, 103.121
 Bonds, chairs and treasurers, 103.121
 Campaign contributions, limitation, 106.08, 106.087, 106.29, 106.33
 Campaign finance reports, 106.29
 District unit of representation, 103.091
 Election, 101.252, 103.091
 Endorsement or recommendation of candidates for nomination, 103.121
 Establishment, 103.091
 Expenditures, 106.011, 106.087
 False or incomplete campaign finance reports, certification, 106.29
 Filing requirements, 103.091
 Gifts in memory of deceased persons, 106.08
 Membership, 103.091
 Misuse of funds by chair or treasurer, 103.121
 Organizational meetings, 103.091
 Powers and duties, generally, 103.121
 Removal of members, 103.141
 Term of office, 103.091
 Vacancies in nomination to elective office, filling, 100.111
 Vacancies on committees, filing, 103.091, 103.131
 Election boards, membership, 102.012
 Election statistical information, access to, 98.212
 Electronic voting systems, testing and vote-counting representatives, 101.5612
 Expenditures, 106.011, 106.29
 Financial records, 103.121
 Fund raisers, 106.025
 Joint endorsements of candidates, advertising expenditures, 106.021
 Judicial candidates, endorsement or support, 105.09
 Leadership funds, 106.295
 Manual recount of overvotes and undervotes, entitlement, 102.166

POLITICAL PARTIES (Cont.)

Name or abbreviation, use restrictions, 103.081
 National committees, 103.091, 106.011, 106.08, 106.29
 National convention delegates, election, 103.091, 103.101
 Poll watchers, designation, 101.131
 Polls and surveys, 106.17
 Presidential electors, nomination, 103.021, 103.091
 Presidential preference primary, 103.101
 Primary elections, voting, 101.021
 Rulemaking authority, 103.091, 103.101
 State executive committees
 At-large members, 103.091
 Audits, 103.121
 Bonds, chairs and treasurers, 103.121
 Campaign contributions, limitation, 106.08, 106.087, 106.29, 106.33
 Campaign finance reports, 106.29
 Elections, 101.252, 103.091
 Endorsement or recommendation of candidates for nomination, 103.121
 Expenditures, 106.011, 106.087
 False or incomplete campaign finance reports, certification, 106.29
 Filing requirements, 103.091
 Gifts in memory of deceased persons, 106.08
 Governing bodies, membership, 103.091
 Membership, 103.091
 Minor parties, candidate selection, 99.096, 99.0965
 Misuse of funds by chair or treasurer, 103.121
 National convention delegates, selection, 103.101
 Organizational meetings, 103.091
 Party name or symbol use, authorization, 103.081
 Powers and duties, generally, 103.121
 Removal of members, 103.151
 Requirement, 103.091
 Rulemaking authority, 103.101, 103.121
 Terms of office, 103.091
 Vacancies, events creating, 103.131
 Vacancies in nomination to elective office, filling, 100.111
 Voting, 103.091
 Supervised voting teams, representation on, 101.655
 Symbols, use restrictions, 103.081
 Unlawful acts; penalties, 103.121, 106.087, 106.29
 Vacancies in nominations to elective offices, filling, 100.111
 Vacancies in party offices, 103.091, 103.131
 Voter registration information, access, 98.0979
 Voting machines and equipment, preelection inspection and testing, 101.35, 101.5612

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SELECTION COMMITTEE, 103.101**PRINTING**

Voter registration application forms, 97.052
 Voting ballots, 101.21

PROPERTY APPRAISERS

Election, 100.041

PROSECUTIONS

Failure to prosecute, 106.25

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Political activities
 Candidacy for office, 99.012
 Coercion or influence, 104.31

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES (Cont.)

Political activities (Cont.)
 Judicial office candidates, 105.071
 Participation restrictions, 104.31
 State employees, services to candidates during working hours, 106.15
 Unlawful acts; penalties, 104.31

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Exemptions from open government provisions
 Campaign finances, investigatory proceedings, 106.25
 Election violation investigatory proceedings, 106.25
 Voter registration, investigatory proceedings, 106.25

PUBLIC OFFICERS

Campaign fund raisers, candidates for office, 106.025
 Candidates for another office, resignation, 99.012
 Office accounts, transfer of surplus campaign funds to, 106.141
 Suspension and removal
 Deputy supervisors of elections, 98.015
 Travel expenses, 106.141

PUBLIC RECORDS

Campaign finance reports, 106.07
 Campaign finance violation proceedings, 106.25
 Election violation proceedings, 106.25
 Exemptions from disclosure
 Absentee ballots, record of requests, 101.62
 Campaign finance complaints and investigative reports, 106.25
 Election violation complaints and investigative reports, 106.25
 Voter registration information, 97.0585, 98.045, 98.095, 98.097, 106.25
 Voting systems software, 101.5607
 Voter registration information, 98.095, 98.097, 98.0979, 106.25
 Voter registration violation proceedings, 106.25
 Voting systems software, 101.5607

PUBLISHING AND PUBLICATIONS

Uniform polling place procedures manual, 102.014

Q**QUO WARRANTO**

Election contest, 102.169

R**RADIO**

Advertisements intended to influence public policy or vote of official, sponsor designation statement, 106.1437
 Emergencies, public service messages, 101.733
 Political advertising, 106.085, 106.1437, 106.16, 106.161

RECORDS MANAGEMENT (LOCAL GOVERNMENTS)

Voter registration information, 98.081, 98.101, 98.461

RECORDS MANAGEMENT (STATE)

Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Department of, 97.057

REFERENDA

Ballot, 101.161

REFERENDA (Cont.)

- Bond issues
 - Applicable statutory provisions, 100.221
 - Approval of issuance, 100.281
 - Ballot format, 100.341
 - Calling, 100.211
 - Canvass of returns, 100.271
 - Contesting, 100.321
 - Costs, 100.201, 100.261
 - Defeat, waiting period before new election, 100.331
 - Evidence of result, 100.291
 - Failure to achieve majority vote, 100.281
 - Holding with other elections, 100.261
 - Inspectors and clerks, 100.271
 - Municipalities, generally, 100.311
 - Notice, 100.211
 - Polling place, 100.221
 - Recording results, 100.271, 100.291
 - Refunding bonds, 100.301
 - Requirement, generally, 100.201
 - Resolution ordering, 100.211
 - Returns, canvassing and recording, 100.271
 - Validity, contesting, 100.321
- Charter county governing board members, terms of office commencement, 100.041
- Constitutional amendment or revision, 101.161
- Contesting, 102.168, 102.1682, 102.1685
- County commissioners, 100.041
- Endorsing or opposing organizations, filing requirements, 106.144
- Freeholders, 100.241
- Judicial selection initiatives, 101.161
- Legislatively mandated election, certification of results, 100.351
- Mail ballot elections
 - Absentee voting, 101.6103, 101.6105
 - Applicability of election laws, generally, 101.6106
 - Canvass of returns, 101.6103, 101.6104
 - Challenge, defect on voter's certificate, 101.6104
 - Costs, 101.6102
 - Limitations, 101.6102
 - Mail Ballot Election Act, 101.6101
 - Procedure, generally, 101.6103
 - Voter's certificate, 101.6103, 101.6104
- Municipal annexation or contraction, 101.6102
- Notices, 100.342
- Special or local laws, 100.351
- Telephone solicitation, ballot proposals, 106.147
- Voting machines, adopting for elections, 101.32

REFUNDING BONDS

- Election for issuance approval, 100.301

RELATIVES

- Absentee ballots for electors, requests for, 101.62

REPORTS TO GOVERNOR

- Voter education programs, effectiveness reports, 98.255
- Voting system performance reports, 101.595

REPORTS TO LEGISLATURE

- Elections, Division of, 106.22
- Voter education programs, effectiveness reports, 98.255
- Voter registration database development, progress reports, 98.0977
- Voting system performance reports, 101.595

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

- Electors, 97.041

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS (Cont.)

- Political party county executive committees, 103.091
- Voter registration, 97.041

REWARDS

- Information leading to arrest and conviction
- Voting fraud, 106.24

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

- Rights-of-way
- Political signs, 106.1435

S**SCHOOL BOARDS**

- Candidates for election, 105.031, 105.035, 105.041, 105.051, 105.08
- Terms of office, 100.041

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Elections
 - Bond elections
 - Holding with other elections, 100.261
 - School board members
 - Candidates, 105.031, 105.035, 105.041, 105.051, 105.08
 - Electors qualified to vote, 105.061
 - Generally, 100.041
 - Unopposed candidates, 105.051
 - Superintendents, 100.041

SCHOOLS, SUPERINTENDENTS OF

- Election, 100.041
- Term of office, 100.041

SEALS

- Elections, supervisors of, 98.015

SERVICE OF PROCESS

- Agents
 - Political telephone solicitors, 106.1475
- Election contest complaints, 102.168
- Elections Commission subpoenas and orders, 106.26
- Sheriffs
 - Elections Commission subpoenas or orders, 106.26

SHERIFFS

- Deputies
 - Candidates for office of sheriff, resign-to-run, 99.012
 - Election official duties and responsibilities, training, 102.014
 - Election of sheriffs, 100.041
 - Legal notices, publication, 100.021
 - Term of office, 100.041

SHORT TITLES

- Election Campaign Financing Act, 106.30
- Election Code, 97.011
- Elections Emergency Act, 101.731
- Electronic Voting Systems Act, 101.5601
- Mail Ballot Election Act, 101.6101
- Voter Registration Act, 97.032

SOCIAL SECURITY

- Numbers
 - Voter registration, 97.052, 97.053, 97.0585, 98.095

SOCIAL SERVICES

- Voter registration at offices providing public assistance, 97.021, 97.023, 97.052, 97.053, 97.058

SOLICITATION

- Campaign contributions
 - Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of; restrictions on employees, 106.082
 - Agriculture, Commissioner of; restrictions on candidates, 106.082
 - Polling places, soliciting near, 102.031
 - Public buildings, soliciting in, 106.15
 - State employees, restrictions on activities, 106.082
- Constitutional amendment initiative petition signatures, paid petition circulators, 106.191
- Contributions
 - Political candidates, charitable contributions, 106.08
- Political online computer solicitation, 106.148
- Political telephone solicitation, 106.085, 106.147, 106.1475
- Polling places, solicitation at, 102.031
- Voter registrations for compensation, 104.012

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

- Elections
 - Candidate qualifications, 99.061
 - Payment of costs, 100.011

STATE AGENCIES

- Voter registration database, duties, 98.0977

STATE ATTORNEYS

- Campaign finance violations, duties, 106.25
- Election violations, duties, 106.25
- Voter registration violations, duties, 106.25

STATE CONTRACTS

- Voter registration, 97.058, 98.075

STATE, DEPARTMENT OF

- Official records
 - Constitutional amendment initiative petition, 100.371
 - Political party executive committee rules, 103.101
- Rulemaking authority
- Elections
 - Ballots, 101.151, 101.62
 - Campaign treasurers' reports, 106.07
 - Candidate qualifications, 99.061
 - Electronic or electromechanical voting systems, 101.015, 101.5608, 102.166
 - Judicial selection initiatives, 105.036
 - Mail ballot elections, 101.6107
 - Overseas absentee electors, 101.62, 101.697
 - Petitions, verification of signatures, 99.097
 - Presidential preference primaries, 103.101
 - Recounts, 102.166
 - Uniform polling place procedures manual, adoption, 102.014
 - Voter education programs, 98.255
 - Voter fraud complaints, 106.22
 - Write-in absentee ballots, 101.6951
- Late voter registration, 97.0555
- Trust funds
 - Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund
 - Audit of candidates receiving funds, 106.22
 - Deposits
 - Assessments, 106.32
 - Candidate filing fees, 106.32
 - Candidates, reporting violation fines, 106.07
 - Fines and penalties, generally, 106.265
 - Political committees, fines, 106.07
 - Public financing for statewide office violations, fines and penalties, 106.353, 106.36

STATE, DEPARTMENT OF (Cont.)

- Trust funds (Cont.)
 - Election Campaign Financing Trust Fund (Cont.)
 - Deposits (Cont.)
 - State funds, 106.32
 - Surplus funds, 106.141
 - Disbursements, 106.32, 106.33, 106.34, 106.35, 106.355, 106.36
 - Establishment, 106.32
 - Voter registration, duties, 97.023, 97.052, 97.0555, 97.057, 98.0977, 101.58

STATE EMPLOYEES

- Political candidates, resignation from employment, 99.012
- Selected Exempt Service
 - Elections Commission attorneys, 106.24
- Senior Management Service
 - Elections Commission, executive director, 106.24

STATE FUNDS

- Election campaign financing, 106.32, 106.33, 106.34, 106.35

STATE OFFICERS

- Candidates for another office, resign-to-run, 99.012

STATE, SECRETARY OF

- Campaign financing, state funds, 106.32, 106.33, 106.34, 106.35
- Constitutional amendments, 101.161
- Election, 100.041
- Membership on
 - Political party state executive committee, 103.091
 - Presidential Candidate Selection Committee, 103.101
- Rulemaking authority, 105.036
- Term of office, 100.041

STATE UNIVERSITIES

- Students
 - Voter registration, 97.052, 97.0583
 - Voter registration, 97.052, 97.0583

SUBPOENAS

- Elections Commission, 106.26
- Elections, Division of, 106.23

SUPERSEDEAS

- Voter registration list, name removal proceedings, 98.075

SUPREME COURT

- Justices
 - Retention election, 105.041, 105.051

T**TAX COLLECTORS**

- Election, 100.041
- Terms of office, 100.041

TELEPHONES

- Confidential telephone numbers
 - Registered voters, 97.0585
- Solicitation
 - Political campaigns, 106.085, 106.147, 106.1475
- Toll-free numbers
 - Voter fraud hotline, 97.012
- Voter registration services, 97.058

TELEVISION

- Advertisements intended to influence public policy or vote of public official, sponsorship designation statement, 106.1437
- Emergencies, public service messages, 101.733
- Political advertising, 106.085, 106.16, 106.161

THEFT

- Election records, ballot boxes, or returns, 104.22

THREATS

- Employer's threats to control votes of employees, 104.081
- Voter registration, interference with or influencing, 104.012
- Voters, influencing, 104.061, 104.081, 104.31
- Voting rights, interference with, 104.0515, 104.061

TRAVEL EXPENSES

- Candidates for statewide office, credit card use, 106.125
- Elected officers, payment from surplus campaign funds, 106.141
- Political committees, credit card use, 106.125

U**UNITED STATES**

- Federal Election Commission voter registration application form, acceptance, 97.052
- U.S. attorneys, notice to Department of State of federal court felony convictions, 98.093

V**VACANCY IN OFFICE**

- Congress, members of, 100.101, 100.111
- County officers, generally, 100.361
- Legislators, 100.101, 100.111
- Municipal officers
 - Malefeasance or misfeasance, removal for, 100.361
 - Recall elections, 100.361
- Presidential electors, 100.101, 103.021, 103.061, 103.062
- Resignation to qualify for another office, 99.012, 100.111
- United States Senators, 100.161

VENUE

- Campaign finance violations, 106.27
- Election contests, 102.1685
- Election violations, 106.27
- Voter registration violations, 106.27

VETERANS

- Voter registration date, recently discharged service personnel, 97.0555

VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS

- Absentee ballots for blind persons, assistance in casting, 101.65, 101.661
- Voting assistance, 101.051

VITAL STATISTICS

- Election supervisors, notification of deceased residents, 98.093

VOTER REGISTRATION

- Absentee registration, 101.665

VOTER REGISTRATION (Cont.)

- Address different from that claimed as homestead, registration at, 97.052, 98.015
- Administration of statutory provisions, 97.012, 98.045
- Age requirement, 97.041
- Applications
 - Acceptance, 97.052, 97.053
 - Altering another person's application without consent, 104.012
 - Approval, 97.073
 - Change of name or legal residence, 101.045
 - Denial, 97.073
 - Disposition, 97.073
 - Federal law, compliance with, 97.012
 - Federal postcard application, 97.052, 101.694
 - Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Department of; duties, 97.057
 - Incomplete applications, 97.073
 - Oath as part of, 97.052, 97.053
 - Uniform statewide application, 97.052, 97.057, 97.058
 - Voter registration agencies, powers and duties, 97.058
- Armed services personnel, 101.665
- Automated processing
 - Alternative procedure, 98.461, 98.491
 - Registration data, 98.081, 98.101, 98.451, 98.461
- Books
 - Closing for elections, 97.055, 97.071
 - Completed registration applications, status as official registration records, 97.053
 - Custody, 98.015
 - Duplicate books, 98.181
 - Electronic data processing, 98.101
 - Inspection, 98.045, 98.095, 98.0979
 - Legal residence change, 97.1031, 98.065, 98.075
 - Microfilming, 98.081, 98.101, 98.461
 - Municipalities, indexes or records for, 98.181
 - Name change, 97.1031, 101.045
 - Nonvoters, removal, 98.055
 - Party affiliation change, 97.1031
 - Public and governmental access, 98.095
 - Refusal by supervisor to deliver to successor, 104.32
 - Registration list maintenance programs and activities, 98.045, 98.055, 98.065
 - Removal of elector's name
 - Appeal of removal decision, 98.075
 - Complaints of violations, 97.023
 - Deceased persons, 98.045, 98.065, 98.093
 - Felons, 98.045, 98.065, 98.093
 - Fictitious persons, 98.075
 - Incompetent or incapacitated persons, 98.045, 98.065, 98.093
 - Nonresidents, 98.075
 - Recordkeeping, 98.081, 98.0977
 - Registration list maintenance, basis for removal, 98.045, 98.055, 98.065, 98.0977
 - Underaged persons, 98.075
 - Restoration of elector's name, 98.081, 98.093, 101.045
 - Special election, availability for, 100.151
 - Specifications, 98.101
 - Updating, 97.057, 97.058, 97.0585, 98.065, 101.694
 - Voting assistance eligibility, notation, 97.061
 - Central voter file, 97.012, 98.097, 98.212
 - Change of name or legal residence
 - Application for, acceptance, 97.053
 - Forms, 101.045
 - Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Department of; authority, 97.057
 - Identification cards, 97.057, 97.071, 97.1031

VOTER REGISTRATION (Cont.)

Change of name or legal residence (Cont.)
 Notices, 97.1031, 98.055, 98.065
 Registration list maintenance, 98.055, 98.065, 98.075
 Statewide registration application, use for, 97.052
 Temporary residence outside of county, 101.045
 Citizenship, 97.041, 97.051, 97.052
 Civil actions for violations, 97.023, 106.25, 106.27
 Complaints of violations, 97.023, 97.058, 106.25
 Confidential information
 Central voter file information, 98.097
 Complaints of violations and investigative information, 106.25
 Declining to register, 97.052, 97.057, 97.058, 97.0585
 Registration list maintenance programs and activities information, 98.045
 Registration office location, 97.052, 97.057, 97.058, 97.0585
 Social security numbers, 98.095
 Unauthorized disclosure, 106.25
 Criminal prosecution of violations, 106.27
 Database, 98.0977, 98.0979
 Date of registration, 97.053
 Declining to register, 97.052, 97.057, 97.058, 97.0585
 Disabilities, persons with, 97.058, 97.061
 Disqualification, 97.041
 Driver license application, renewal, or address change; opportunity to register, 97.057
 Educational institutions, services at, 97.052, 97.0583
 Elections Commission investigations and hearings, alleged violations, 106.25, 106.26
 False swearing, 97.052, 97.053, 104.011
 Federal law, compliance with, 97.012, 97.057, 97.058, 98.015, 98.065
 Felons, 97.041, 97.052, 98.045, 98.065, 98.093
 Forms
 Electronic reproductions, 98.461
 Filing, 98.081, 98.461
 Microfilming, 98.081, 98.101, 98.461
 Name list acquisition oath, 98.095
 Precinct register, 98.461
 Printing, 97.052
 Registration, 97.012, 97.052
 Registration list maintenance forms, 98.055
 Specifications, 98.101
 Voter registration agencies, 97.058
 Fraud, 97.052, 104.42, 106.22, 106.24
 Freeholder, determination of status, 100.241
 Identification cards
 Application for or renewal, opportunity to register, 97.057
 Change of name or legal residence, 97.057, 97.071, 97.1031
 Change of party affiliation, 97.071, 97.1031
 Contents, 97.071
 Replacement, 97.052, 97.053, 97.071, 101.045
 Unlawful use or possession, 104.013
 Voting assistance eligibility, 97.061
 Illiterate persons requiring voting assistance, 97.061
 Inactive status, 98.065
 Incompetent or incapacitated persons, 97.052
 Information maintained on electronic or other media, 98.081, 98.0977, 98.0979, 98.101, 98.461
 Injunctions for violations, 97.023, 106.27

VOTER REGISTRATION (Cont.)

Inspection of books, 98.045, 98.095, 98.0979
 Interference with registration, 97.057, 97.058, 104.012
 Internet web site, 98.0977
 Investigations, 104.42, 106.25
 Late registration, 97.0555
 Master registration records, 98.461
 Motor voter law, 97.053, 97.057
 Name lists, distribution, 98.095
 Notices, 97.073, 97.1031, 98.055, 98.065
 Oath, 97.051, 97.052, 97.053, 98.0979, 101.665
 Party affiliation
 Change, 97.052, 97.053, 97.055, 97.071, 97.1031
 Influencing registration applicant, 97.057, 97.058
 Registration without, 97.053
 Permanent single registration system, 97.071, 97.105, 101.002
 Precinct registers, 98.461, 98.471, 98.481, 98.491
 Preregistration, minors, 97.041
 Prior registration, cancellation, 97.073, 98.045
 Qualifications, 97.041
 Report, registered electors, 98.231
 Residency, 97.041
 State, Department of; powers and duties, 97.023, 97.052, 97.0555, 97.057, 98.0977, 101.58
 State, Secretary of; duties as chief election officer, 97.012
 Temporary residence outside of county, 101.045
 Time limitation for filing complaints of violations, 106.25
 Unlawful acts; penalties
 Altering another person's application without consent, 104.012
 Complaints containing false allegations, 106.25
 Confidential investigative information, disclosing, 106.25
 Consideration for registration, payment of, 104.012
 Database maintenance, refusal or neglect to perform duties, 98.0977
 Delivery of registration books, refusal, 104.32
 Denial of right to vote, 104.0515
 Deterring registration, 104.012
 False registration information, submission, 104.011
 False swearing, 97.052, 104.011
 Generally, 106.265
 Identification card, use or possession, 104.013
 Interference with registration, 104.012
 Solicitation of registration for compensation, 104.012
 Verification, 101.045
 Voter Registration Act, 97.032
 Voter registration agencies, 97.021, 97.023, 97.052, 97.053, 97.058

W**WITNESSES**

Absentee voting, 101.64, 101.65, 101.68
 Compensation
 Municipal recall election petition witnesses, 100.361
 Elections Commission hearings, 106.26
 Elections law violators, compelled testimony, 104.39
 Immunity from prosecution
 Elections law violators, 104.39
 Municipal recall election petitions, 100.361



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