

For the August 24th Florida Primary: Take Action: Vote the Easy Way!

www.VoteAnywhere.org

Picture this: it's Election Day. You'd almost forgotten, but then you saw the "I voted" sticker on a colleague at work. Now you are on your way to vote before the polls close at 7 p.m. Then you plan to go home, change your clothes, and meet a friend for dinner. But you are running late. Traffic is snarled. It's just starting to rain. As you pull into the precinct parking lot, you see a long line at the polls. You look at your watch and think out loud, "Does my vote really matter? I tried - that's what counts!" Answer: it's your VOTE that counts. Sadly, this is a scenario we have all experienced.

There is an easier way to make sure your vote is cast on election day... regardless of weather, traffic, that last minute emergency at the office or the brewing mini-crisis at day-care. It's the mail-in ballot (sometimes called the absentee ballot), available to every registered voter.

The League of Women Voters of Orange County encourages Central Florida voters to consider voting by mail-in ballot. Why? Because it is the easy way to vote: vote at home, vote at the kitchen table, vote by the pool, fill out your ballot on the weekend or at night when things are quiet. Stay home and be counted! Vote when it is convenient for YOU. Vote on your schedule.

Our League has made it a snap for voters: just go to www.VoteAnywhere.org

It's easy! Registered voters simply call the Supervisor of Elections Office, request a mail-in ballot by phone and have it delivered to his/her designated address. By voting at home with the mail-in ballot you can take all the time you need to study the ballot items. Do your research. Talk it over with friends. Ask questions. Talk to your children about voting. Show them the ballot. Explain the process. Have fun! Vote with confidence. Then sign the

back of the envelope, apply the postage and mail it back in to the Supervisor of Elections office making sure it arrives no later than 7 p.m. the day of the election.

You'll have plenty of company. In the 2004 Presidential election, 165,033 absentee ballots were requested by Orange County registered voters: 146,774 ballots were returned. In 2008, Orange County saw an increase of 300% in the number of mail-in ballots used by voters. This trend continues to gain momentum across the country. Some states, like Oregon and Washington State, have converted to the mail-in ballot as the exclusive method available to voters.

So which is better: planning to vote in person, but realizing that on some days, our busy schedules are our worst enemy, or planning ahead, to guarantee that you won't miss the election? Relax! Order a mail-in ballot. Make absolutely sure your vote will count. As an added benefit, you can request the mail-in ballot for all elections during a one-year period.

The deadline for requesting that a mail-in ballot be mailed to you for the August 24th Florida primary is August 18th. No matter which Florida county you live in, find out where to order your mail-in ballot at the League's website: www.VoteAnywhere.org