



# THE CLAUDE PEPPER CENTER

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## Leon County Election Timeline

Last day to request a Vote by Mail Ballot: October 24<sup>th</sup>

Early (In-Person) Voting: October 19<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>

Election Day: November 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Leon County Voter Information Verification

We recommend that all Leon County residents verify early and often that their registration, political party affiliation, and address are correct on file with the Leon County Supervisor of Elections office. Waiting until Election Day is too late to register to vote if you are not registered, and too late to change or select a political party affiliation.

You can verify your registration status (as well as view the status of your Vote-by-Mail ballot if you choose to vote that way, by calling the office at 850-606-8683 or visiting <https://www.leonvotes.org/YourVoterinfo>.

## Leon County Vote-By-Mail

All voters in Florida have the option to Vote-by-Mail in each election. You can request a Vote-by-Mail ballot and still vote in person instead, if you change your mind. If you would like to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot and you are a resident of Leon County, you can do so in any of the following ways:

- [Online Request Form](#)
- Email: [Vote@LeonCountyFL.gov](mailto:Vote@LeonCountyFL.gov)
- Telephone: (850) 606-8683
- Fax: (850) 606-8601
- In Person @ 2990-1 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee FL 32301
- [Printable Form](#)

***In Leon County, you do not have to mail back your ballot, you can instead drop it off at the Supervisor's office or at over a dozen secure drop boxes in the county. The status of your ballot can also be tracked online at [leonvotes.org](http://leonvotes.org).***

## **Nursing home residents and staff members account for around 40 percent of coronavirus-related deaths in the U.S.**

Some 70 percent of America's long-term care facilities are run by for-profit companies, including private investment firms. Those companies have squeezed profits out of these facilities by forcing them to skimp on care. As a result, per-patient staffing hours have fallen and staff quality has suffered. A recent report from the Government Accountability Office found that almost half of American nursing homes routinely violate infection-control standards, including those involving the isolation of sick residents, and a ProPublica investigation found that roughly 43 percent of such facilities did not have a legally mandated emergency response plan at the start of this pandemic.

Since the start of the pandemic, the industry has received billions of dollars in emergency aid — hundreds of thousands of which has gone to companies with terrible safety records. Rather than focus on improving those records, operators of private nursing homes have deployed an army of lobbyists to press for even more funding and favorable policies.

Among the most alarming of those policies is total immunity from wrongful death and other malpractice lawsuits — including those pertaining to the coronavirus — from 2019 through at least 2024. In a just world, the long-term care industry would right now face more accountability, not less. Eric Dreiband, an assistant U.S. attorney general, spoke of the government's duty to ensure that nursing home residents “are adequately cared for with dignity and respect and not unnecessarily put at risk.”

Federal officials ought to increase financial oversight of the industry, in which many businesses have been known to run afoul of the law — for instance, by bilking Medicare, soliciting kickbacks and illegally shielding assets from bankruptcy filings. Investigations by ProPublica and other news outlets have found that some facilities that struck lucrative deals to take on residents who tested positive for the coronavirus did not in turn ramp up their services accordingly. Every effort should be made to ensure that the bulk of the money that the government puts into this industry goes to patient care, not providers' pockets.

*The above is an excerpt of an editorial published in The New York Times. The full editorial can be found at <https://nyti.ms/2EBYFhi>.*