

Voting: Part of a Christian Life

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), of which Faith Lutheran is a part, calls for members “to participate in and advocate for civic life in the United States,” including “supporting efforts to increase voter registration and access to polling places, and to help dismantle structural barriers to the ballot box and to civic participation, all of part of the church’s faithful civic witness.” In response, the Faith and Justice team offers the following nonpartisan info about the upcoming election.

When to vote:

- Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3.
- Early voting locations will be open Oct. 19-Nov. 1 in Sarasota County and Oct. 24-31 in Manatee County. (Early voting dates in Manatee County may expand; stay tuned.)

Need a ride to the polls? Contact the church office.

Find your precinct and polling place:

- In Sarasota County: <https://www.sarasotavotes.gov/169/Find-My-Precinct-and-Polling-Place>
- In Manatee County: <https://www.votemanatee.gov/precinct-finder/>

Find out if you already are registered to vote:

- In Sarasota County: <https://www.sarasotavotes.gov/166/My-Voter-Record>
- In Manatee County: <https://www.votemanatee.gov/check-your-status/>

Register to vote by the Oct. 5 deadline:

You can pick up Florida State voter registration forms from the table in the narthex.

You also can register online or get more information about registering:

- Sarasota County: <https://www.sarasotavotes.gov/165/Register-to-Vote>
- Manatee County: <https://www.votemanatee.gov/voter-registration/>

Request a Vote-by-Mail ballot:

If you haven’t yet requested a vote-by-mail ballot, you must do so by Oct. 22.

You must make a new request every year!

Find out how to request a mail-in ballot: <https://dos.fl.gov/elections/for-voters/voting/vote-by-mail/>

Learn about a proposed amendment to the Florida State Constitution:

Amendment 3 is a proposed constitutional change on the Nov. 3, 2026, ballot that alters property tax exemptions, assessment caps and local government spending. The amendment requires 60 percent approval from voters to pass.

- **The Amendment’s Key Changes**

Homestead Exemption Increase: Raises the non-school homestead property tax exemption to \$150,000 in 2027 and \$250,000 in 2028.

New Resident Rule: People who move to Florida after Dec. 31, 2026, must wait five years to get the full increased exemption.

Assessment Cap: Lowers the yearly limit on property value increases for non-homestead properties (like rentals and businesses) from 10% to 5%.

Spending Limits: Requires local governments to use property tax money mainly for public safety, schools and infrastructure.

- **The Debate**

- **Supporters:** Groups like the [Florida Realtors](#) say it lowers high housing costs and helps people stay in their homes.
- **Opponents:** Sheriffs, firefighters, health care providers and other local groups say it will cut billions in local funding. They warn it could hurt police, fire protection and public services.