

Pray, then Vote, then Pray Again

As Christians, we value voting as part of the church's faithful civic witness, and we pray for discernment.

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city, county, state, and country, and how the gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens. We pray for discernment so we may choose leaders who hear your word, live your love, and endeavor to follow Jesus in ways of justice and peace. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

As we strive to learn about the issues, Amendment 3 to the Florida State Constitution has been in a news spotlight. If approved, it would raise the non-school homestead property tax exemption to \$150,000 in 2027 and \$250,000 in 2028. It also would lower the yearly limit on property value increases for non-homestead properties from 10% to 5%, decrease local funding, and restrict how local governments can use property tax money.

- **Supporters:** Groups like the Florida Realtors say it could help lower high housing costs.
- **Opponents:** Sheriffs, firefighters, health care providers, social-service providers and other local groups say it will cut billions in local funding. They warn it could reduce police, fire protection and public services.

Early voting continues through Nov 1.

- Sarasota County early voting locations are open 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. daily at these locations: <https://www.sarasotavotes.gov/171/Early-Voting>
- Manatee County early voting locations are open 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. daily at these locations: <https://www.votemanatee.gov/early-voting/>

Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, is the final day to cast your vote. 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/>

NEED A RIDE TO THE POLLS? CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.

Almighty God, we entrust our elected leaders to your care. Grant them wisdom, discernment and a strong sense of your justice. Help them to serve the common welfare with humility, honesty and compassion, and guide them to make decisions that protect peace and freedom for all. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.