

## **YOUR RIGHTS AS A VOTER!!!**

**Q – Who can vote?**

A – U.S. citizens, 18 years or older, and who are registered to vote in Del Norte County on or before the Close of Registration (15 days before election day)

**Q – My 18<sup>th</sup> birthday is after the Close of Registration but on or before election day. May I vote in this election?**

A – Yes, if your birthday is on or before the election, but after the Close of Registration, you can register to vote on or before the Close of Registration and vote in this election even though you were not 18 at the time you registered to vote.

**Q – If I was arrested or convicted of a crime, can I still vote?**

A – You can vote as long as you are not in prison or on parole (not probation) for a felony conviction.

**Q – I have just become a U.S. citizen. Can I vote in this election?**

A – If you became a U.S. citizen on or before the Close of Registration you may vote in the election, but you must register to vote by the Close of Registration date.

**OR**

If you became a U.S. citizen after the Close of Registration, but on or before the 7 days before the election, you may register and vote at the Registrar of Voters' office with proof of citizenship and proof of Del Norte County residency.

**Q – I have moved within the county but have not re-registered. Can I vote in this election?**

A – Yes, BUT you must go to your new polling place and show proof of current residence.

**Q – When do I vote?**

A – The polls are open Election Day between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.

**Q – Where to I vote?**

A – Go to the polling place listed on the back of the Sample Ballot Booklet mailed to each voter. You can also call the elections office at 707-465-0383 and find out.

**Q – What do I do if my polling place is not open?**

A – Check the label on the back of your Sample Ballot Booklet to make sure you have gone to the right place (address). Polling places often change. If you are at the right place call the Registrar of Voters at 707-465-0383 to let us know the polling place is not open.

**Q – If I don't know what to do when I get to my polling place, is there someone there to help me?**

A – Yes, the Election Officers at the polling place will help you.

**Q – Can I take my sample ballot booklet or my own written list into the voting booth?**

A – Yes. Deciding your votes before you get to the polls will help.

**Q – Can a worker at the polling place ask me to take any test?**

A – No.

**Q – Is there any way to vote instead of going to the polling place on Election Day?**

A – Yes, you can vote before Election Day if you are a permanent absentee voter or you fill out and mail the absentee ballot application printed on the back cover of your sample ballot booklet. Your request must be received by the Registrar of Voters no later than 7 days prior to the election

**OR**

Go to the Registrar of Voters at 981 H Street, Suite 160, Crescent City during the 29 days prior to the election. Our office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Q – If I don't use an application form, can I get an Absentee Ballot some other way?**

A – You can send a note, preferable a postcard to the Registrar of Voters asking for a ballot. This note must include: the name of the election you wish to vote in; your printed home address; the address where you want the ballot mailed to; your birth date, your printed name and your signature. Your request must be received by the Registrar of Voters no later than 7 days prior to the election.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE RETURN OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE MEANT TO BE RETURNED BY MAIL.** The deadline for the return of absentee ballots is 8:00 P.M. on Election Day. **Ballots received after 8:00 P.M. will not be counted.** If ballot is not being returned by mail, they must be returned as follows:

- **IN PERSON, RETURNING YOUR OWN BALLOT** – not your spouse’s or anyone else’s ballot.

Any day before the election to the Elections Department at 981 H Street – Suite 160, Crescent City, Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

On Election Day you may return an absentee ballot to the Elections Department or any polling place in Del Norte County between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.

- **AUTHORIZATION IF VOTER IS ILL OR DISABLED**

Same return times as above – except that the authorization portion at the bottom left on back of the return envelope must include the name and signature of the person returning the ballot and the signature of the voter authorizing them to return it. It may be returned by the spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister or person residing in the same household. If you are not ill or disabled, you must return it **yourself by mail or in person** and you **cannot** authorize your spouse or anyone else to return it for you.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SIGNATURE

**YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPE MUST HAVE YOUR SIGNATURE ON IT.** An absentee ballot return envelope without your signature **will not be counted.**

- Your signature on the return envelope must look similar to the original signature on your voter registration card. Your signature should be written and not printed, **unless** you printed your signature on the original registration card.
- If you are ill or disabled and unable to sign your signature on your return absentee envelope, you must make an “X” and have it witnessed. A person with **power of attorney cannot** sign for you. Power of attorney is not valid for voting purposes. If there is no “X” with a witness, your ballot will not be counted.

## TOP FOUR AVOIDABLE REASONS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

- #1. **Absentee ballot arrives after 8:00 P.M. on Election Day.** Postmarks DO NOT count.
- #2. **No signature.**
- #3. **Unauthorized return.** **You** are responsible for your own ballot. Drop it in the mail or return it yourself. If you are ill or disable, **you** may authorize a spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister or person residing in same household to return for you by signing the **authorization** on the bottom left on back of return envelope.
- #4. **Ballot is returned to the Elections Department in a plain envelope.** You must sign the envelope with the penalty of perjury statement on it for it to count. If you lose the return envelope that was sent to you, call us at (707) 465-0383 and we will send you another one in the mail.