



LEE COUNTY
ELECTIONS

2026
Primary Election

Lee County
Ballot Contest
Guide

July 27, 2026

Courtesy of:
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August 18, 2026, Primary Election Contest Guide

Florida is a closed Primary Election state. A voter must vote in their registered party in a Primary Election; therefore, voters often view the Primary Election as a partisan election in which they cannot vote unless registered with a major political party, such as the Democratic or Republican Party.

In the August 18 Primary Election, every eligible voter will have something to vote on. Some nonpartisan contests apply to all voters in the county, while others are city, district, or ward-specific. In nonpartisan contests, candidates are prohibited from running for office on the ballot with a party affiliation.

Regardless of their party affiliation, an eligible voter may vote in a nonpartisan contest that appears on their ballot.

Universal Primary Contest

A Universal Primary Contest is one in which the candidates who qualified for a particular office have the same party affiliation and will not face opposition in the General Election. In a Universal Primary Contest, all eligible Lee County voters can vote on the contest regardless of the voters' or the candidate's party affiliation.

Unopposed Candidates and Candidates Scheduled for the General Election Only

Often, voters are concerned because a candidate or a contest is not listed on their Primary Election ballot. An unopposed candidate will not appear on the Primary or General Election ballot. An unopposed candidate is a candidate who had no opposition at the close of the candidate-qualifying period at Noon on June 12, 2026.

Some candidates will only appear in the General Election if they do not have an opposing candidate from their party in the Primary Election.

A **No Party Affiliation (NPA)** candidate is not the same as a nonpartisan candidate. A No Party Affiliation candidate is a candidate who runs for a partisan office without party affiliation. NPA candidates who qualify to run for office appear in the General Election only.

A qualified write-in candidate runs only in the General Election, and their name will not appear on the ballot. If one or more write-in candidates qualify for a particular office, an oval target and a line will be available on the General Election ballot for that contest, allowing a voter to darken the oval target and write the candidate's name on the line provided.

United States Senator – Partisan Contest

In 2026, one (1) Florida United States Senator will be up for re-election.

- (2) Democratic and (4) Republican candidates
 - The Democratic and Republican top vote-getters in this contest will run off in the General Election against (1) NPA candidate

Voters can visit <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm> to find their United States Senator.

Representative in Congress – Partisan Contest

- District 17 – only Democratic voters in District 17 in the Primary Election
 - (2) Democratic candidates
 - The Democratic top vote-getter will run off in the General Election against (1) Republican and (1) NPA candidate
- District 19 – only Republican voters in District 19 in the Primary Election
 - (3) Democratic and (10) Republican candidates
 - The Democratic and Republican top vote-getters will run off in the General Election against (1) NPA candidate and (1) Write-in candidate

Representative in Congress – Partisan Contest (continued)

Every even-numbered year, all members of the United States House of Representatives (congressional districts) are up for re-election since the office term is (2) years.

Following the Florida Legislature's adoption of the new Congressional District Maps for the state on May 4, 2026, Lee County continues to be represented by Congressional Districts 17 and 19. However, the boundaries of both districts changed due to territorial expansion or contraction.

During this election cycle, following the Florida Legislature's adoption of the new Congressional Maps, if a voter was represented by Congressman or Congresswoman [A] under the previous Congressional Map, they will continue to be represented by Congressman or Congresswoman [A] until that representative's current term expires on January 3, 2027. Starting January 3, 2027, whoever is elected to Congress will represent the voters in the new congressional district.

Voters can visit <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> to find their congressional representative.

Governor and Lieutenant Governor – Partisan Contest

This contest will appear on the August 18, 2026, Primary Election ballot. Eligible Republican or Democratic county voters can vote in their affiliated party contest.

- (6) Democratic and (11) Republican candidates
 - The Democratic and Republican top vote-getters in this contest will run off in the General Election against (1) Libertarian, (6) NPA, and (5) Write-in candidates

About the Lieutenant Governor Running Mate – In the Primary Election, there is one Democratic gubernatorial candidate with a declared and balloted Lieutenant Governor running mate. This is because, to have a Lieutenant Governor's name printed on the Primary Election ballot, the candidate for Governor must designate the Lieutenant Governor's name, and that person and the Governor candidate must qualify for office by the end of the qualifying period, which was Noon, June 12, 2026.

Otherwise, no later than 5:00 p.m. on the (9th) day following the Primary Election, each candidate for Governor designates, in writing, to the Department of State a Lieutenant Governor as a running mate. The designated Lieutenant Governor running mate must file for office no later than 5:00 p.m. with the Department of State.

Attorney General – Partisan Contest

<https://www.myfloridalegal.com/>

- General Election only
 - (1) Democratic and (1) Republican candidate

Chief Financial Officer – Partisan Contest

<https://myfloridacfo.com/>

- (2) Democratic and (2) Republican candidates
 - The Democratic and Republican top vote-getters in this contest will run off in the General Election

Commissioner of Agriculture – Partisan Contest

<https://www.fdacs.gov/>

- (2) Democratic and (2) Republican candidates
 - The Democratic and Republican top vote-getters in this contest will run off in the General Election against (1) Write-in candidate

State Senator – Partisan Contest

- District 28 – only voters in District 28 – General Election only
 - (1) Democratic and (1) Republican candidate

Voters can visit <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators> to find their State Senator. Senate District 28 has a (4) year term. Its Senator takes office immediately following the November 3, 2026, General Election.

State Representative – Partisan Contest

- District 76 – only Republican voters in District 76 in the Primary Election
 - (1) Democratic and (2) Republican candidates
 - The Republican top vote-getter will run off in the General Election against (1) Democratic candidate
- District 77 – only voters in District 77 – General Election only
 - (1) Democratic and (1) Republican candidate
- District 78 – only Republican voters in District 78 in the Primary Election
 - (1) Democratic and (2) Republican candidates
 - The Republican top vote-getter will run off in the General Election against (1) Democratic candidate
- District 79 – ***Unopposed***
 - Will not appear on any ballot, the incumbent office holder is unopposed
- District 80 – only voters in District 80 – General Election only
 - (1) Democratic and (1) Republican candidate

Every even-numbered year, all of Florida's House of Representatives districts (state representatives) are up for re-election, as the office term is (2) years. Voters can visit www.myfloridahouse.gov/representatives to find their State Representative. Florida's 2026 state representative districts have a (2) year term and take office immediately following the November 3, 2026, General Election.

State Attorney 20th Judicial Circuit – Partisan Contest <https://sao20.org/>

- ***Unopposed***
 - Will not appear on any ballot, the incumbent office holder is unopposed

Public Defender 20th Judicial Circuit – Partisan Contest <https://www.pd20.org/>

- ***Unopposed***
 - Will not appear on any ballot, the incumbent office holder is unopposed

Supervisor of Elections – Partisan Contest <https://www.lee.vote/>

Countywide, partisan contest. General Election only

- (1) Democratic and (1) Republican candidate

Board of County Commissioners – Partisan Contest <https://www.leegov.com/>

Countywide, partisan contest. District 2

- General Election only
 - (1) Democratic and (1) Republican candidate
- District 4
 - General Election only
 - (1) Republican candidate and (1) NPA candidate

Board of County Commissioners – Partisan Contest (continued)

District 5 – Universal Primary Contest

A Universal Primary Contest is one in which the candidates who qualified for a particular office have the same party affiliation, and the winner in the Primary Election will not face opposition in the General Election. In the Universal Primary Contest listed below, all eligible Lee County voters can vote on the contest regardless of their or the candidate's party affiliation.

- District 5, Board of County Commissioners – countywide – all voters, regardless of party affiliation
 - Universal Primary Contest – (2) Republican candidates
 - This contest will be decided in the Primary Election

Circuit Judge 20th Judicial Circuit – Nonpartisan Contest (All Voters) <https://www.flcourts.gov/>

Two (2) 20th Judicial Circuit Judge contests will appear on the Primary Election ballot. All Lee County voters can vote in the contest regardless of their party affiliation.

- Group 19, (2) candidates and Group 27, (2) candidates
 - Both contests will be decided in the Primary Election

County Judge – Nonpartisan Contest (All Voters) <https://www.flcourts.gov/>

One (1) County Court Judge contest will appear on the Primary Election ballot. All Lee County voters can vote in the contest regardless of their party affiliation.

- County Judge Group 5
 - This contest will be decided in the Primary Election

School Board Member – Nonpartisan Contest <https://www.leeschools.net/>

School Board Member contests can appear on the Primary or General Election ballot, depending on the number of candidates who qualify for such offices. Florida's law provides for a majority vote-getter concept in School Board Member elections.

If (2) or more candidates are in a contest, those candidates appear in the Primary Election. In the Primary Election, if a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast or (50% + 1 vote) in their contest, the candidate receiving the majority vote wins. In this scenario, the contest is decided in the Primary Election. Fifty percent plus one means – 50% of the vote plus (1) additional vote. For example, if the vote total is 500 votes and one candidate receives 251, that candidate has received 50% of the vote plus (1) additional vote; this is a majority of the votes cast.

If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast in their contest, the top two vote-getters run off in the General Election.

- School Board District 1 – only voters in District 1 – (2) candidates
 - This contest will be decided in the Primary Election
- School Board District 4 – only voters in District 4 – (4) candidates
 - The contest will appear in the Primary Election and could be decided in the Primary, **but only if** there is a majority vote-getter; if there is no majority vote-getter, the contest's top (2) vote-getters will run off in the General Election
- School Board District 5 – only voters in District 5 – (3) candidates
 - The contest will appear in the Primary Election and could be decided in the Primary, **but only if** there is a majority vote-getter; if there is no majority vote-getter, the contest's top (2) vote-getters will run off in the General Election
- School Board, District 6 – (2) candidates – countywide – all voters, regardless of party affiliation
 - This contest will be decided in the Primary Election

City of Cape Coral, City Council – Nonpartisan Contest <https://www.capecoral.gov/>

The City of Cape Coral City Council contests are voted on citywide. This means that all City voters, regardless of the district in which the voters reside, can vote on all city council contests. The contests can appear on the Primary or General Election ballot, depending on the number of candidates who qualify for such offices.

The City of Cape Coral Charter does not provide for a majority vote-getter concept in Primary Elections. If (3) or more candidates are in a contest in the Primary Election, the top (2) vote-getters must run off in the General Election.

If there are only two (2) candidates in a contest, those candidates appear only on the General Election ballot since a run-off election is not required. The contests below are currently scheduled for the Primary and General Election ballots.

- City of Cape Coral Mayor
- City of Cape Coral City Council Districts 1 and 6
 - Primary Election because there are (3) or more candidates running for Mayor or in the districts below
 - Top two (2) vote-getters in each district automatically run off in the General Election
 - * Mayor – (6) candidates
 - * District 1 – (4) candidates
 - * District 6 – (5) candidates
- City of Cape Coral City Council District 4
 - General Election because there are only (2) candidates

City of Fort Myers City Council – Nonpartisan Contests <https://www.fortmyers.gov/>

In the contest for Mayor, all city voters may vote in the mayoral contest. However, only voters residing in a specific city ward (a ward is like a district) can vote on candidates for the particular City Council ward. The contests can appear on the Primary or General Election ballot, depending on how many candidates qualify for those offices.

The City of Fort Myers Charter provides for a majority vote-getter concept in Primary Elections. In the Primary Election, if (3) or more candidates are in a contest, the candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast or (50% + 1 vote) wins the election. Fifty percent plus one means – 50% of the vote plus (1) additional vote. For example, if the vote total is 500 votes and one candidate receives 251, that candidate has received 50% of the vote plus (1) additional vote; this is a majority of the votes cast.

If (3) or more candidates are in a contest, and no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast in the contest, the top two (2) vote-getters go to the General Election.

If there are only (2) candidates in a contest, those candidates will only appear on the General Election ballot since a run-off election is not required.

- City of Fort Myers Mayor – all city voters – (2) candidates
 - General Election because there are only (2) candidates
- City of Fort Myers City Council Ward 1 - **Unopposed**
 - Will not appear on any ballot, the incumbent office holder is unopposed
- City of Fort Myers City Council Ward 3 – only voters in Ward 3 – (2) candidates
 - General Election because there are only (2) candidates
- City of Fort Myers City Council Ward 5 – **Unopposed**
 - Will not appear on any ballot, the incumbent office holder is unopposed

City of Bonita Springs Bond Referendum Special Election <https://www.cityofbonitasprings.org/>

The City of Bonita Springs will hold a bond referendum special election on the August 18, 2026, Primary Election ballot. A bond referendum requires voter approval because the bond's purpose is to fund the Bonita Estero Rail Trail, also known as the BERT referendum, through voters' ad valorem tax payments, which are included in the voters' property taxes. Voters vote for or against the bond, which is a voter tax-based financial guarantee for a government-funded project.

All City voters are eligible to vote on the referendum. If a majority of the City's voters vote YES – For Bonds, the referendum will be approved, and the City can proceed with issuing Bonds.

As an example, if the vote total is 500 votes for YES and NO, and YES has received 50% of the vote plus (1) additional vote, or 251 votes, this is a majority of the votes cast. The bond referendum passes.

A vote of less than a majority means the referendum is defeated, and the City may not issue bonds.

The ballot title for this referendum is as follows:

- **Bonita Estero Rail Trail (BERT) General Obligation Bonds**

For more information, voters can contact the City of Bonita Springs at **City Hall: (239) 949-6262**.

City of Cape Coral Charter Amendments <https://www.capecoral.gov/>

The City of Cape Coral will have three (3) charter amendments on the Primary Election ballot. This means the City is proposing amendments to its municipal governing documents that allow certain actions, but only with majority voter approval.

The ballot titles for the City's charter amendments are as follows:

- **City Charter Amendment Relating to the Election of the Mayor Pro Tem**
- **City Charter Amendment Relating to Eligibility Requirements of Candidates for Council Member or Mayor**
- **City Charter Amendment Relating to the Proof of Residency for Candidates Eligible to Hold Office**

All City voters are eligible to vote on the charter amendments. If a majority of the City's voters vote YES on any one of the charter amendments, the charter amendment will be approved.

As an example, if the vote total is 500 votes for YES and NO, and YES has received 50% of the vote plus (1) additional vote, or 251 votes, this is a majority of the votes cast, and the charter amendments will pass.

A vote of less than a majority means the charter amendment is defeated.

For more information, voters can contact the City of Cape Coral at **City Hall: 239-574-0401**.

November 3, 2026, General Election

In addition to Primary Election contests in this guide, which may be subject to a General Election. The General Election ballot will include contests for the following contests:

- Florida Supreme Court Justices
- Florida Sixth District Court of Appeal Judges
- City of Bonita Springs City Council
- Town of Fort Myers Beach Town Council
- Multi-County Special District Candidates such as:
 - Lehigh Acres Municipal Services Improvement District (Hendry/Lee Counties)
- Local Special District Candidates such as:
 - Community Development Districts
 - Fire Districts
 - Library Districts
 - Mosquito Control Districts
- Statewide Constitutional Amendments
- Countywide Referendums
- Municipal Referendums
- Special District Referendums