



VOTE BY MAIL: Critical Thinking Worksheet

Vote by Mail (VBM) is a convenient and easy way to cast your vote. However, there are a lot of myths and misunderstandings about the process in Palm Beach County. **Why is it important to understand your right to use VBM? Where do these myths come from?**

Read the statements below and decide if they are true or false.

	True or False?
1. Voters in Florida can choose to vote by mail (VBM).	
2. VBM has a high risk for fraud.	
3. VBM ballots are only counted in close elections.	
4. Postage is prepaid for mailing your VBM in Palm Beach County.	
5. If I forget to sign my VBM ballot or there is a problem, I can't correct it.	
6. Voters who request VBM ballots can change their mind and vote in person.	



ANSWERS

1. **True.** Any registered voter in Florida can request a vote by mail (VBM) ballot, with no special reason needed (Section 97.021(1) and 101.62, Florida Statutes). A request for a VBM ballot must be made in person, by mail, by fax, by phone, by email or online at the Palm Beach County Supervisors of Elections (SOE) office/website (<https://www.pbcelections.org/>).
2. **False.** Experts agree that VBM does not have any higher degree of fraud risk than voting in person, which is also rare (factcheck.org, 2020). All states allow for VBM for some or all elections. 16 states require an approved excuse for a voter to use a VBM, while 5 states conduct all-mail elections: Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, and Utah. (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2020).
3. **False.** VBM ballots are processed and counted as soon as they are received. Palm Beach County's SOE offers tracking on the county website to ensure that your ballot is received.
4. **True.** VBM ballots in Palm Beach County are sent to you with a postage-paid envelope. All you need to do is drop it in the mail or return it to a designated ballot collection box.
5. **False.** The Palm Beach County SOE office will contact you if there is a problem with your signature. You also have until 5pm on the second day after an Election to provide your signature if you forgot to sign your VBM envelope.
6. **True.** If you decide to go to the polls instead of completing your ballot, simply bring your VBM ballot (marked or not) to the polls. The VBM ballot will be cancelled, and you can then cast a regular ballot.

Your feedback is important to us. Please answer the questions below and add your name and contact information if you would like us to provide you with updates or voter registration information:

1. Was the discussion civil?
2. Do you agree with the answers on the back of the page?
3. What did you like best about the exercise?
4. Was there a part of the exercise that you did not like? Why?
5. Would you like to suggest additional topics? If yes, please list below.

NAME: _____
CONTACT
INFORMATION: _____