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Absentee ballots are in the mail; early voting starts Oct. 20

By CITIZEN STAFF

Voters should be receiving their absentee ballots for the Nov. 4 general election, which were mailed Friday. Those who need them must request them by 5 p.m. Oct. 29.

Voters may begin casting ballots as soon as they receive them, and ballots must be received by the Monroe County Supervisor of Elections office by 7 p.m. Nov. 4.

Early voting begins Oct. 20 and ends Oct. 31.

Anyone can cast an early vote from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays at the supervisor of elections offices in Key West, 530 Whitehead St. #101; in Marathon, at 490 63rd St. oceanside #130; and in Tavernier, at 88820 Overseas Highway.

Early voters also can cast ballots at public libraries in Big Pine Key, in the Winn-Dixie Plaza at 213 Key Deer Blvd.; and in Key Largo, in the Tradewinds Plaza at 101485 Overseas Highway.

After that, votes must be cast at the polls, which will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 4.

In Monroe County, there are 48,828 registered voters: 18,661 Republicans, 17,535 Democrats, 10,548 independents, and 2,084 in minor parties -- all of whom are eligible to vote in the nonpartisan races.

Voters will pick two new County Commission candidates (Kim Wigington vs. Bill Estes for District 1 and Heather Carruthers, Carlos Rojas or Sloan Bashinsky for District 3) and decide whether an incumbent or newcomer will fill the third seat (Sylvia Murphy vs. Sal Gutierrez for District 5).

They'll also pick between Bob Peryam, Ken Davis, Sandra Downs and Bob Horan for sheriff, and Tegan Slaton and Mary Vanden Brook as Monroe County's newest circuit judge.

Fred Colvard challenges incumbent Randy Acevedo for schools superintendent, Henry Woods challenges incumbent Harry Sawyer for elections supervisor, and Chris Sante challenges incumbent Ervin Higgs for property appraiser.

For the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District board, Andy Williams challenges incumbent Joan Lord-Papy for the District 1 seat and Daniel Zieg challenges incumbent Bill Shaw for the District 4 seat.

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