Election Reform
Lessons Learned from the 2018 midterm elections
Problems encountered

Mail-in Ballots

- 8.2 million were mailed or dropped off at early voting centers
- Must be received by 7 pm on Election Day
- Exception is overseas ballots
- Post marked by post office
- Signatures must be “cured” within 2 days after the election
- Provisional ballots must be cured within 2 days after the election
Problems encountered

Recounts in Close Elections
• Timelines inadequate
• Machines old and inadequate
• Staffing issues at SOE offices
• Pressure from candidates
• Problems with ballot design (undervotes in Senate race)
Other problems

• Issues with online voter registration
• Ballot design
• Interference from candidates
• Threats of litigation
Possible Solutions

• Automatic Registration (opt out) with other options besides DMV
• Use of Vote Centers on Election Day (provisional ballots)
• Allow canvassing of VBM 22 days prior to Election (FSAES)
• Allow option for software to automate recounts (SOE from Leon Co.)
• Extend deadline for curing VBM issues to 5pm on Election Night (FSAES)
• Other Suggestions?
Pending Legislation

• HB 55- Campaign Finance
• SB 56- Presidential Preference Primary
• HJR 57/ SJR 74- Percentage of Electors to Approve Constitutional Amendments
• SB 230/ HB 131- Voter Registration Maintenance
• SB 228- Public Records/ Probable Cause Finding
• HB 221- Specifications for Ballots