

## VETERANS' PREFERENCE INFORMATION SHEET

It is the policy of the City of Tallahassee to give preference to eligible veterans and spouses of veterans in appointment to non-exempted vacant positions and retention in employment in accordance with Florida Statutes §295.085.

### ***WHO IS ELIGIBLE?***

Having served in the United States armed services does not necessarily mean you qualify for veterans' preference. In order to receive veterans' preference, documentation substantiating your claim must be furnished at the time of application for one of the following criteria categories.

1. A veteran with a service-connected disability who is eligible for or receiving compensation, disability retirement, or pension under public laws administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense; or
2. The spouse of a veteran who cannot qualify for employment because of a total and permanent service-connected disability, or the spouse of a veteran missing in action, captured, or forcibly detained by a foreign power; or
3. The unmarried widow or widower of a veteran who died of a service-connected disability.
4. A veteran awarded a qualifying Campaign or Expeditionary Medal, or of any war, who has served on active duty for one (1) day or more during a wartime period\*, excluding active duty for training, and who was discharged under honorable conditions from the Armed Forces of the United States of America; or

### ***DOCUMENTATION***

A DD214 or comparable document that serves as a certificate of release or discharge must be furnished at the time of application. In addition, applicants claiming categories 1,2, or 3 above must furnish supporting documentation in accordance with the provisions of Rule 55A-7.013, F.A.C.

\*Wartime periods, as defined in Florida Statutes §1.01, currently include the following:

- (1) **Spanish-American War:** April 21, 1898, to July 4, 1902, and including the Philippine Insurrection and the Boxer Rebellion;
- (2) **Mexican Border Period:** May 9, 1916, to April 5, 1917, in the case of a veteran who during such period served in Mexico, on the borders thereof, or in the waters adjacent thereto;
- (3) **World War I:** April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; extended to April 1, 1920, for those veterans who served in Russia; also extended through July 1, 1921, for those veterans who served after November 11, 1918, and before July 2, 1921, provided such veterans had at least one day of service between April 5, 1917, and November 12, 1918;
- (4) **World War II:** December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946;
- (5) **Korean Conflict:** June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955;
- (6) **Vietnam Era:** February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975;
- (7) **Persian Gulf War:** August 2, 1990 to January 2, 1992;
- (8) **Operation Enduring Freedom:** October 7, 2001, and ending on the date thereafter prescribed by presidential proclamation or law;

( 9 ) **Operation Iraqi Freedom:** March 19, 2003, and ending on the date thereafter prescribed by presidential proclamation or law.

***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION***

Under Florida law, preference in appointment shall be given to those persons in categories 1 and 2 and then to those in categories 3, and 4. Veterans' Preference is only available to Florida residents.

***SPECIAL NOTE: Effective July 1, 2007***, the single entitlement previously allowed by section 295.101, Florida Statutes, was repealed. Therefore, an eligible person may now claim Veteran's Preference more than once.

If you wish to know who has been selected for a vacant position, you may call (850) 891-8214 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Following the closing date for a job, it usually takes a minimum of three (3) weeks for a position to be filled.

***COMPLAINT PROCEDURE***

An applicant eligible for veterans' preference who believes he or she was not afforded employment preference in accordance with Florida Law may file a complaint requesting an investigation with the Department of Veterans' Affairs at the address below.

**Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Division of Benefits and Assistance  
PO Box 31003  
St. Petersburg, FL 33731**

**Telephone: (727) 319-7462  
FAX: (727) 319-7780**

A complaint must be filed within 21 calendar days from the date that the notice of hiring decision is received by the applicant or within three calendar months of the date the application is filed with the employer. If no notice is given, it is the responsibility of the preferred applicant to maintain contact with the employer to determine if the position has been filled.

***QUESTIONS?***

For additional information concerning veterans' preference, contact the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

By Phone: (727) 319-7462

By Email: [burnsj@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:burnsj@fdva.state.fl.us)

By Mail: **Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs**

**Division of Benefits and Assistance**

**PO Box 31003**

**St. Petersburg, FL 33731**

Or visit their website at: <http://www.floridavets.org/benefits/veteranspref.asp>

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