

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the voting process

1. What is a Primary Election?

In Texas, primary elections are conducted by the major political parties to determine their nominees for a given elective office in advance of a general election.

2. Who is eligible to vote in a Primary Election in Harris County?

Any person that is registered to vote in Harris County may vote in either the Republican Primary Election or the Democratic Primary Election (NOT both). In Texas, a person must register to vote 30 days before Election Day, if never registered to vote.

3. May a registered voter participate in a Primary Election Runoff even if the voter did not vote in the primary elections?

Yes. It is not necessary to have voted in the Primary to vote in a Primary Runoff Election. However, during an election cycle, a voter that participated in a Primary Election may ONLY participate in the Primary Runoff Election of the Party in which the voter initially voted.

4. What contests are on the Primary ballot?

Typically, Federal, State and County contests appear on the Primary Election ballot. Political Parties may also offer non-binding propositions.

5. Are candidates identified by political party on a Primary Election ballot?

No. In a Primary Election, all candidates are affiliated with the same major political party.

6. Is straight party voting available on a Primary Election Ballot?

Straight Party voting is the practice of choosing the Straight Party option on the ballot and by this means casting a vote for all candidates of the same political party. This option is NOT available on a Primary Election ballot.

7. Do voters need identification to vote in person?

Yes. Voters need to bring an approved form of identification to vote at the polling location. Voters can find a list of the approved forms of voting identification at <http://www.harrisvotes.com/VotingInfo/AcceptableID.aspx?L=E>.

8. What is a Declaration of Reasonable Impediment?

A Declaration of Reasonable Impediment is a document that eligible registered voters who do not possess an acceptable form of photo identification must complete and provide a supporting document to cast a regular ballot.
<http://www.harrisvotes.com/VotingInfo/AcceptableID.aspx?L=E>.

9. What if a voter does not possess an acceptable form of voter identification?

Voters who do not possess an acceptable form of photo ID or a supporting document have the option of voting via a Provisional Ballot. The Provisional Ballot must be cured within the 6 days following the election.

10. Can a person with disabilities vote at the poll?

Yes. Voting equipment allows disabled voters to vote independently. Voters physically unable to enter the polling location may also request to be allowed to vote at the "curbside" outside the polling location.
<http://www.harrisvotes.com/VotingInfo/DisabledVoters.aspx?L=E>.

11. Can a voter bring someone to the poll to assist with the voting process?

Yes. On the voter's request, the voter may be assisted by any person selected by the voter other than the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an officer or agent of a labor union to which the voter belongs.

12. What if a voter has a concern while in the process of voting?

If a voter has a question while in the voting booth, the voter should press the HELP button on the eSlate and/or notify the Election Staff.

13. What devices are prohibited inside the polling location?

Wireless communication devices are prohibited within the polling location. The taking of photographs is prohibited within the polling location.

14. Is electioneering allowed within the polling location?

No. During the time a polling place is open for the conduct of voting, a person may not electioneer for or against any candidate, measure, or political party in or within 100 feet of an outside door through which a voter may enter the building or structure in which the polling place is located.

15. How does a voter know their vote was cast?

The voting process is complete when the voter presses the red CAST BALLOT button and sees the waving American flag on the screen.

16. In Texas, does a voter have to register by/with a political party to vote?

No.