

long-term care facility, retirement center, or relative, but you must check the blank on the form indicating which address you are providing.

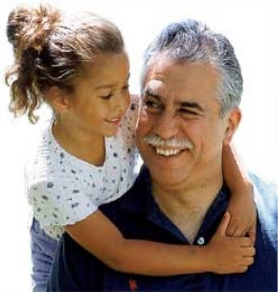
**3. If a voter needs help reading, marking or mailing the ballot, a trusted relative or friend can provide assistance.**

For example:

A stranger might “show up” on your doorstep offering to assist you with your ballot soon after you’ve received it in the mail. We recommend you decline this type of assistance for several reasons. If you allow your ballot to be mailed by someone you don’t know, it might not be mailed at all. Your ballot will be rejected if a common or contract carrier attempts to deliver it to the elections office from the address of a candidate or a campaign’s headquarters. The safety of your vote is best assured by asking someone you know and trust to assist you in reading, marking or mailing your ballot. Remember, you must include your assistant’s name and address on the carrier envelope, which is the one used to return your ballot to the early voting clerk. The assistant must also sign the carrier envelope.

**4. Know your rights as a voter.**

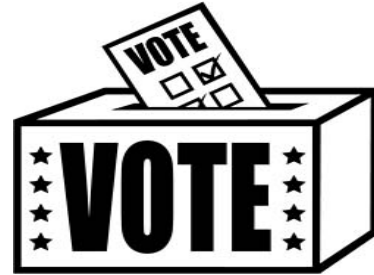
It is our hope that the examples in this publication cover most of the fraudulent tactics you may encounter, however if a situation arises and you don’t know what to do, please call our office. Our legal staff is available toll-free at 1.800.252.VOTE (8683) to advise you on your rights as a voter.



***Returning a Voted Ballot by Mail***

Once you receive your ballot by mail make sure you do the following:

1. Read all the instructions;
2. Use BLACK or BLUE ink to MARK your choices on the ballot;
3. Place voted ballot in the **Ballot Envelope** and seal it;
4. Place Ballot Envelope in the enclosed pre-addressed County Clerk **carrier envelope**;



5. Seal carrier envelope and sign where indicated exactly as you signed the ballot-by-mail application;
6. Place appropriate postage and return it.

The County Clerk must receive your voted ballot by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

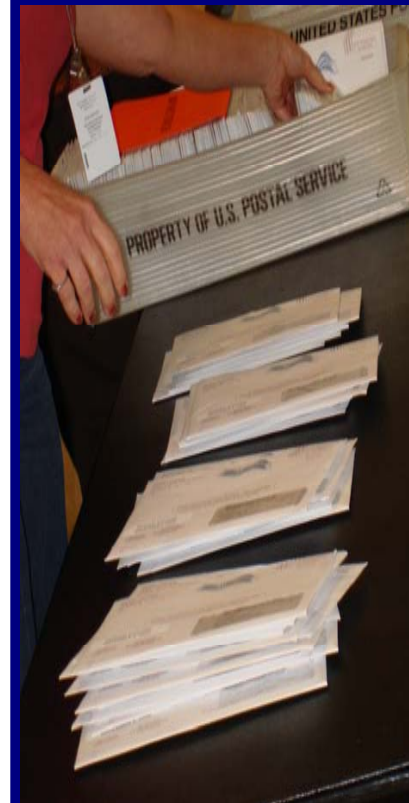
*\* Exception:*

*If you are mailing your ballot from outside the United States, the early voting clerk must receive your ballot by the fifth day after Election Day. (You must mail it no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day.)*

For more elections information,  
contact **713.755.6965** or visit the website:

<http://www.harrisvotes.com>

***Recording  
the  
Major  
Events  
of  
Your  
Life***



**STAN STANART**  
Harris County Clerk



**VOTING BY MAIL**

[www.cclerk.hctx.net](http://www.cclerk.hctx.net)

## Message from the Harris County Clerk

*In Texas, elderly voters, voters with physical disabilities and voters who are away from their county of residence during the voting cycle can cast a ballot by mail.*

*A mail ballot is a paper ballot, with the same candidates and contests as you would see at your polling place on Election Day.*

*This brochure provides basic information that citizens need to know to access the voting process by mail.*

**- Stan Stanart**

## Criteria to qualify to vote by mail



You may vote by-mail if you are:

- 65 years of age or older on Election Day; or
- sick or disabled;
- confined in jail, but eligible to vote.
- absent from Harris County on Election Day

and during early voting by personal appearance;

### Time period when an Application for Ballot by Mail can be submitted

Applications for a ballot by mail must be submitted to the early voting clerk **on or after the 60th day before Election Day and before the close of business on the 7th day before Election Day**. If the 7th day is a weekend, the last day to submit an application is the preceding Friday.

*By law, the County Clerk can begin responding to ballot-by-mail requests approximately six weeks prior to Election Day.*

## Ballot-by-Mail Application Process



Ballot-by-mail application may be submitted by:

- regular mail;
- common or contract carrier;
- FAX to 713.755.4983 (if you are submitting your application from outside the county).

*\* Exception:*

*You can submit a ballot-by-mail application in person before the first day of early voting by personal appearance.*

You may obtain a formal application (*in English, Spanish and Vietnamese*) from the Harris County Clerk's web site at <http://www.harrisvotes.com/docs/app4ballotbymail.pdf> or by calling **713.755.6965**.



An informal request for ballot by mail can also be submitted to :

**P.O. Box 1148  
Houston, TX 77251-1148.**

The request must include:

- your name and the address at which you are registered to vote;
- the address to which the ballot is to be mailed;
- the election date and for which election you are requesting a ballot (for a primary election, you must state the political party's primary in which you wish to vote); and,
- a reason why you are eligible to vote early by mail (to be eligible to vote early due to expected absence from the county, your request must state an address outside the county to have your ballot mailed).
- your signature;

## Texas Secretary of State suggestions on how to safeguard your mail ballot and your vote:

**1. If you vote by mail, request your application from the early voting clerk, or from the Secretary of State's office.**

You can call the office holding your election and have an application for ballot by mail sent directly to you, or you can call our office and we will send you an application. If you need help filling out the application or mailing it, ask someone you trust. If someone helps you fill out the application, the person must write their name and address next to your signature on the application. The person must also sign the application where indicated.

All applications must be addressed to the early voting clerk. Applications mailed to an address other than the early voting clerk will be rejected.

**2. Send your application as early as possible.**

You may send your application for a ballot by mail up to two months before an election. This will give you plenty of time to receive your ballot, vote it and mail it back to the early voting clerk. If you don't receive your ballot or a problem occurs, this will also give you time to cancel, if possible, and obtain another ballot.



Your Mailing Address: The general rule is that a ballot must be mailed to the address where you are registered to vote. However, if you are 65 or older or have a physical disability, you may have your ballot sent to a hospital, nursing home or