



Voting in Harris County is now Easier, Faster, and More Secure

The Ways Eligible Texans May Vote

1) Early Voting by-mail

You may vote early by-mail if you are:

- going to be away from Harris County on Election Day and during the early voting period;
- sick or disabled;
- 65 years of age or older on Election Day; or
- Confined in jail, but eligible to vote.

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.

If you are voting early by mail you must send your application by:

- regular mail to:
Beverly Kaufman, Harris County Clerk
Attn: Elections Division
P.O. Box 1148
Houston, TX 77251-1148
- common or contract carrier; or
- FAX to 713-755-4983 (if you are submitting your application from outside the county).

Exception:

• If you are voting early because of expected absence, you may apply in person for a ballot by mail before the first day of early voting in person (usually the 17th day before the election).

2) Early Voting in person

Registered voters may vote early at any one of the approved Harris County early voting locations. Early voting in person starts 17 days before each election unless the first day falls on the weekend, then early voting begins on the following Monday and ends 4 days before each election. The official early voting hours and locations can be found on www.harrisvotes.com or by calling 713.755.6965.

3) Election Day Voting

On Election Day, voters must vote at the location for which your precinct is assigned. If you need to know where to vote, you may call our automated VOTE line to determine your precincts' polling location at 713 368 POLL or visit www.harrisvotes.com.

4) Curbside voting

This procedure is available to voters who have difficulty walking or standing for long periods. The election official will bring your ballot to your car outside the polling place. Curbside voting is available during early voting and on Election Day.

5) Voting from Abroad

For those voters who are temporarily out of the country and wish to vote by-mail, you may complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). This type of application is limited to:

- A member of the U.S. Armed Forces, their spouse or a dependent;
- A member of the U.S. Merchant Marines, their spouse or a dependent;
- A U.S. citizen domiciled in Texas but temporarily living outside the territorial limits of the United States;

FPCA applications will pre-qualify U.S. citizens who are temporarily outside of the country to automatically receive ballots for all elections in which they qualify to vote for a period of up to four years or two general elections.

The Harris County Clerk's office attempts to mail all overseas applications by the 30th day prior to an election to allow adequate time for overseas mail delivery. Ballots returned from overseas must be postmarked by day of the election and received by the 5th day after Election Day. For additional information on the FPCA application you may visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website at www.fvap.gov.

YOU CAN HELP!

The County Clerk needs civic-minded citizens to volunteer to serve as Pollworkers (stipend \$80 to \$100) especially Spanish and Vietnamese speakers.

Apply online at www.harrisvotes.com

Important Notices

What if I am turned away from the polls?

Under Texas Law, each voter is required to have the opportunity to vote a provisional ballot before being turned away from the polling location.

Provisional voting is an opportunity for a voter to cast a ballot on Election Day. After the provisional ballot is cast, the Harris County Clerk and Harris County Voter Registrar will review the documentation provided to determine if the voter is eligible to vote. If the voter is deemed eligible, the provisional ballot will count in the election. If the voter is deemed ineligible, the voter's provisional ballot will be rejected. After Election Day, all provisional voters will be notified as to whether their ballot was accepted or rejected.

In some instances, voters will be notified by the polling place official that their provisional ballot will be rejected. This is done to provide notice to the voter that an additional step is necessary for the provisional ballot to be properly reviewed.

Provisionally voting is not a fail-safe method of voting. If you are instructed that your will ballot will be rejected, you are encouraged to take the steps necessary to comply with Texas law to vote a regular ballot or to have your provisional ballot properly considered.

If I need assistance, can I bring someone to the polling place to assist me?

If you possess a disability or require assistance due to a limited English-proficiency, then you may bring someone of your own choosing to the polling place. The person providing assistance cannot be your employer or labor union representative. For more information, please contact 713.755.5018

Whom do I contact if I felt intimidated during the voting process or feel that my voting rights were infringed upon?

You may contact the Harris County Clerk's office directly at 713.755.6965 or via e-mail at info@harrisvotes.com. In addition, you may contact the Texas Secretary of State's office at 800.252.8683 (VOTE).



Beverly B. Kaufman
Harris County Clerk

Election Day voting hours are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Dear Harris County Voter:

I am pleased to present this educational brochure designed to provide you with basic knowledge about elections in Harris County. As a representative democracy, the United States depends upon its citizens for expressions of approval or disapproval of their elected officials and the expenditure of public funds.

In recent years, election administration has become more complex and the number of elections each year has increased. Although Presidential Elections receive the most attention, elections that occur in the interim have just as much impact, if not more, on your daily lives. For this reason, it is my hope that the information offered in this brochure is useful to you and it encourages you to learn more about the elections process as a whole.

Harris County is a diverse community and we are fortunate to have a state-of-the-art voting system which enables us to provide greater access to the voting process than ever before. Whether you would prefer to vote a ballot in Spanish or Vietnamese or need a special facilities because of a disability, the eSlate voting system used in Harris County provides a private and independent voting solution for all.

I invite you to get involved in the elections process, whether as a voter or a future election clerk. After all, this is your government and, like President Lincoln, I truly believe the health of our democracy depends upon your participation.

Sincerely,

Harris County Clerk

Register to VOTE

Voter Registration

- Be a U.S. Citizen;
- Be a registered voter in Harris County;
- Be at least 18 years old on Election Day (voters aged 17 years, 10 months) may preregister for an election);
- Not be a convicted felon (unless sentence, probation and/or parole are completed);
- Not be declared mentally incompetent by a court of law.

How and where to register?

In Harris County, you may register to vote:

In person at:

- the Office of the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector, who is also the Voter Registrar; or
- You may also register to vote when you apply for or renew your driver's license; or

By mail by:

- Requesting that an application be mailed to you by contacting the Harris County Voter Registrar; or
- Pick up a voter registration application at your local library or government agency and simply mail it in.

Where do I obtain a Voter Registration Application?

You may request an application from:

- the Harris County Voter Registrar's office
www.hcvoter.net
713.368.2200
Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector
P.O. Box 3527, Houston, TX 77253-3527
- The Secretary of State's office
http://www.sos.state.tx.us
800.252.8683
- public libraries;
- post offices;
- other area government agency offices.

THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE IS 30 DAYS BEFORE AN ELECTION

What do I do if I move?

If you move within the same county, promptly notify the Voter Registrar, in writing, of your new address by completing a new voter registration application form. Check the box indicating "change", complete the form in its entirety and mail it to the Harris County Voter Registrar.

If you have a copy of your voter registration certificate, you may also complete the back with your new address, sign it, and mail it to the Voter Registrar.

If you have moved, but did not update your address in time for the election, you may vote at any early voting location; otherwise, you must vote at the precinct on Election Day associated with your old address.

I'm new to Harris County, do I need to register to vote?

Yes, anytime you move from one county to another in the State of Texas, you must reregister to vote. If you moved and did not reregister to vote in your new county, you must vote during the early voting period at our main early voting polling location located at 1001 Preston, 1st Floor, Houston, TX 77002. Call our office or visit us online at www.harrisvotes.com for early voting dates and times.

If you wait until Election Day, you will not be able to vote except by provisional ballot and your provisional ballot will not count.

What type of identification do I need to vote?

The State of Texas requires proof of identification when voting. At the polling place, you will be asked to verify your address and to show proper identification. Any of the following forms of identification are acceptable:

- A Texas Driver's License or state issued identification card;
- A United States passport;
- Citizenship/Naturalization documentation;
- A utility bill with your name and address listed;
- A voter registration certificate (if this is not your first time voting in a federal election and you did not register by-mail).



Most Common Elections

For many citizens who are new to the voting process, one of the questions that always arises is, what am I voting for? On an annual basis, citizens may be voting for candidates who are vying for elected positions at every level of government. The following is a list of the most common:

Federal Election- In this kind of election voters chose a National Government, including a President and Members of the United States House of Representatives and the Senate.

State- During this type of election the citizens vote for a Governor and members of the state House of Representatives and State Senate.

County Election- In this kind of election, voters elect a county government, including a County Judge, Commissioner's Court, County Clerk, Tax Assessor-Collector, County Treasurer, District Clerk, Justices of the Peace, Sheriff, Constables, County Attorney, District Attorney and Civil and Criminal Court Judges.

City Election- During this kind of election, voters choose a mayor and members to the city council of a local municipality. The City of Houston conducts its election in November of odd-numbered years.

School Board Elections- During this kind of Elections, voters choose members to the board of their local Independent School or community college district.

Uniform Election Dates

By law, most elections in Texas are held on one of the following dates:

- (1) The first Saturday in May;
- (2) The first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

The Uniform Election Dates do not apply to 1) Run-Off Elections; 2) an election for the issuance or assumption of school bonds; 3) an election to resolve a tied vote; (4) an election held under an order of a court or other tribunal; (5) an emergency election; (6) an expedited election to fill a vacancy in the legislature; (7) an election held under a statute that expressly provides that the Uniform Election Dates does not apply to the election.