



# ELECTION NEWS

September 17, 2010

Volume 1, Number 2

## 2010 IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

Last Day to  
Register to Vote  
Oct. 4, 2010

First Day of  
Early Voting  
Oct. 18, 2010

Last Day to  
Apply for Ballot  
by Mail  
(received not  
Postmarked)  
Oct. 26, 2010

Last Day of  
Early Voting  
Oct. 29, 2010

Election Day  
Nov. 2, 2010

**TO OBTAIN A  
BALLOT-BY-  
MAIL  
APPLICATION  
CALL  
713.755.6965  
Or visit  
[www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com)**

### Military and overseas voters first to receive ballots

**Houston, TX,** - The Harris County Clerk will mail approximately 15,000 postal ballots on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Two-thirds of the first postal ballots mailed this election cycle will be to military and overseas voters. Federal law requires election officials to send absentee ballots at least 45 days before the election to any military or overseas voter who has submitted a request by that date.

"Voting by mail is a lifeline to the democratic process for Harris County registered voters who find themselves outside the County during the early voting period and on Election Day. It is also the most convenient way to vote for voters who are 65 years of age or older, ill, disabled or voters who are confined", said Beverly Kaufman, the chief elections officer of the County. "I strongly encourage registered voters who qualify to vote by mail to take advantage of the option Texas law affords them."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2009 population estimate, 8.1 percent of Harris County's population is 65 years or older.

**Table 1. Persons in Harris County who are 65 years or older**

Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Other
328,354	191,143	53,895	61,810	18,586	2,920

A postal ballot is not sent automatically to qualified registered voters. Except for military and overseas voters who requested a postal ballot in the previous major election, **registered voters who qualify to vote by mail must submit a completed ballot-by-mail application or a written request every election cycle to receive a ballot.** The last day the County Clerk can accept a ballot-by-mail request for the upcoming election is October 26<sup>th</sup>. Ballot-by-mail applications may be obtained by visiting [www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com).

Eligible registered voters may submit a completed ballot-by-mail application or written request by regular mail to *Harris County Clerk's Office, P.O. Box 1148, Houston, Texas 77251-1148*. Requests sent by courier should be delivered to *1001 Preston, Ste. 440, Houston, TX 77002*. If voter is outside the County, the request may be sent by fax to *713.755.4983*. The written request must include:

- The name of the voter and the address where the voter is registered to vote;
- The reason the voter is eligible to vote by mail (65 years of age, ill or have a disability, or plan to be outside Harris County);
- The address where the ballot should be sent (If voter is outside the county, voters must provide an address outside of Harris County);
- The voter's signature

For more information on the voting by mail process, voters may call 713.755.6965.

## HOUSTON IS US



### INTEGRITY AND HARD WORK SHAPED CAREER OF COUNTY'S ADMINISTRATOR OF ELECTIONS

John German is the Administrator of Elections for Harris County, the third largest county in the nation. He is an expert on the use of the direct-recording electronic voting machine. Under his guidance, Harris County was the first major county in the nation to implement an electronic voting system exclusively.

Among his peers, German is known for his integrity, keen mind and pioneering ways. Many of his election administrative procedures have been borrowed by colleagues and are now in place in many counties across the nation. German is a Certified Elections\Registration Administrator whose work helped establish a stellar national reputation for Harris County for innovation and evenhandedness when it comes to the conduct of elections.

German has worked for the County Clerk's office for 37 years. He started as summer intern in the microfilm department. His work ethic and adeptness to complex technology was readily noticed. In 1970, after graduating from high school he was hired as permanent employee and placed in the computer room. Thereafter, his outstanding performance led to a supervisor position at a branch County Clerk office. There, his organizing and leadership skills continued to impress. As result, he was appointed director of the Election Technology Center (ETC) by County Clerk Beverly Kaufman. After a decade at ETC, he was named systems coordinator for the Information System department.

German's professionalism, independent demeanor and excellent achievement at every level in the County Clerk's office culminated with his appointment as Administrator of Elections. He has held his current position for 8 years. During his time with the County Clerk's office he has worked for two Republican and two Democratic Clerks. German was born and raised in northeast Harris County.

## Administration Law Class Set for October

The Administration law classes for the November 2, 2010 General & Special Elections will take place in October. The classes are conducted by the Elections Department every election cycle for Presiding and Alternate Election Judges who were appointed by their political parties to work at the poll on Election Day. Appointed Presiding and Alternate Election judges do not need to make a reservation to attend the class. Election clerks are also welcome but are not compensated for attending. (TEC. Sec. 32.111 and Sec. 32.114)

For questions or to confirm attendance contact Christina Ortiz at (713) 755-5792 or [Cortiz@cco.hctx.net](mailto:Cortiz@cco.hctx.net).

Monday, October 18, 2010 @ 6:30pm  
Tracy Gee Community Center  
3599 Westcenter Dr, Houston, TX 77042

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 @ 6:30pm  
East Harris County Activity Center  
7340 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77505

Wednesday, October 20, 2010 @ 6:30pm  
M.O. Campbell Educational Center  
1865 Aldine Bender Rd, Houston, TX 77032

Thursday, October 21, 2010 @ 6:30pm  
Harris County Education Bldg  
6005 Westview Dr, Houston, TX 77055

Saturday, October 23, 2010 @ 10:00am  
Jury Assembly Room  
1019 Congress St, Houston, TX 77002

Monday, October 25, 2010 @ 6:30pm  
Tracy Gee Community Center  
3599 Westcenter Dr, Houston, TX 77042

Tuesday, October 26, 2010 @ 6:30pm  
East Harris County Activity Center  
7340 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena, TX 77505

Wednesday, October 27, 2010 @ 6:30pm  
M.O. Campbell Educational Center,  
1865 Aldine Bender Rd, Houston, TX 77032

*(This is an excerpt from a September 10<sup>th</sup> press release from the Tax Assessor Collector's Office)*

### Register to vote now for gubernatorial election Nov. 2

HOUSTON –The deadline to register to vote is Monday, October 4. If you need to update your address or make a name change, you can obtain a voter registration application on the Tax Office website, at any Tax Office branch location, local post offices, libraries and City of Houston community and health centers.

To be eligible to vote Nov. 2, your completed voter registration application must be delivered to any Tax Office branch location before 4:45 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 4 or mailed with a U.S. Postal Service postmark date of no later than Oct. 4. State law requires citizens to be registered to vote 30 days prior to the election date in order to be eligible.

Applicants may register to vote if they:

- Are a resident of Harris County, and
- Are at least 17 years, 10 months of age (to vote, you must be 18), and
- Are a U.S. citizen, and
- Have not been finally convicted of a felony, (unless they have completed all punishment including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or have been pardoned); and
- Have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

For more information, please contact the Harris County Tax Office Voter Registration Department at 713-368-VOTE (8683).

\*This newsletter has been sent upon your request. If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please email [thudspeth@cco.hctx.net](mailto:thudspeth@cco.hctx.net) with the subject line as "unsubscribe."