



Chris Hollins · Harris County Clerk

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Harris County Clerk Chris Hollins Launches 23-Point S.A.F.E. Plan Ahead of July Primary Runoff Elections

(Houston, TX) – Today, Clerk Hollins announced S.A.F.E., a robust set of 23 initiatives to ensure the July Primary Runoff Elections and the November General Election are safe, secure, accessible, fair, and efficient. The framework addresses the challenges of administering an election during an unprecedented global pandemic through thoughtful consideration of voter and poll-worker safety and innovating conventional practices to make voting more efficient.

“Since taking office on June 1st, I have spent my first two weeks learning, meeting with staff and stakeholders, and creating dedicated working groups to tackle the challenges we are facing as we head into July and November. Through these discussions, we developed S.A.F.E. to communicate to voters and staff what they can expect at the polls,” **said Harris County Clerk Chris Hollins**. “My commitment to all the residents of Harris County is to administer a safe, secure and fair election this July and again in November. This office will do everything we can to give every Harris County voter an equal say at the polls and give you the peace of mind that your vote will be counted.”

More information on the 23 S.A.F.E. initiatives below:

SAFE is our commitment to voters that you can exercise your right to vote without putting your health at risk. We will:

1. Provide PPE to all poll workers and voters who need it;
2. Optimize the floor plans of polling locations for safety and social distancing; and
3. Promote and maximize vote-by-mail within the bounds of the law.

Our election will be **SECURE**. It is ours—no one else’s—and we will not allow any tampering. We will:

4. Ensure the security of our voting systems and hardware; and
5. Respond proactively to any reports of voter intimidation, coercion, or fraud.

Our election will be **ACCESSIBLE**. Harris County voters can cast their votes at more polling sites and can do so quickly and conveniently. We will:

6. Utilize data to increase the number and optimize the locations of polling sites;
7. Procure sufficient additional machines from other jurisdictions and provide them with exceptional technical support;
8. Allocate machines across polling sites based on known traffic patterns and expected turnout;
9. Accurately report wait times across the County during the Early Voting period and on Election Day;
10. Provide increased voting hours during the Early Voting period;
11. Ensure ADA accessibility across County polling sites; and
12. Increase curbside voting and potentially introduce drive-thru-voting.

Our election will be **FAIR**. Every Harris County voter has equal access to the polls, and your vote is your voice in our democracy. We will:

13. Increase outreach to all voters and groups traditionally left out of the democratic process;
14. Seek and incorporate meaningful feedback from all stakeholders;
15. Count every vote and ensure the accuracy of election results;
16. Reduce the time it takes to report results on Election Day; and
17. Proactively engage provisional ballot voters on how to cure their ballots so they may be counted.

And our election will be **EFFICIENT**. We will ensure that the resources are in place for our elections to run smoothly despite today's unprecedented conditions. We will:

18. Recruit more than enough poll workers to operate polling locations during the Early Voting period and on Election Day;
19. Train poll workers and clarify standard operating procedures for a safe and effective operation under the current circumstances;
20. Prepare resources in anticipation of increased vote-by-mail usage by Harris County voters;
21. Put key performance indicators (KPIs) in place to measure our preparedness in ensuring a S.A.F.E. election for the voters of Harris County;
22. Optimize the ballot layout to allow voters to cast their votes more quickly; and
23. Procure the next generation of voting machines for use beyond 2020.

The first election of Clerk Hollins's administration will be the 2020 Primary Runoff. The Early Voting Period for this election will be June 29-July 10, and Election Day is on July 14.

For more information go to [HarrisVotes.com](https://www.harrisvotes.com) and follow @harrisvotes on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

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[Harris County Clerk Chris Hollins Launches 23-Point S.A.F.E. Plan](#) (video)