Disclaimer: This guide is designed for informational purposes only. It is not legal advice and is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship. The Election Protection Coalition does not warrant any information contained in this guide, nor does the Coalition suggest that the information in this guide should be used as a basis to pursue legal advice or decision-making.

Note: This FAQ is not exhaustive. Situations or inquiries may arise that are not answered below. In those circumstances, contact your hotline captain or command center for assistance. Please make sure to record all of the voter’s contact information should follow-up be necessary.

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1. Am I registered to vote?

You can determine whether you are registered by checking the Texas Secretary of State’s website (https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do) or by calling the voter registrar’s office in the county where you reside (phone numbers are available at http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/votregduties.shtml).

2. Where do I vote?

You can determine your polling location by checking the Texas Secretary of State’s website (https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do).

If you have moved recently and have not updated your voter registration, refer to Question 6.

3. When do the polls open and close?
The polls must be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. local time on Election Day. A voter inside or waiting to enter the polling location by 7:00 p.m. is entitled to vote.

4. When is the voter registration deadline?

You must apply to register to vote 30 days before Election Day. If the 30th day before the date of an election is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal state or national holiday, an application is considered to be timely if you submit it to the registrar on or before the next regular business day.

You can apply to register to vote either by mail, fax, or in-person. If applying to register by mail or fax, you can fill out an application online, print it, and mail or fax it to your voter registrar’s office.

- The voter registration application is available at [https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/vrapp/index.asp](https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/vrapp/index.asp)
- The addresses for all voter registrar’s offices is available at [http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/votregduties.shtml](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/votregduties.shtml).

Voters choosing to register to vote in-person can register either with a Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) or at the voter’s local registrar’s office.

5. Can I vote without providing identification?

If you have one of the following forms of photo identification, you must present it at the polling place in order to vote.

Acceptable forms of photo ID include:

- Driver’s License issued by Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS);
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS;
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS (please note that EICs are not currently being issued);
- US military identification card with photo;
- US Citizenship Certificate with photo;
- US Passport (book or card);
- Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS.

Except for the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 4 years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place. If you are 70 years of age or older, you may use a form of identification listed above that has expired for the purposes of voting if the identification is otherwise valid.

If you have a reasonable impediment to obtaining the forms of identification listed above, you may present the following:

- A government document that shows your name and an address, including your voter registration certificate;

OR – You may provide any of the following documents so long as it shows your name and address.

- A copy of a current utility bill;
- A bank statement;
- A government check;
- A paycheck;
- A certified copy of a domestic birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes the person's identity.

If you use one of the above forms, you must also sign a document stating that you have a reasonable impediment to obtaining photo ID.
If you have ID or one of the above alternatives, you will receive a regular ballot. If you have an acceptable ID but have not brought it, you may vote provisionally. You will then have six (6) days to present an acceptable form of photo identification to the county voter registrar or fill out the natural disaster (as declared by the president or the governor) or religious objection to being photographed affidavit.\(^\text{12}\)

While election officials may ask you if you have an acceptable photo ID, election officials cannot question or challenge you concerning your lack of that ID. Election officials cannot question the reasonableness of your difficulty in obtaining photo ID.\(^\text{13}\)

Note: If your name on the voter list does not exactly match your name on your identifying documentation, the voter can vote by regular ballot so long as the voter submits an affidavit statement swearing that they are the person on the list of registered voters.\(^\text{14}\)

Your address on either the photo ID or the alternative documentation does not need to match your address on the voter registration list.\(^\text{15}\)

6. I have moved, and I didn’t update my voter registration. Can I still vote?

If you have moved within the same precinct or to another precinct within the same county, you may update your registration address with the Texas Secretary of State before the voter registration deadline. You can update your address online for free (https://txapps.texas.gov/tolapp/sos/SOSACManager). If the voter’s address does not appear on the precinct list, an election official is required to ask you if your address on your ID is current before allowing you to vote.\(^\text{16}\)

If it is past the voter registration deadline and you have not updated your address, the answer to this question will depend on where you moved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moved within the same precinct/political subdivision</th>
<th>Moved to a different county or moved to a different political subdivision/precinct within the same county</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You should vote at the polling place associated with your old/new address (polling location will be the same for both). To find the correct polling location, see Question 2.(^\text{17}) If you have moved and are still registered at your old address, you may vote a regular ballot at any polling location during Early Voting and will be required to complete a statement of residence (Early Voting sites are universal county-wide).(^\text{18})</td>
<td>You must register to vote in your new county by the deadline for voter registration (see Question 4). There is a limited ballot option for Early Voting (see Question 8). If you have moved and are still registered at your old address, you may vote a limited ballot at the main Early Voting polling location or by mail (only if eligible for early voting by mail) during the early voting period. The voter will be required to complete an affidavit of eligibility (Early Voting sites are universal countywide).(^\text{19}) To vote by limited ballot the voter must: (1) vote in their new county of residence (2) submit a voter registration application for the new county of residence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. What should I do if there are equipment problems at my precinct?

You should immediately notify election officers if there are problems with the voting equipment at your polling location. The presiding election judge at the polling location can choose to use the remaining operational equipment or use regular or early voting paper ballots on Election Day.\(^\text{21}\) You should request a regular paper ballot if not offered.

*If you are a hotline volunteer and learn of equipment not working properly at a polling location, notify your hotline captain, who will notify a voting machine expert or speak with election officials.*
If you are a field volunteer at a polling location and the equipment is not working properly, notify the boiler room, which will then notify a voting machine expert.

8. I am a registered voter who is not on the rolls at the precinct where I currently am. Can I vote where I am?

Unless your county participates in Countywide Polling, you can vote anywhere in the county during Early Voting, but you must vote in your assigned precinct on Election Day. If you vote by provisional ballot (which should be a last resort), you must swear that you are a resident of that political subdivision and precinct before casting a ballot. None of this applies to Countywide Polling counties, where voters can cast a ballot at any precinct in the county during Early Voting and on Election Day.22

An important note is that if you moved to a new county and did not register in that county in time, you may vote a limited ballot in the new county during the Early Voting period.23 The limited ballot will only include candidates and measures that are common between your former and new county. You will be eligible for a limited ballot only if you were formerly registered in your old county and have not submitted a voter registration application that will be effective by Election Day.

9. My name isn’t popping up on the list of registered voters – could it have been removed?

If your name does not appear on the list of registered voters for the polling location, and you have the required identification (See Question 5), you can cast a regular ballot. You must also present your voter registration certificate showing that either you are registered in that precinct or you are registered in a different precinct within the same county.

Additionally, you must provide a written statement saying that you:
1) are currently a resident in the precinct you are attempting to vote in;
2) were a resident of that precinct at the time your address was last provided to the voter registrar;
3) did not provide false information; and
4) are only voting once in the election.24

If you do not have a voter registration certificate and your name is not on the list of registered voters, you may vote by provisional ballot.25 You must also sign an affidavit according to the instructions for casting a provisional ballot listed in Question 5.

The Secretary of State or the local voter registrar are required to remove your name from the voter registration list if they receive any of the following:26

- Notice that you reside in a county outside of the county you are registered in;
- Notice that you are deceased;
- Evidence of a final judgment regarding your mental incapacity to vote;
- Evidence of a final judgment regarding your felony conviction;
- Notice that you have applied for a limited ballot in another county;
- Notice that you have registered to vote outside the state of Texas;
- Notice that you have registered to vote in another county;
- Notice that you are not a U.S. citizen;27
  - A written, signed request from you to cancel your registration.28

If you are notified that your registration has been cancelled, you may challenge the cancellation by submitting a written, signed request to the voter registrar for a hearing.29 The voter registrar will notify the voter of the date, time, and place of the hearing.30
Note that you can take steps to help to determine why a voter’s name is not popping up on the list of registered voters:

- Check the voter’s registration status using the registration lookup tool to make sure they are registered to vote and at the right place. (see Question 1)
- Has the voter moved recently? Could they be registered at an old address? Check that address in the registration lookup tool. (see Question 1 and Question 6)
- Has the voter changed their name recently, or could they be registered under a different name? Check that name (and any variations of the voter’s name, especially for hyphenated names, which sometimes trip up databases) in the registration lookup tool. (see Question 1)
- When/where did the voter register to vote? Was that before the deadline?

10. I have a criminal conviction. Can I vote?

If you have been finally convicted of a felony, you cannot vote in Texas unless you have fully discharged your sentence (i.e. completed parole and probation) or have been pardoned. You can still vote if you have been convicted of a misdemeanor or if you have been charged with--but not convicted of--a felony.

11. I have been offered a provisional ballot. What should I do?

Ask why you were offered a provisional ballot. Typically, you should be offered a provisional ballot only when:

- You do not have the proper identification;
- Your name is not on the list of registered voters for the polling location and your voter registration cannot be verified while at the polling location;
- You applied for an Early Voting/mail-in ballot and did not vote early by mail.

Other than for these reasons, you should cast a regular ballot. A provisional ballot should be a last resort.

Before receiving the provisional ballot, you must complete an affidavit stating that you are eligible to vote in that precinct. If you cast a provisional ballot because you do not have the required identification, an election officer must give you written information explaining the procedure you must follow to have your vote counted. After the election, the Early Voting ballot board will determine whether your ballot will be counted. This information is made available to the voter by the Secretary of State.

12. I am a college student. Can I register to vote where I go to school?

If you attend college in Texas, you may register and vote in Texas if you have a present intention to remain at your Texas address for the time being and intend to make it your principal home. If you attend college outside of Texas, you are still considered a Texas resident as long as it is temporary, and you intend to make Texas your principal home.

13. I am physically disabled and need assistance. Will my polling place be accessible?

Yes. Each polling place is required by law to be accessible and usable by persons with physical disabilities. In addition, each polling place is required by law to provide at least one voting station that allows for practical and effective use by persons with physical disabilities.

While polling places are required by law to be accessible, many are not. If you are unable to enter the polling place without personal assistance or likelihood of injuring your health, you may request that an election officer deliver a ballot to you at the polling place entrance or curb. You may also request that a person accompanying you be permitted to select and cast your ballot in the ballot box instead of an election officer. However, you must mark your own ballot.
14. I am blind, physically disabled, or cannot read English and require assistance in order to vote. Can I get assistance at the polls?

Yes. You are entitled to have a person of your choice—other than your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your union—may assist you in marking your choices on the ballot. Otherwise, two election officers should provide you with assistance. In this case, two officers must be aligned with a different political party if possible.

All counties must provide voting materials in both English and Spanish. In addition, federal and Texas law require that bilingual ballots, instructions, voting materials, and poll workers be made available to voters who speak a different language and in certain counties:

- Chinese: Harris County
- Kickapoo: Maverick County
- Pueblo: El Paso County
- Vietnamese: Harris County
- Vietnamese: Tarrant County.

15. I don’t know how to use the voting equipment. Can I get help?

Yes. Texas law permits election officials to provide you with general information on how to cast your ballot. In addition, polling places must have an instruction poster displayed both at each voting station, and in at least one other location at the polling place where the poster can be read by those waiting to vote. The poster must include instructions for:

- marking and depositing the ballot;
- voting for a write-in candidate;
- casting a straight-party vote;
- casting a provisional ballot; and
- securing an additional ballot if the voter’s original ballot is spoiled.

16. Can I vote absentee or vote in person before Election Day?

Early Voting allows registered voters to vote by mail or in-person before Election Day. There are three types of voting before Election Day in Texas:

1) Absentee voting by mail (also called Early Voting by Mail): You may vote early by mail if:

- You will be away from your county on Election Day and during Early Voting;
- You are sick enough to prevent you from appearing at the polling place on election day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or of injuring your health (including bedrest for pregnancy);
- You have a disability;
- You are 65 years of age or older on Election Day; or
- You are confined in jail, but eligible to vote. Voters who are confined in jail can vote if you are:
  - serving a misdemeanor sentence for a term that ends on or after election day;
  - pending trial after denial of bail;
  - without bail pending an appeal of a felony conviction; or
  - pending trial or appeal on a bailable offense for which release on bail before election day is unlikely.
You can obtain a mail-in ballot application on the Secretary of State Division of Elections website (http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/), the Secretary of State’s office, or the Early Voting clerk in your county. You may send in your application for a ballot by mail by: 50

- Regular mail; or
- Common or contract carrier.;
- Fax of a scanned application containing an original signature (cannot e-sign) (if a fax machine is available to the early voting clerk) 51
  - Voters using the fax option MUST also mail their faxed application to their early voting clerk. The early voting clerk must receive the mailed application no more than four business days after the fax; or
- Electronic transmission of a scanned and original signature (cannot e-sign) 52
  - Voters using the scan option MUST also mail their faxed application to their early voting clerk. The early voting clerk must receive the mailed application no more than four business days after the fax;

The mail-in ballot applications must be received (not postmarked) by the voter’s Early Voting clerk no later than 11 days before Election Day, or the preceding business day. All applications to vote by mail must be received by the Early Voting clerk before the close of regular business or 12 noon, whichever is later. 53

Voters can also deliver their mail-in ballot applications in-person to their early voting clerk. The mail-in ballot application must be received by the early voting clerk no later than the day before early voting at the close of business. 54

The early voting clerk must receive your marked ballot by the close of polls on Election Day (usually 7 p.m.) 55

If your ballot is submitted from outside the United States or you are in the military, the mail-in ballot must be postmarked by Election Day, but will be accepted if it is received after the 5th day after Election Day (or the next business day if the 5th day is a weekend or holiday). 56

2) Early Voting: Any qualified voter can vote early in person. 57 (The locations and times of Early Voting polling places for the voter’s specific county may be found at https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do.)

3) Military-Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting: Absent uniformed service members (and their eligible dependents) and U.S. citizens living outside of the United States or in a presidially designated military zone may request a mail-in ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). The Secretary of State shall provide members of the U.S. armed forces, their spouses, and their qualified dependents with a means of casting their vote via fax or other electronic means if they are casting their ballot from certain designated areas. 58 (Step-by-step assistance and forms are available at https://www.fvap.gov/vao/vag/chapter2/texas.)

17. What if I requested a mail-in ballot but I want to vote in person on Election Day? 59

If you requested a mail-in ballot but instead choose to vote in person on Election Day, you may request a cancellation of the mail-in ballot.

Voters may cancel their mail-in ballot and vote in person one of three ways:

Option 1: To cancel a mail-in ballot application the voter can make a request and that request must be:

- must be signed
in writing

specify the election for which the application was made.

The cancellation request must be received three days before the election and before the mail-in ballot is returned to the clerk as a marked ballot.

OR

Option 2: Voters can submit a request after the close of Early Voting by personal appearance by appearing in person and:

(1) return the unmarked mail-in ballot to the Early Voting clerk; or
(2) executing an affidavit that you have not received the ballot to be voted by mail, or didn’t request such a ballot.

OR

Option 3: Submit a request by appearing in person and returning the ballot to be voted by mail or presenting a notice received under Section 86.006(h) to the Early Voting clerk, deputy Early Voting clerk or the presiding election judge on Election Day at your precinct polling place. Otherwise, you should be allowed to cast a provisional ballot at your respective polling place as long as you have not already submitted the mail-in ballot. You will be required to sign an affidavit stating that you are a registered voter in the precinct and did not vote early by mail.

18. Does my state have same-day registration? If so, what is the process?

Texas does not have same-day registration. You must be registered at least 30 days before the election.

19. What rules apply to people campaigning or “hanging around” my polling place? Can people approach me?

People may not loiter or electioneer within 100 feet of any polling place.

20. Someone is formally challenging my right to vote. What do I do?

Texas allows any registered voter to “challenge” the registration of any other voter in the same county. If your registration is challenged, the county will send you a “confirmation notice” requesting that you confirm your current residence. The confirmation notice must include a prepaid, preaddressed “confirmation notice response form” that provides space for you to confirm your current residence and submit additional voter registration information. If you receive one of these forms, you must complete, sign, and return it within 30 days of the date that the county mailed you the notice.

If you do not respond within 30 days of the date that the county mailed you the notice, you may be placed on the “suspense list.” This means that you can still vote, but that you will have to confirm your current residence before doing so. If you confirm your current residence by mailing back the form, the county will remove your name from the suspense list, and you will return to the regular list of registered voters. If you do not confirm your current residence and have your name removed from the “suspense list” by November 30 following the second general election, the county may cancel your voter registration.

You can also confirm your address in writing when you show up at the polls to vote and you will be removed from the suspense list that way.

You can also check the status of your voter registration at https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do.

21. Can I vote in the primary?
As long as you register to vote at least 30 days before the primary, you may vote in the primary. 64 Texas has “open primaries,” meaning that you can choose which party’s primary you want to vote in, regardless of your party affiliation. Third-party voters and independents can also vote in an open primary.

If you want to vote by mail in the primary, you must fill out a mail-in ballot application. Mail-in ballot applications must be received (not postmarked) by your Early Voting clerk no later than the 11th day before Election Day, or the preceding business day.

1 Tex. Elec. Code § 41.031(a).
10 Tex. Elec. Code § 63.0101(b).
14 Tex. Elec. Code § 63.001(c).
15 Tex. Elec. Code § 63.001(d).
18 Tex. Elec. Code § 63.0011; § 85.003; § 85.031.
33 Tex. Elec. Code § 63.001(g)(2).
38 Tex. Elec. Code § 64.009.
40 Tex. Elec. Code § 64.009.