

**REFUGIO COUNTY ELECTIONS
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**



**CANDIDATE
INFORMATION
GUIDE**

**RUNNING FOR A
COUNTY OFFICE**

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REFUGIO COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

NOTE

This packet was created as a reference guide only and should not be used as a substitute for legal advice.

It is solely a guide for running for office and filing reports.

It is the candidate's and officeholder's responsibility to obtain the actual knowledge of the laws, regulations and duties.

After you make the decision to run for office, you must file a Campaign Treasurer Appointment.

This is required before you file an application for a place on the ballot, raise or spend any money for your campaign, or announce your candidacy publicly or privately.

Please be aware that becoming a candidate will trigger filing requirements. You can familiarize yourself with these requirements by consulting the appropriate campaign finance guide and filing schedule.

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REFUGIO COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

CONTENTS

Offices Up For Election

Federal/State/District/County

Local Offices

Qualifications For Public Offices

Voter Registration Requirements (HB 484) FAQs

Important Dates

2020 – March 3 - Primary Election

2020 – May 26 - Primary Runoff Election

2020 – November 3 – General Election

Party Conventions And Other Election Dates

County Party Chairs

Filing In The Democratic Or Republican Primary

Application For A Place On The Primary Ballot

Political Advertising

Election Code, Chapter 255

What You Need To Know - TEC

Rules For Posting Campaign Signs – TxDOT

Political And Campaign Signs - TxDOT

Local Ordinances For Signs And Electioneering Regulations

(No Known Ordinances)

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CONTENTS

Texas Ethics Commission

- 1st Steps For Running For Office
- Appointment Of Campaign Treasurer
- Code Of Fair Campaign Practices
- FAQs For Candidates

Election Resources

- Important Addresses And Resources

Refugio County Elections Administration Office

Contact Information

EA Resources

- Website
- Social Media

Public Information Request

- Voter Registration And Election Records
- Common Request

Things To Know

- Where Do I File My Paperwork
- Political Advertising
- Activities In Vicinity Of The Polling Place
- Party Affiliation
- Sample Ballots

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REFUGIO COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

CONTENTS

Things To Know (Continued)

Where Do I Go To See If I'm Registered To Vote

How Do I Make A Voter Registration Change

When Can I Vote

What Identification Do I Need To Vote

Different Types Of Voters

Voter Assistant/Interpreter

Requesting Applications For Ballot By Mail (ABBM)

Requesting Voter Registration Applications

Peace Officer In The Polling Place

Daily Roster – Voting History

Election Night

How Many Votes Does It Take To Win Office

Releasing Election Results

Legislation Updates

Refugio County Elections Administration Office

Principles

If You Have Questions

Election Security

SOS – Election Security Update

Refugio County – New Verity Voting System

Hart InterCivic – Voting System Security Technology

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Offices up for Election in 2020

Note: This is a preliminary list that is subject to change as we are notified about vacancies and newly-created offices. Also, visit our website for an unofficial list of candidates once filing is underway.

Office	Term
U.S. President	4 yr. term
United States Senator	6 yr. term
All 36 United States Representatives	2 yr. term
Railroad Commissioners	6 yr. term
3 members of the Supreme Court	6 yr. term
3 members of the Court of Criminal Appeals	6 yr. term
8 Members, State Board of Education	4 yr. term
16 State Senators	4 yr. term
All 150 State Representatives	2 yr. term
Chief Justice of Courts of Appeals	6 yr. term
Various Court of Appeals Justices	6 yr. term
Various District Judges, Criminal District Judges	4 yr. term
Family District Judges	4 yr. term
District Attorneys	4 yr. term
Sheriff	4 yr. term
County Court at Law	4 yr. term
County Attorneys	4 yr. term
Tax Assessor-Collector	4 yr. term
County Commissioners	4 yr. term
Justices of the Peace (Place 1 designation only) a	4 yr. term
Constable	4 yr. term

- a. Generally, the office of Justice of the Peace in Place 1 for a county is up for election in 2020. However, we recommend that you contact your county election official to confirm the place number.

NOTE: Incumbent office holders appear where listed. This is not a list of current candidates or those who have filed a candidate application for the office.

NOTE: For many years, article XVI, Section 65 of the Texas Constitution set out which county offices would be up for election. This language (setting up the staggering scheme) was omitted in 1999 in "clean-up" legislation. Our office requested an attorney general opinion, expressing our concern about the omitted staggering scheme. The attorney general opined that because the staggering scheme was removed, any newly-created offices would be on the next ballot for the full four-year term. See Texas Attorney General Opinion Number JC-0519 (2002). You will need to check your county records to see if your county created new offices since the 1999 constitutional change.

NOTE: Under Article V, Section 1-a of the Texas Constitution, certain judicial offices are subject to a mandatory retirement age of 75. This may lead some additional judicial offices being listed on the ballot for an unexpired term due to a mid-term vacancy.

LOCAL OFFICES UP FOR 2020 ELECTION

COUNTY OF REFUGIO

Commissioner, Precinct No. 1

Ann Lopez

Commissioner, Precinct No. 3

Gary P. Bourland

County Attorney

Deb Bauer

Sheriff

Raul "Pinky" Gonzales

Tax Assessor-Collector

Ida Mascorro Turner

Constable, No. 1

Mark Moore

Constable, No. 2

Johnnie J. Garza

District Judge, 24th Judicial District

Jack W. Marr

District Judge, 135th Judicial District

Kemper Stephen Williams

District Attorney, 24th Judicial District

Rob Lassmann

Qualifications for All Public Offices

Public Office Sought	U.S. Citizen	Texas Resident	District Resident	Registered to Vote in Area of Office Sought	Minimum Age	Practicing Lawyer or Judge	Source Law	Term of Office
United States Senator	9 yrs.	Yes ^a	not req'd	not req'd	30 ^b	—	I § 3 ⁱ	6 yrs.
United States Representative	7 yrs.	Yes ^a	not req'd	not req'd	25 ^b	-	I § 2 ⁱ	2 yrs.
Governor	Yes	5 yrs.	-	not req'd	30 ^b	-	IV § 4 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Lieutenant Governor	Yes	5 yrs.	-	not req'd	30 ^b	-	IV § 16 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Attorney General	Yes	12 mo ^c	-	Yes ^c	18 ^h	not req'd	IV § 22 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Comptroller of Public Accounts	Yes	12 mo ^c	-	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	IV § 23 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Commission of General Land Office	Yes	12 mo ^c	-	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	IV § 23 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Commissioner of Agriculture	Yes	12 mo ^c	-	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	IV § 23 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Railroad Commissioner	Yes	12 mo ^c	-	Yes ^c	25 ^h	-	§ 81.01003, 81.01004 ^j	6 yrs.
Chief Justice & Justice, Supreme Court	Yes	12 mo. ^c	-	Yes ^c	35 ^b	10 yrs. ^b	V § 2 ⁱ	6 yrs.
Presiding Judge and Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals	Yes	12 mo. ^c	-	Yes ^c	35 ^b	10 yrs. ^b	V § 4 ⁱ	6 yrs.
State Senator	Yes	5 yrs. ^b	12 mo. ^b	not req'd ^h	26 ^b	-	III § 6 ^j	4 yrs.
State Representative	Yes	2 yrs. ^b	12 mo. ^b	not req'd ^h	21 ^b	-	III § 7 ^j	2 yrs.
Member, State Board of Education	Yes	12 mo. ^b	12 mo. ^b	Yes ^c	26 ^b	-	§ 7.103 ^k	4 yrs.
Chief Justice and Justice, Court of Appeals	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	35 ^b	10 yrs. ^b	V § 6 ⁱ	6 yrs.
District Judge	Yes	2 yrs. ^b	2 yrs. ^b	Yes ^c	25 ^b	4 yrs. ^b	V § 7§24.001 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Criminal District Judge	Yes	2 yrs. ^b	2 yrs. ^b	Yes ^c	25 ^b	4 yrs. ^b	V § 7§24.001 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Family District Judge	Yes	2 yrs. ^b	2 yrs. ^b	Yes ^c	25 ^b	4 yrs. ^b	V § 7§24.001 ⁱ	4 yrs.
District Attorney ^a	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	Yes	V § 21, 30 § 41.001 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Criminal District Attorney	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	Yes	V § 30, Ch. 44, § 41.001 ⁱ	4 yrs.
County Judge	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	Yes	V § 30, Ch. 44, § 41.001 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Judge, County Court-at-Law ^a	Yes	2 yrs. ^e	6 mo.c, e	Yes ^c	25 ^e	4 yrs. ^e	V § 30 §25.0014 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Judge, County Criminal Court ^a	Yes	2 yrs. ^e	6 mo.c, e	Yes ^c	25 ^e	4 yrs. ^e	V § 30 §25.0014 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Judge, County Probate Court ^a	Yes	2 yrs. ^e	6 mo.c, e	Yes ^c	25 ^e	4 yrs. ^e	V § 30 §25.0014 ⁱ	4 yrs.
District Clerk	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	V § 9 ⁱ	4 yrs.
District & County Clerk	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	V § 20 ⁱ	4 yrs.
County Clerk	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	V § 20 ⁱ	4 yrs.
County Treasurer	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	XVI § 44 ⁱ	4 yrs.
County Surveyor	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	XVI § 44 ⁱ	4 yrs.
County Attorney	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	Yes	V § 21 § 41.001 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Sheriff ^f	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	V § 23 85.0011 ^m	4 yrs.
Tax Assessor-Collector	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	VIII § 14 ⁱ	4 yrs.
County Commissioner	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	V § 18 ⁱ	4 yrs.
Constable ^a	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	V § 18 § 86.0021 ^m	4 yrs.
Justice of the Peace	Yes	12 mo. ^c	6 mo. ^c	Yes ^c	18 ^h	-	V § 18 ⁱ	4 yrs.

- a. No duration specified.
- b. Before date of general election or special election, whichever is applicable.
- c. As of December 9, 2019, if candidate for Democratic or Republican Party Nomination. As of the date of nomination, if other party nominee for statewide, multi-county district, single-county district, county or precinct office. As of June 25, 2020, if independent candidate. As of November 3, 2020, if declared write-in candidate.
- d. Citations refer to article and section number of the U.S. Const. for U.S. Senator and U.S. Rep.; section number of the Tex. Educ. Code for Member, State Board of Education; section number of the Tex. Nat. Res. Code for Railroad Commission; section number of the Tex. Gov't Code for district judge, district attorney and statutory county court; section number for Texas Loc. Gov't Code for constable; and article and section number of the Tex. Const. for all others. Also see § 141.001 of the Tex. Elec. Code.
- e. Statutory qualifications may vary; contact your local party chair or the Secretary of State.
- f. Additional qualifications for constable: must be either (1) eligible to be licensed under sections 1701.309, 1701.312, and 1701.502 of the Texas Occupations Code AND (a) has at least an associate's degree, (b) is a special investigator under Article 2.122(a), Code of Criminal Procedure, or (c) is an honorably retired peace officer or honorably retired federal criminal investigator who holds a certificate of proficiency issued under Section 1701.357, Texas Occupations Code OR (2) an active or inactive licensed peace officer under Chapter 1701 of the Texas Occupations Code.
- g. On first day of term to be filled at election. Note: A candidate might need to be age 18 at an earlier date than the first day of the term to be filled at election if the candidate is required to be a registered voter. See offices requiring voter registration.
- h. The offices of state senator and state representative must be qualified voters as defined by Tex. Const. Art. VI, Sec. 2. This definition provides that an individual must be eligible to register to vote but need not actually be a registered voter.
- i. Citation refers to an article and section number of the United States Constitution. For general qualifications for other offices, please see Section 141.001, Texas Election Code.
- j. Citation refers to section number of the Texas Natural Resources Code.
- k. Citation refers to section number of the Texas Education Code.
- l. Citation refers to an article of the United States Constitution and a section number of the Texas Government Code.
- m. Citation refers to an article and section number of the United States Constitution and a section number of the Texas Local Government Code.

Special Note 1: Please be advised that due to the removal of the staggering schedule from Article XVI, Section 65 of the Texas Constitution, there are various local offices which may have been created by your county commissioners court or the Texas Legislature but are not listed in this guide. For further information on filing for county offices not listed, please contact the county clerk's/elections administrator's office or the office of the Secretary of State.

Special Note 2: Please be advised that executive and judicial officers elected in a statewide election, state appellate and district judges, members of the State Board of Education, and district or criminal district attorneys (among others) are subject to the provisions of Chapter 572 of the Texas Government Code Ann., which relates to personal financial disclosure, standards of conduct, and conflicts of interest issues. For further information on the applicability and requirements of Chapter 572, candidates should contact the Texas Ethics Commission.

Voter Registration Requirements for Candidates (House Bill 484)

Frequently Asked Questions

House Bill 484 amends Election Code [Section 141.001](#) to provide a new general rule (for most offices) that **a candidate must be a registered voter of the territory elected from as of the filing deadline or other [Section 141.001](#) deadline (unless outside law conflicts)**. Below is a list of questions and answers on the legislation and related procedures. This FAQ focuses on the candidacy portion of House Bill 484.

Q: Where can I read a copy of House Bill 484?

A: [House Bill 484](#) is available on the [Texas Legislature's website](#).

Q: Should we tell candidates about the new law?

A: It is the candidates' responsibility to learn the requirements. That said, you may wish to apprise candidates of the new requirement. If you apprise candidates, you should do so uniformly; you cannot choose to tell certain candidates and not others. Remember that for the November 3, 2015 election, you cannot apply the new law to applications with the regular filing deadline, or to special elections that were ordered before September 1, 2015 (most special elections).

Q: The candidate filed his application but the VR number part is blank. Accept?

A: The voter registration (VR), or VUID number, is **not** a required component of the **face of the application** itself. The VR blank is optional on the form. If everything else is correct on the application, you may accept (depending on the outcome of any review you conduct about the VR status, explained below). In other words, the VUID number is not part of the "form, content, or procedure" review under Section 141.032. Rather, it is a question of eligibility to run for office, more like a felony conviction, which is an issue determined by documents outside the application under Section 145.003 (administrative declaration of ineligibility). See next question.

Q: Should we look up every candidate's registration status as part of our review?

A: First, your minimum statutory duty is reviewing the face of the application under Section 141.032. You can rely on the candidate's oath and presume that all of the statements on the application are true and that the candidate is eligible for the office, if on the face of the application, he or she appears to be so.

However, once you have met that minimum duty, we recommend that you look up the voter registration status of each candidate to determine if the candidate is indeed registered to vote. In that sense, this is like the review of a petition in lieu of filing fee, where the reviewer can rely on the affidavit, **or** look up the registered voter status. If you look up one candidate's status, you should look up everyone's. Our new application forms (revised 2015) reflect our recommendation to check registration status, as they now have a check-box for indicating this review of the registration status by the filing authority.

Note that under Section 145.003 (declaration of ineligibility), you **must** respond to any paperwork presented to you alleging lack of VR status by reviewing what is presented to determine if it is a conclusive public record of ineligibility.

Q: I have a candidate who applied to vote, but the effective date of registration is after the filing period. Is that enough?

A: No. The Election Code definition of registered voter is one whose registration is effective. Section 1.005, Election Code. Therefore, the registration must be effective by the filing deadline for a place on the ballot. A declared write-in must be registered by election day. See [Section 141.001](#). Per Section 13.143, the registration becomes effective on the 30th day after the date the application is submitted to the registrar or on the date the applicant becomes 18 years of age, whichever is later.

Q: Does the VR address have to match exactly the address on the application form?

A: No. The new law just says the candidate must be a registered voter **of the territory from which the office is elected**.

You cannot make the law stricter than it is; however, you will need to keep the territory in mind. Example: In the case of single-member district election, in addition to checking the entity as a whole, you will need to check to see if the voter registration address is in the single-member district the candidate is running for.

Millions of Texans move and do not update their registration addresses right away. This is not fatal to the application (if the registration address is still in the territory). It does not affect the filing authority's judgment of the residence address portions of the application.

If a candidate is not registered at the address listed on the application for a place on the ballot, you may alert the candidate to the issue, as the candidate might be on the suspense list (as long as you alert candidates uniformly).

Q: It looks as if the candidate is not a registered voter of the area elected from, but I think there has been some mistake. I remember they voted in our bond election last year. What next?

A: Short answer: check with the registrar's office to see if there was a mistake.

Remember the basis for a rejection of a candidate's application for a place on the ballot is a conclusive public record. Section 145.003. If there is reason to believe there was a mistake in the voter registration information, that renders the registration record less conclusive.

As general advice, we recommend asking the voter registrar for voting history as well as voter registration status. Seeing the voting history might alert the registrar to the problem (for example, someone voting provisionally who was not processed correctly as an application for registration).

Q: I thought if there was a mistake on the application it couldn't be fixed – the candidate has to start over?

A: That general idea is correct for a fatal mistake on the **face of the application** (such as leaving a blank at "office sought"). As noted above, the VR number is not required to be on the **face of the application**. Section 141.032. This problem (like whether there is a final felony conviction) is a matter of records outside of the face of the application. Section 145.003. This is the case even when information on the application is used to look up voter registration or other information.

Q: There seems to have been a mistake in the VR process. The registrar's office is researching this for us, but the deadline for declaring the candidate ineligible is approaching. What if we don't resolve the issue in time for the deadline?

A: A declaration of ineligibility must be based on a "conclusive" public record. Election Code Section 145.003. If there is anything about the situation that renders the voter registration records inconclusive, you should err in favor of the candidate. Consult your local counsel before making your final decision if possible.

Example 1: Candidate says he or she updated the registration at the time their driver's license was updated. The registrar is checking this out, as their office has not received anything from DPS.

Example 2: Candidate appears to have been deleted from the registration records after several years on the suspense list. However, it appears from the voting history that the candidate voted during the time that an update should have occurred. The county is researching their election records to check.

Q: The candidate's address is very near a boundary line. Based on the registration address, we think the candidate's registration address is inside the required territory. However, the VR list indicates the candidate's registration address is outside the territory.

A: This is a common occurrence when the boundary line is close. The county registrar officials do the best they can with the most recent boundary and mapping information you give them. You (the city, school district, hospital district) are the authorized expert about your own boundaries. If you (the filing authority) determine the address is inside your boundary, you should make the final call. Then (as needed) advise the VR to correct their records.

Q: Does House Bill 484 affect party chairs in the primary?

A: Candidates for county or precinct chair must be a qualified voter of the county, based on a different law. Section 161.005

MARCH 3, 2020 - PRIMARY ELECTION

First Day To File For A Place On The Primary Ballot For Precinct Chair Candidates	Tuesday, September 10, 2019
First Day To File For All Other Candidates For Offices That Are Regularly Scheduled To Be On The Primary Ballot; First Day For Independent Candidates To File Declaration Of Intent	Saturday, November 9, 2019
Filing Deadline For Candidates; Filing Deadline For Independent Candidates To File Declaration Of Intent	Monday, December 9, 2019 at 6:00 PM
First Day To Apply For A Ballot By Mail Using Application For A Ballot By Mail (ABBM) Or Federal Postcard Application (FPCA)	Wednesday, January 1, 2020* <small>*First day to file does not move because of New Year's Day holiday. An "Annual ABBM" or FPCA for a January or February 2020 election may be filed earlier, but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the January or February election.</small>
Last Day To Register To Vote	Monday, February 3, 2020
First Day Of Early Voting	Tuesday, February 18, 2020* <small>*First business day after Presidents' Day</small>
Last Day To Apply For Ballot By Mail (Received, Not Postmarked)	Friday, February 21, 2020
Last Day Of Early Voting	Friday, February 28, 2020
Last Day To Receive Ballot By Mail	Tuesday, March 3, 2020 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m. <small>if carrier envelope is not postmarked, OR Wednesday, March 4, 2020 (next business day after Election Day) at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply)<u>4</u></small>

1 Under new law, most local entities now have a “first day” to file.

For the few entities who do not have a first day to file: For the May 2, 2020 election, Wednesday, January 15, 2020 is the deadline to post notice of candidate filing deadline for entities that do not have a first day to file for their candidates. **However, pursuant to NEW LAW, for local (taxing) political subdivisions, the deadline is September 1, 2019 (the effective date of HB 305, 2019).** For the November 3, 2020 election, Monday, July 20, 2020 is the deadline to post notice of candidate filing deadline for local political subdivisions that do not have a first day to file for their candidates. (If the 30th day before last day on which candidate may file falls on a Saturday, deadline moves to next business day). **However, pursuant to NEW LAW, for local (taxing) political subdivisions, the deadline is November 3, 2019 (one year before election day).**

Local political subdivisions include: cities, school districts, water districts, hospital districts, and any other local government entity that conducts elections. Many of these elections are conducted on the May uniform election date. Note: Counties may also be holding local proposition (measure) elections on May 2, 2020.

2 Filing deadlines: generally, the filing deadline is the 78th day prior to Election Day. The Code may provide a different special election filing deadline. See Section 201.054 of the Texas Election Code (the “Code”). Write-in deadlines for general and special elections vary; the deadline for most local (city, school, other) special elections is now the same day as the filing deadline for application for a place on the ballot in a May election or November election.

3 If no candidate for a **four-year term** has filed an application for a place on the ballot for a **city office**, the filing deadline for that office is extended to 5 p.m. of the 57th day before the election. For the May 2, 2020 election, this is Friday, March 6, 2020. See Section 143.008 of the Code.

4 Please note that pursuant to House Bills 1151 and 929 (2017), different deadlines apply to the last day to receive ballots sent by the following: 1) non-military and military voters who mailed ballots from overseas and submitted a regular state Application for Ballot By Mail (“ABBM”), 2) non-military voters who mailed ballots from overseas and who submitted a Federal Postcard Application (“FPCA”), and (3) military voters who mailed ballots domestically or from overseas and who submitted an FPCA. See Secs. 86.007, 101.001 and 101.057 of the Code. Please contact the Elections Division of the Office of the Texas Secretary of State at 1-800-252-VOTE (8683) for additional information.

MAY 26, 2020 - PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION

First Day To Apply For A Ballot By Mail Using Application For A Ballot By Mail (ABBM) Or Federal Postcard Application (FPCA)	Wednesday, January 1, 2020* *First day to file does not move because of New Year's Day holiday. An "Annual ABBM" or FPCA for a January or February 2020 election may be filed earlier, but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the January or February election.
Last Day To Register To Vote	Monday, April 27, 2020
First Day Of Early Voting	Monday, May 18, 2020
Last Day To Apply For Ballot By Mail (Received, Not Postmarked)	Friday, May 15, 2020
Last Day Of Early Voting	Friday, May 22, 2020
Last Day To Receive Ballot By Mail	Tuesday, May 26, 2020 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is not postmarked, OR Wednesday, May 27, 2020 (next business day after Election Day) at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply) <u>4</u>

1 Under new law, most local entities now have a “first day” to file.

For the few entities who do not have a first day to file: For the May 2, 2020 election, Wednesday, January 15, 2020 is the deadline to post notice of candidate filing deadline for entities that do not have a first day to file for their candidates. **However, pursuant to NEW LAW, for local (taxing) political subdivisions, the deadline is September 1, 2019 (the effective date of HB 305, 2019).** For the November 3, 2020 election, Monday, July 20, 2020 is the deadline to post notice of candidate filing deadline for local political subdivisions that do not have a first day to file for their candidates. (If the 30th day before last day on which candidate may file falls on a Saturday, deadline moves to next business day). **However, pursuant to NEW LAW, for local (taxing) political subdivisions, the deadline is November 3, 2019 (one year before election day).**

Local political subdivisions include: cities, school districts, water districts, hospital districts, and any other local government entity that conducts elections. Many of these elections are conducted on the May uniform election date. Note: Counties may also be holding local proposition (measure) elections on May 2, 2020.

2 Filing deadlines: generally, the filing deadline is the 78th day prior to Election Day. The Code may provide a different special election filing deadline. See Section 201.054 of the Texas Election Code (the “Code”). Write-in deadlines for general and special elections vary; the deadline for most local (city, school, other) special elections is now the same day as the filing deadline for application for a place on the ballot in a May election or November election.

3 If no candidate for a **four-year term** has filed an application for a place on the ballot for a **city office**, the filing deadline for that office is extended to 5 p.m. of the 57th day before the election. For the May 2, 2020 election, this is Friday, March 6, 2020. See Section 143.008 of the Code.

4 Please note that pursuant to House Bills 1151 and 929 (2017), different deadlines apply to the last day to receive ballots sent by the following: 1) non-military and military voters who mailed ballots from overseas and submitted a regular state Application for Ballot By Mail (“ABBM”), 2) non-military voters who mailed ballots from overseas and who submitted a Federal Postcard Application (“FPCA”), and (3) military voters who mailed ballots domestically or from overseas and who submitted an FPCA. See Secs. 86.007, 101.001 and 101.057 of the Code. Please contact the Elections Division of the Office of the Texas Secretary of State at 1-800-252-VOTE (8683) for additional information.

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 – UNIFORM ELECTION

Deadline to post NEW HB 305 notice. ¹	November 3, 2019* *NEW LAW: Effective Sunday, September 1, 2019 (HB 305 affects political subdivisions with taxing authority) ¹
Deadline to Post Notice of Candidate Filing Deadline (Local Political Subdivisions Only)¹	Thursday, June 18, 2020 for local political subdivisions that have a first day to file for their candidates ¹
First Day To Apply For A Ballot By Mail	Wednesday, January 1, 2020* *First day to file does not move because of New Year's Day holiday. An "Annual ABBM" or FPCA for a January or February 2020 election may be filed earlier, but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the January or February election.
First Day to File for a Place on the General Election Ballot (Local Political Subdivisions Only)¹	Saturday, July 18, 2020
First Day to File a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy (General Election for State and County Officers)	Saturday, July 18, 2020
Last Day to Order General Election or Special Election on a Measure	Monday, August 17, 2020
Last Day to File for a Place on the General Election Ballot (Local Political Subdivisions Only)²	Monday, August 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
Last Day to File a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy (General Election for State and County Officers)	Monday, August 17, 2020
Last Day to File a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy (Local Political Subdivisions Only)	Friday, August 21, 2020
Last Day To Register To Vote	Monday, October 5, 2020*
First Day Of Early Voting	Monday, October 19, 2020*
Last Day To Apply For Ballot By Mail (Received, Not Postmarked)	Friday, October 23, 2020
Last Day Of Early Voting	Friday, October 30, 2020
Last Day To Receive Ballot By Mail	Tuesday, November 3, 2020 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is not postmarked, OR Wednesday, November 4, 2020 (next business day after Election Day) at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply) ⁴

1 Under new law, most local entities now have a “first day” to file.

For the few entities who do not have a first day to file: For the May 2, 2020 election, Wednesday, January 15, 2020 is the deadline to post notice of candidate filing deadline for entities that do not have a first day to file for their candidates. **However, pursuant to NEW LAW, for local (taxing) political subdivisions, the deadline is September 1, 2019 (the effective date of HB 305, 2019).** For the November 3, 2020 election, Monday, July 20, 2020 is the deadline to post notice of candidate filing deadline for local political subdivisions that do not have a first day to file for their candidates. (If the 30th day before last day on which candidate may file falls on a Saturday, deadline moves to next business day). **However, pursuant to NEW LAW, for local (taxing) political subdivisions, the deadline is November 3, 2019 (one year before election day).**

Local political subdivisions include: cities, school districts, water districts, hospital districts, and any other local government entity that conducts elections. Many of these elections are conducted on the May uniform election date. Note: Counties may also be holding local proposition (measure) elections on May 2, 2020.

2 Filing deadlines: generally, the filing deadline is the 78th day prior to Election Day. The Code may provide a different special election filing deadline. See Section 201.054 of the Texas Election Code (the “Code”). Write-in deadlines for general and special elections vary; the deadline for most local (city, school, other) special elections is now the same day as the filing deadline for application for a place on the ballot in a May election or November election.

3 If no candidate for a **four-year term** has filed an application for a place on the ballot for a **city office**, the filing deadline for that office is extended to 5 p.m. of the 57th day before the election. For the May 2, 2020 election, this is Friday, March 6, 2020. See Section 143.008 of the Code.

4 Please note that pursuant to House Bills 1151 and 929 (2017), different deadlines apply to the last day to receive ballots sent by the following: 1) non-military and military voters who mailed ballots from overseas and submitted a regular state Application for Ballot By Mail (“ABBM”), 2) non-military voters who mailed ballots from overseas and who submitted a Federal Postcard Application (“FPCA”), and (3) military voters who mailed ballots domestically or from overseas and who submitted an FPCA. See Secs. 86.007, 101.001 and 101.057 of the Code. Please contact the Elections Division of the Office of the Texas Secretary of State at 1-800-252-VOTE (8683) for additional information.

Introductory Note Concerning Conventions of Parties Holding Primary Elections

Precinct Conventions

Time and Place: Precinct conventions may be held at a time and place determined by rules adopted by the state executive committee of a political party. If precinct conventions are held on the general primary election day, the hour for convening may not be earlier than 7:00 p.m. or later than 9:00 p.m., but a convention may not convene until the last voter has voted at the precinct polling place. If precinct conventions are held on a day other than the general primary election day, the county executive committee must set the hour for convening or a time frame in which the convention must convene. Texas Election Code (TEC) section 174.021 & 174.022.

Notice Required: The county chair must post notice of the date, hour, and place for convening the precinct convention, on the county or the state party's Internet website or another Internet location easily found through a search engine. If the county party does not maintain an Internet website, the chair shall post notice on the county commissioners court bulletin board. Notice must remain posted continuously for the 10 days leading up to the date of the convention. Because convention times are not yet determined, this calendar does not show any deadlines for posting such notices. Not later than the 10th day before the date of the precinct conventions, the county chair must deliver to the county election officer, written notice **either on paper or in electronic form**, of the date, hour, and place for convening each precinct convention. TEC § 174.023(a), (b).

County and Senatorial Conventions

Time and Place: The state executive committee, by rule, must specify the date and the county for the senatorial conventions. The political party may, by rule, allow a county to hold the precinct conventions before the county convention on the same day and at the same place. TEC § 172.021 & 174.063(a).

Notice Required: Notice of the hour and date for convening the county convention must be posted electronically on the county or the state party's Internet website or on the bulletin board used for posting notice of meetings of the commissioners court. Notice must remain posted continuously for the 10 days leading up to the date of convention. Because convention times are not yet determined, this calendar does not show any deadlines for posting such notices. Not later than the 10th day before the date of the county and the senatorial convention, the county chair must deliver, to the county election officer, written notice **either on paper or in electronic form**, of the date, hour, and place for convening county and senatorial convention. TEC §174.064(a), (b).

State Conventions

The biennial state convention must be convened on a date selected by the state executive committee. The state convention date is no longer limited to June or July. The state executive committee must set the date of the state convention not later than the date the state chair delivers to the county chairs, the certification of candidate names for the primary election ballot. **See entry at December 16, 2019.** Accordingly, this calendar does not show any deadline or period for holding the state convention. Notice of the date, hour, and place for convening the state convention must be posted by the state chair on the party's Internet website, before the date of the party's precinct conventions. TEC § 174.092 & 174.093.

September 2019

10th

First day the county chairs may accept applications for a place on the ballot, for the office of **precinct chair**. TEC § 172.023(b).

November 2019

9th

First day the Republican or Democratic Party candidate may file an application for a place on the primary ballot. TEC § 172.023(b).

First day the county chairs may accept applications for a place on the primary ballot for the office of **county chair**. TEC § 172.023(b).

First day independent candidates may file a declaration of intent to run. TEC § 142.002(b), 172.023.

30th

If there is a vacancy for an unexpired term in a state or county office after the 10th day before the candidacy filing deadline, but on or before the 5th day before the deadline (on or after November 30 and on or before December 4), an application for the unexpired term is subject to an extended filing deadline. **See entry at December 16, 2019.** TEC § 202.004(a), (c).

December 2019

4th

Last day a vacancy for an unexpired term may occur, for that seat to appear on the primary ballot. TEC § 202.004(a).

8th

Deadline for the county chair (or the secretary of the county executive committee) to post, on the political party's **Internet website or where a candidate files their application**, a notice containing the addresses at which the county chair and the secretary will be accepting applications on the last day for filing an application. TEC § 172.022(b).

9th

Last day Democratic or Republican Party candidates may file an application for a place on the primary ballot (6 p.m.). TEC § 172.023(a).

NOTE: This is also for applications for an unexpired term in a state or county office that occurred on or before the 10th day before the date of the filing deadline. TEC § 202.004(b). **See entry at December 16, 2019 for Extended Deadlines.**

Last day the county chairs may accept applications for the office of **county or precinct chair** (6 p.m.). TEC § 172.023(a).

Last day independent candidates may file a declaration of intent to run (6 p.m.). TEC § 142.002, 172.023(a).

Last day minor party candidates may file applications and submit filing fee or petition in lieu of filing fee to applicable filing authority in order to be nominated by convention (6 p.m.). TEC § 181.033(a). A political party, by rule, may

extend the filing deadline for applications for nomination for an office for which a candidate withdraws, dies, or is declared ineligible. TEC Code Ann. § 181.033(b).

10th

If a candidate withdraws, dies, or is declared ineligible by this date, the candidate's name is omitted from the primary ballot. TEC § 172.057(a) & 172.058(a).

16th

Deadline for the state or county chair, as applicable, to **receive** applications for an unexpired term in a state or county office that occurs after the 10th day (November 30, 2019) before the filing deadline, but on or before the 5th day (December 4, 2019) before the filing deadline (6 p.m.). TEC § 202.004(a), (c). (This deadline is extended to Monday, December 16, 2019 by TEC § 1.006 due to the 5th day after the date of the regular filing deadline for the general primary election falling on Saturday, December 14.)

Extended Deadline (6 p.m.) for the state or county chair to receive a new application for an office for which the applicant:

- dies on or after the fifth day before the filing deadline (December 4, 2019) and on or before the first day after the filing deadline (December 10, 2019);
- holds the office for which the application was made, and withdraws or is declared ineligible on the filing deadline (December 9, 2019) or on the first day after the filing deadline (December 10, 2019); or
- withdraws or is declared ineligible on the filing deadline (December 9, 2019) or on the first day after the filing deadline (December 10, 2019), and at the time of the withdrawal or declaration of ineligibility no other candidate has made an application that complies with the applicable requirements. TEC § 172.054(b).

(This deadline is extended to Monday, December 16, 2019 by TEC § 1.006 due to the 5th day after the date of the regular filing deadline for the general primary election falling on Saturday, December 14.) **NOTE:** An application filed by mail with the state chair under this Extended Deadline provision is not timely, if received later than 5:00 p.m. on the Extended Deadline.

Last day candidates may file a declaration of write-in candidacy for county or precinct chair if write-ins are authorized by the county executive committee (6 p.m.). TEC § 171.0231(d). (This deadline is extended to Monday, December 16, 2019 by TEC § 1.006 due to the 5th day after the date of the regular filing deadline for the general primary election falling on Saturday, December 14.)

17th

Deadline for the state chair to certify to the Secretary of State (SOS), the name of each candidate who files an application for a place on the primary ballot that complies with TEC Section 172.021(b) **on or before December 9, 2019**. TEC § 172.028(a).

18th

Date SOS anticipates posting the certified list, provided by state chairs, of candidates who filed **on or before December 11, 2019**, on their public website. TEC § 172.028(a).

Deadline for the state chair to notify the county chair of each county in which the candidate will appear on the ballot that the certified list has been posted by SOS. TEC § 172.028(b). **See entry at December 19, 2019** for supplemental notification of certification of candidates who filed with the state chair **on or before the Extended Deadline of December 16, 2019**.

Deadline for the state executive committee to set the date, hour, and place for convening the state convention. TEC § 174.092 & 174.093.

NOTE: TEC Section 174.092(b) provides that the state executive committee must set the date, hour, and place for convening the state convention **not later than the date the state chair delivers to the county chairs the certification** of names to be placed on the general primary ballot. However, the state chair no longer certifies names of the district and statewide candidates for the primary ballot to county chairs. Instead, state chair certifies candidate names to Secretary of State and Secretary of State posts candidate names on his website. TEC Section 172.028(b) that state chair must **notify county chair in each county not later than the 9th day after the regular filing deadline** that certification has been posted by Secretary of State. Accordingly, the calendar continues to show the **9th day after the regular filing deadline** as the deadline for state executive committee to set the date, hour, and place for convening the state convention.

Deadline for the chair to post notice on the commissioners court bulletin board 24 before the date, hour, and place of the ballot drawing if the drawing is conducted on December 19, 2019. If the party has a website, they must post notice on the party's website. All candidates who provide an email address on their filing form must be notified electronically of TEC § 172.082(e).

19th

Deadline for the county chair or county chair's designee to conduct the drawing for the order of candidates on the ballot at the county seat (unless committee provides by resolution that county executive committee is to conduct drawing). TEC § 172.082(c).

Recommended deadline for the state chair to certify to SOS the list of candidate who filed an application that complies with Section 172.021(b) of the TEC **after December 9, 2019 and on or before December 16, 2019**. TEC § 172.028(a), 172.029.

NOTE: The purpose of this recommendation is to ensure that candidates whose applications are filed in accordance with the Extended Deadlines under TEC Section 202.004(a) and TEC Section 172.054(b) are added to the list of certified candidates previously submitted by the state chair to the SOS. See entries at December 10, 2019 and December 27, 2019.

27th

Date by which Secretary of State anticipates posting on Secretary of State's Internet website, that is viewable by the public, additions to the certified list of candidates provided by state chair that are the result of the additional candidates who filed **on or before December 16, 2019 in accordance with the Extended Deadlines**. TEC § 172.028(a), 172.029.

Recommended date for state chair to notify county chair in each county in which the candidate's name is to appear on the ballot that certification of additional candidates who filed by the **Extended Deadline on or before December 16, 2019** has been posted by Secretary of State. TEC § § 172.028(b), 172.056, See entries at December 16, 2019 and December 19, 2019.

30th

Recommended deadline for the county chair and the state chair to electronically submit certain candidate information (including information on candidates for county and precinct chair) to the county election officer, the state chair, and the SOS. TEC § 172.029(c).

Recommended date for the county chair to submit the ballot format to the primary committee for its approval, and for the county chair to order ballots. TEC § 86.004(b), 172.083.

January 2020

1st

First day for voters to submit an application for a ballot by mail for **March 3** primary election, or for **both the March 3** primary election and **May 26** runoff primary election. Texas Election Code (TEC) section 84.001(e), 84.007.

2nd

Last day for a party with state organization, which intends to make nominations by convention, to register with Secretary of State. TEC section 181.0041.

18th

Deadline for the early voting clerk to mail ballots for the primary election to those overseas voters, from whom the clerk has already received applications for ballots by mail or federal postcard applications ("FPCA"). TEC section 86.004(b).

February 2020

3rd

Last day citizens may register to vote in **March 3** primary election. TEC section 13.143(a). (This deadline is extended by TEC section 13.143(e) from the 30th day before election day, which falls on Sunday, February 2)

18th

First day of early voting by personal appearance for **March 3** primary election. TEC section 85.001(a), (c). (This date is extended to Tuesday, February 18, 2020 by TEC section 1.006 because the 17th day before election day is Saturday February 15, 2020 and Monday, February 17, 2020 is President's Day)

21st

Last day for early voting clerk to receive application for ballot by mail for **March 3** primary election. TEC section 84.007(c).

Last day for early voting clerk to receive an FPCA for **March 3** primary election. TEC section 101.052(g), 114.004(c).

Note: BOTH FPCAs and ABBMs must be received by the 11th day before election day.

28th

Last day of early voting by personal appearance for **March 3** primary election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 85.001(a).

March 2020

3rd

Primary election day. Texas Election Code (TEC) section 41.007(a).

4th

First day independent candidates for offices **not** involved in runoff primary election may collect signatures for petitions in connection with applications. TEC section 142.009.

9th

Last day to post notice of county executive committee's meeting to canvass returns of primary election because canvass must take place on March 12, 2020. Notice must be posted at least 72 hours before scheduled time of meeting. TEC section 172.116; Texas Government Code sections 551.002, 551.041 & 551.043.

10th

Precinct conventions held to elect delegates to county or district conventions of minor parties. TEC section 181.061(c), 182.005.

12th

Local canvass of the primary election by county chair and at least one member of the county executive committee, selected by the county executive committee, must be conducted on this date. TEC section 172.116(b). Last day to post notice of state executive committee's meeting to canvass returns of primary election because state canvass must take place on March 15, 2020. Notice must be posted at least 72 hours before the scheduled time of the meeting. TEC section 172.120; Texas Government Code sections 551.002, 551.041 & 551.043.

14th

County convention for minor parties that are nominating candidates for single-county district, county, or precinct offices. TEC section 181.061(c), 182.005.

15th

Deadline for state executive committee to conduct state canvass for all races with potential runoffs (races with three or more candidates). See entry under March 25, 2020. State chair must certify these candidates for statewide and district offices for placement on runoff primary election ballot to county chair as soon as practicable after canvass is completed. Texas Election Code(TEC) section 172.120(b)(1) & 172.121.

18th

Last day runoff primary candidates may withdraw from ballot (5 p.m.), if the state canvass was held on March 15, 2020. TEC section 172.059

19th

Recommended deadline if state canvass is held on March 15, 2020 for state chair to certify candidates for statewide and district offices for placement on runoff primary ballot. TEC section 172.121.

21st

District convention for minor parties nominating candidates for multi-county district offices. TEC section 181.061(b).

25th

Deadline for state executive committee to conduct state canvass for races with no potential runoff. TEC section 172.120(b)(2). See entry under March 15, 2020.

April 2020

1st

Deadline for county chair to post on the secretary of state's website the names of the persons elected as county and precinct chairs for the county. (Sec. 172.118).

11th

Deadline for early voting clerk to mail ballots for the runoff primary election to those overseas voters from whom the clerk has already received applications for ballots by mail or FPCAs. (Sec. 86.004(b)).

18th

State convention for minor party that is nominating candidates for statewide offices. (Sec. 181.061(a)). This date is moved from the second Saturday in April to the third Saturday in April due to the fact that the Sunday after the second Saturday in April is Easter. (Sec. 181.061(a)).

27th

Last day to register to vote in **May 26 runoff** primary election. (Sec. 13.143(a)). (This deadline is extended by Sec. 13.143(e) from the 30th day before election day, which falls on Sunday, April 26.)

May 2020

15th

Last day for early voting clerk to receive application for ballot by mail for **May 26 runoff** primary election. Texas Election Code (TEC) section 84.007(c).

Last day for early voting clerk to receive an FPCA for **May 26 runoff** primary election. TEC section 101.052(g), 114.004(c).

18th

First day of early voting by personal appearance for **May 26 runoff** primary election. TEC section 85.001(b), (c).

22nd

Last day of early voting by personal appearance for **May 26 runoff** primary election. TEC section 85.001(a).

26th

Runoff primary election day. TEC section 41.007(b).

Last day party chairs of new political parties may submit petitions and precinct convention lists to Secretary of State and to the appropriate county clerk (or other county election official) for to secure placement of candidates on the November general election ballot. TEC sections 181.005(a), 181.006(b)(3), 181.061(c), 182.003 & 182.004. (This deadline is extended by TEC section 1.006 because the 75th day after the precinct conventions falls on Sunday, May 24 and because Monday, May 25 is Memorial Day.)

27th

First day independent candidates for offices involved in runoff election may collect signatures for applications. TEC section 142.009.

June 2020

1st

Last day to post notice of meeting to canvass returns of runoff primary election because canvass must take place on June 4, 2020. Notice must be posted at least 72 hours before scheduled time of meeting. TEC section 172.116; Texas Government Code sections 551.002, 551.041 & 551.043.

4th

Local canvass of the runoff primary election by county chair and at least one member of the county executive committee, selected by the county executive committee, must be conducted on this date. TEC section 172.116(b)

5th

Deadline for county clerk to submit canvassed returns for statewide and district offices to secretary of state. Texas Election Code(TEC) section 67.007(d).

10th

Last day to post notice of state executive committee's meeting to canvass returns of runoff primary election if state canvass takes place on June 13, 2016. Notice must be posted at least 72 hours before the scheduled time of the meeting. TEC section 172.120; Texas Government Code section 551.002, 551.041 & 551.043.

13th

Deadline for state executive committee to conduct state canvass. TEC section 172.120(b-1).

15th

New party officers take office. TEC section 171.022(c).

24th

Deadline for county chair to deliver written notice through SOS website to state chair and to county election officer of the names of the persons elected as county chair and precinct chairs for the county. TEC section 172.118.

26th

Last day independent candidates may file applications and petitions (5 p.m.). TEC section 142.006.

July 2020

3rd

Deadline for state chair to deliver state executive committee's tabulation of runoff primary election to Secretary of State and to certify list of candidates for statewide and district offices who received the necessary votes for nomination at the runoff primary election to Secretary of State, if state executive committee canvassed on June 13, 2020. TEC section 172.120(f), 172.122).

15th

Deadline by which former county chair must transfer party bank accounts and records to new county chair; it is a **Class C misdemeanor** if the former county chair fails to transfer the records. TEC section 171.028.

18th

First day candidates may file declaration of write-in candidacy for November 3 general election. TEC section 146.025.

August 2020

17th

Last day to order November 3 general election. Texas Election Code(TEC) sections 3.003, 3.005.

Last day candidates may file declaration of write-in candidacy for November 3 general election (5 p.m.). TEC section 146.025.

21st

Last day candidates may withdraw from or be declared ineligible for general election. TEC sections 145.032, 145.035.

October 2020**5th**

Last day citizens may register to vote in November 3 general election. TEC section 13.143(a). (This deadline is extended by TEC section 13.143(e) from the 30th day before election day, which falls on Sunday, October 4, to the next business day.)

19th

First day of early voting by personal appearance for November 3 general election. TEC section 85.001(a).

23rd

Last day for early voting clerk to receive application for ballot by mail for November 3 general election. TEC section 84.007(c)

Last day for early voting clerk to receive FPCA for November 3 general election. TEC section 101.052(g), 114.004(c)

30th

Last day of early voting by personal appearance for November 3 general election. TEC section 85.001(a).

November 2020**3rd**

General election day. TEC section 41.002.

REFUGIO COUNTY PARTY CHAIRS

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Note:

Refugio County is currently without representation of a local Democratic Party Chair.

Must contact the state party chair for more information:

(512) 478-9800

E-mail: gmaxey@txdemocrats.org

Candidates wishing to file for a place on the ballot may contact Glen Maxey at (512) 656-6337 or glen@glenmaxey.com

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Jeffrey Steele

Republican Party Chair

606 Oak St.

Refugio, Texas 78377

(361) 526-4976 Home

(361) 935-3842 Cell

E-mail: steelej44@gmail.com

Filing in the Democratic or Republican 2020 Primary

In order to become the Republican or Democratic Party nominee for a particular office, you must file an [application \(PDF\)](#) for a place on the ballot with the county or state party chair, as appropriate (see chart). (Section 172.022, Texas Election Code). Candidates for federal office must file a [federal application \(PDF\)](#). The application must be filed between November 9, 2019 and by 6:00p.m. on December 9, 2019. (Section 172.023, Texas Election Code). The application for a place on the primary ballot must be accompanied by either a filing fee or a [petition in lieu of filing fee \(PDF\)](#) signed by a certain number of qualified voters. Certain judicial candidates in Bexar, Dallas, Harris, Tarrant and Travis must file [additional petitions \(PDF\)](#). Certain Statewide judicial candidates must also file additional petitions using the [Statewide Judicial Office on Primary Ballot petition form \(PDF\)](#).

See Section **162.015, Texas Election Code** for more details about how primary voting or candidacy affects (or does not affect) candidacy in the general election.

Democratic or Republican Party Nominee

Public Office Sought in 2020	File App. with Party Chair		Filing Fee	Nominating Petition in Lieu of Filing Fee	
	State	County		%Signatures ^e	Number of Signatures ^h
United States Senator	x	-	\$5,000	-	5000
United States Representative	x ^a	-	\$3,125	2%	500
Railroad Commissioner	x	-	\$3,750	-	5000
Chief Justice & Justice, Supreme Court ^a	x	-	\$3,750	-	5000
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals ^a	x	-	\$3,750	-	5000
State Senator	x ^a	-	\$1,250	2%	500
State Representative	x ^a	-	\$750	2%	500
Member, State Board of Education	x ^a	-	\$300	2%	500
Chief Justice and Justice, Court of Appeals ^b	x ^a	-	\$2,500 / \$1,875 ^e	2%	500
District Judge ^b	x ^a	-	\$2,500 / \$1,500 ^f	2%	500
Criminal District Judge ^b	x ^a	-	\$2,500 / \$1,500 ^f	2%	500
Family District Judge ^b	x ^a	-	\$2,500 / \$1,500 ^f	2%	500
District Attorney	x ^a	-	\$1,250	2%	500
Criminal District Attorney	x ^a	-	\$1,250	2%	500
County Judge	-	x	\$1,250 / \$750 ^d	2%	500
Judge, County Court-at-Law ^b	-	x	\$2,500 / \$1,500 ^f	2%	500
Judge, County Criminal Court ^b	-	x	\$2,500 / \$1,500 ^f	2%	500
Judge, County Probate Court ^b	-	x	\$2,500 / \$1,500 ^f	2%	500
County Attorney	-	x	\$1,250 / \$750 ^d	2%	500
Sheriff	-	x	\$1,250 / \$750 ^d	2%	500
Tax Assessor-Collector	-	x	1,250 / \$750 ^d	2%	500
County Commissioner	-	x	\$1,250 / \$750 ^d	2%	500
Constable	-	x	\$1,000 / \$375 ^d	2%	500
Justice of the Peace ^b	-	x	\$1,000 / \$375 ^d	2%	500
Source: Texas Election Code Section	§172.022		§172.024	§172.025	

- a. File with county chair if district is comprised of only one county.
- b. Senate Bill 44 (2017) reinstated the petition requirement for certain judicial candidates. For candidates running for Courts of Appeals in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 14th Districts **and all candidates running for judicial offices** in Bexar, Dallas, Harris and Tarrant Counties, a 250-signature judicial petition is required in addition to the filing fee, or 750 signatures must be collected on the petition in lieu of filing fee.
- c. Percentage of all votes for all gubernatorial candidates cast in the applicable territory in the 2018 general election. If number is less than 50, the required number of signatures is the lesser of (1) 50 or (2) 20% of all votes for all gubernatorial candidates cast in the applicable territory in the 2018 general election.
- d. Pay higher fee if county has at least 200,000 inhabitants according to 2010 Census.
- e. Pay higher fee in Courts of Appeals Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 14. (Section 172.024(7), (8), Texas Election Code).
- f. Pay higher fee in Bexar, Dallas, Harris and Tarrant Counties. (Sections 172.024(10), (12), Texas Election Code).
- g. Senate Bill 44 (2017) reinstated the petition requirement for certain judicial candidates. A candidate for the office of chief justice or justice, supreme court, or presiding judge or judge, court of criminal appeals, who chooses to pay the filing fee, must also accompany the application and fee with a petition. The minimum number of signatures that must appear on the petition is 50 from each of the fourteen court of appeals districts, for a total requirement of 700 signatures.
- h. The minimum number of signatures that must appear on a candidate's petition for statewide office is 5000. The minimum number of signatures that must appear on a candidate's petition for district, county or precinct office is the lesser of (1) 500 or (2) 2% of the total vote received in the district, county or precinct, as applicable, by all gubernatorial candidates in the 2018 general election, subject to (c) above. Section 172.025, Texas Election Code).

All fields MUST be completed UNLESS MARKED OPTIONAL.¹ Failure to provide required information may result in rejection of application.

APPLICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE _____ PARTY GENERAL PRIMARY BALLOT (Democratic or Republican)					
TO: State/County Chair					
I request that my name be placed on the above-named official primary ballot as a candidate for nomination to the office indicated below.					
OFFICE SOUGHT (Include any place number or other distinguishing number, if any.)				INDICATE TERM <input type="checkbox"/> FULL <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPIRED	
FULL NAME (First, Middle, Last)			PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT*		
PERMANENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Do not include a P.O. Box or Rural Route. If you do not have a residence address, describe location of residence.)			PUBLIC MAILING ADDRESS (Address for which you receive campaign related correspondence, if available.)		
CITY	STATE	ZIP	CITY	STATE	ZIP
PUBLIC EMAIL ADDRESS (If available)		OCCUPATION (Do not leave blank)	DATE OF BIRTH / /		VOTER REGISTRATION VOID NUMBER ² (Optional)
TELEPHONE CONTACT INFORMATION (Optional) Home: Work: Cell:		LENGTH OF CONTINUOUS RESIDENCE AS OF DATE APPLICATION SWORN IN STATE ____ year(s) ____ month(s)		IN TERRITORY/DISTRICT/PRECINCT FROM WHICH THE OFFICE SOUGHT IS ELECTED ____ year(s) ____ month(s)	
*If using a nickname as part of your name to appear on the ballot, you are also signing and swearing to the following statements: I further swear that my nickname does not constitute a slogan or contain a title, nor does it indicate a political, economic, social, or religious view or affiliation. I have been commonly known by this nickname for at least three years prior to this election.					
Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared (name of candidate) _____, who being by me here and now duly sworn, upon oath says: "I, (name of candidate) _____, of _____ County, Texas, being a candidate for the office of _____, swear that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of Texas. I am a citizen of the United States eligible to hold such office under the constitution and laws of this state. I have not been finally convicted of a felony for which I have not been pardoned or had my full rights of citizenship restored by other official action. I 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. I am aware of the nepotism law, Chapter 573, Government Code. I further swear that the foregoing statements included in my application are in all things true and correct."					
X _____					
SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE					
Sworn to and subscribed before me this the ____ day of _____, _____, by _____.					
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> Month Year Name of Candidate </div>					
SEAL					
Signature of Officer Administering Oath ³			Title of Officer Administering Oath		
TO BE COMPLETED BY CHAIR OR DESIGNEE: THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE REQUIRED FILING FEE PAID BY: <input type="checkbox"/> CASH, <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK, <input type="checkbox"/> MONEY ORDER, <input type="checkbox"/> CASHIERS CHECK, OR <input type="checkbox"/> PETITION IN LIEU OF A FILING FEE.					
This document and \$_____ filing fee or a nominating petition of _____ is pages received.					
(See Section 1.007)					
Voter Registration Status Verified <input type="checkbox"/>		Date Received	Date Accepted	Signature of Chair or Designee	

Todos los campos DEBEN ser completados a MENOS QUE ESTÉN MARCADOS COMO OPCIONALES. ¹ El no proporcionar la información requerida puede resultar en el rechazo de la solicitud.

SOLICITUD PARA UN LUGAR EN LA BOLETA DE LA ELECCIÓN PRIMARIA GENERAL DEL PARTIDO _____					
A: Presidente Estatal del Partido/Presidente del Condado			(Democrático o Republicano)		
Solicito que mi nombre se coloque en la boleta oficial de la primaria mencionada anteriormente como candidato(a) para la nominación para el cargo que se indica a continuación.					
CARGO OFICIAL SOLICITADO (Incluya cualquier número de cargo u otro número distintivo, si el cargo lo tiene.)				INDIQUE TÉRMINO <input type="checkbox"/> TÉRMINO COMPLETO <input type="checkbox"/> TÉRMINO INCOMPLETO	
NOMBRE COMPLETO (Primer Nombre, Segundo Nombre, Apellido)			ESCRIBA SU NOMBRE COMO DESEA QUE APAREZCA EN LA BOLETA*		
DIRECCIÓN RESIDENCIAL PERMANENTE (No incluya una casilla postal o una ruta rural. Si usted no tiene una dirección residencial, describa la ubicación de su residencia.)			DIRECCIÓN POSTAL PÚBLICA (Dirección a la que recibirá correspondencia relacionada a su campaña, si está disponible.)		
CIUDAD	ESTADO	CÓDIGO POSTAL	CIUDAD	ESTADO	CÓDIGO POSTAL
CORREO ELECTRÓNICO PÚBLICO (Si está disponible)	OCUPACIÓN (No deje este espacio en blanco)	FECHA DE NACIMIENTO / /	VUID – NÚMERO ÚNICO DE IDENTIFICACIÓN DE VOTANTE ² (Opcional)		
INFORMACIÓN DE CONTACTO (Opcional) Tel. de Domicilio: Tel. de Oficina: Tel. Celular:			DURACIÓN DE RESIDENCIA CONTINUA A PARTIR DE LA FECHA QUE USTED HAGA EL JURAMENTO DE ESTA SOLICITUD		
			EN EL ESTADO ____ año(s) ____ mes(es)		EN EL TERRITORIO/DISTRITO/PRECINTO POR EL CUAL SERIA ELECTO/A ____ año(s) ____ mes(es)
*Si usted incluye un apodo como parte de su nombre en la boleta, usted también firma y jura lo siguiente: Yo también juro que mi apodo no constituye un lema o contiene un título, ni tampoco es una indicación de mis creencias o afiliaciones políticas, económicas, sociales o religiosas. He sido conocido comúnmente por este apodo por lo menos tres años antes de esta elección.					
Ante mí, la autoridad suscrita, apareció en persona este día (nombre del candidato) _____, quien habiendo aquí y ahora prestado juramento debido, bajo juramento dice:					
“Yo, (nombre del candidato) _____, del condado de _____, Texas, siendo candidato para el cargo oficial de _____, solemnemente juro que apoyaré y defenderé la Constitución y las leyes de los Estados Unidos y del Estado de Texas. Soy ciudadano de los Estados Unidos elegible para ocupar tal cargo oficial bajo la Constitución y las leyes de este Estado. No he sido finalmente condenado por una felonía por la cual no he sido perdonado o por la cual no se me han restituido enteramente mis derechos de ciudadanía por medio de otra acción oficial. No se me ha determinado por un juicio final de una jurisdicción testamentaria tribunal que juzga, ser totalmente incapacitado mentalmente o parcialmente incapacitado sin el derecho de votar. Yo tengo conocimiento de la ley sobre el nepotismo según el Capítulo 573 del Código de Gobierno.					
Además juro que las anteriores declaraciones que incluyo en mi solicitud son verdaderas y son correctas en todo sentido.”					
X _____ FIRMA DEL CANDIDATO					
Jurado y suscrito ante mí en _____, este día ____ de _____, por _____.					
			Mes	Año	Nombre del Candidato
SELLO					
Firma del oficial administrando el juramento ³			Título del oficial administrando el juramento		
TO BE COMPLETED BY CHAIR OR DESIGNEE: THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE REQUIRED FILING FEE PAID BY: <input type="checkbox"/> CASH, <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK, <input type="checkbox"/> MONEY ORDER, <input type="checkbox"/> CASHIERS CHECK, OR <input type="checkbox"/> PETITION IN LIEU OF A FILING FEE.					
This document and \$_____ filing fee or a nominating petition of _____ is pages received.					
(See Section 1.007)					
Voter Registration Status Verified <input type="checkbox"/>		Date Received	Date Accepted	Signature of Chair or Designee	

INSTRUCTIONS

The application shall be filed with the state chair for all statewide offices and all district offices which are filled by the choice of voters in more than one county. The application shall be filed with the county chair for all county and precinct offices and all district offices which are filled by the choice of voters of a single county. For those offices filled by the choice of voters of a single county, the application may also be filed with the secretary of the county executive committee, if there is one. (Section 172.022, Texas Election Code) The candidate application must be accompanied by either a filing fee or a completed Petition in Lieu of a Filing Fee signed by a certain number of qualified voters. (Section 172.021, Texas Election Code) The filing deadline is 6:00 p.m. on the second Monday in December of odd-numbered years. (Section 172.023, Texas Election Code).

NEPOTISM LAW

The candidate must sign this statement indicating his awareness of the nepotism law. The nepotism prohibitions of Chapter 573, Government Code, are summarized below:

No officer may appoint, or vote for or confirm the appointment or employment of any person related within the second degree by affinity (marriage) or the third degree by consanguinity (blood) to himself, or to any other member of the governing body or court on which he serves when the compensation of that person is to be paid out of public funds or fees of office. However, nothing in the law prevents the appointment, voting for, or confirmation of anyone who has been continuously employed in the office or employment for the following period prior to the election or appointment of the officer or member related to the employee in the prohibited degree: one year, if the officer or member is elected at the general election for state and county officers.

No candidate may take action to influence an employee of the office to which the candidate is seeking election or an employee or officer of the governmental body to which the candidate is seeking election regarding the appointment or employment of a person related to the candidate in a prohibited degree as noted above. This prohibition does not apply to a candidate's actions with respect to a bona fide class or category of employees or prospective employees.

Examples of relatives within the third degree of consanguinity are as follows:

- (1) First degree: parent, child;
- (2) Second degree: brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild;
- (3) Third degree: great-grandparent, great-grandchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece.

These include relatives by blood, half-blood, and legal adoption. Examples of relatives within the second degree of affinity are as follows:

- (1) First degree: spouse, spouse's parent, son-in-law, daughter-in-law;
- (2) Second degree: brother's spouse, sister's spouse, spouse's brother, spouse's sister, spouse's grandparent.

Persons related by affinity (marriage) include spouses of relatives by consanguinity, and, if married, the spouse and the spouse's relatives by consanguinity. These examples are not all inclusive.

FOOTNOTES

¹ An application for a place on the ballot, including any accompanying petition, is public information immediately on its filing. (Section 141.035, Texas Election Code)

²Inclusion of a candidate's VUID is optional. However, many candidates are required to be registered voters in the territory from which the office is elected at the time of the filing deadline.

³All oaths, affidavits, or affirmations made within this State may be administered and a certificate of the fact given by a judge, clerk, or commissioner of any court of record, a notary public, a justice of the peace, and the Secretary of State of Texas. See Chapter 602 of the Texas Government Code for the complete list.

INSTRUCCIONES

La solicitud deberá presentarse ante el presidente estatal del partido para todas las oficinas estatales y todas las oficinas del distrito que se llenan por la selección de votantes en más de un condado. La solicitud deberá presentarse ante el presidente del condado para todas las oficinas del condado y del precinto y todas las oficinas del distrito que se llenan por la selección de votantes de un solo condado. Para aquellas oficinas llenas por la elección de los votantes de un solo condado, la solicitud también podrá presentarse al secretario del comité ejecutivo del condado, si hay uno. (Sección 172.022, Código Electoral de Texas) La solicitud del candidato debe ir acompañada de una cuota de presentación o una Petición Presentada en Sustitución del Pago de Derechos de Inscripción firmada por un cierto número de votantes calificados. (Sección 172.021, Código Electoral de Texas) La fecha límite de presentación es las 6:00 p.m. el segundo lunes de diciembre de años impares. (Sección 172.023, Código Electoral de Texas).

LEY SOBRE EL NEPOTISMO

El candidato deberá firmar esta declaración indicando que él/ella está enterado(a) de la ley sobre el nepotismo. Lo siguiente es un resumen de las prohibiciones del nepotismo de acuerdo al capítulo 573 de Código Gobierno:

Ningún oficial podrá nombrar, o votar por o confirmar el nombramiento o empleo de alguna persona que está emparentada con él dentro del segundo grado por afinidad (matrimonio) o dentro del tercer grado por consanguinidad (sangre), o que está emparentada con cualesquier otro miembro del cuerpo directivo o corte en que él/ella celebra sesión cuando la compensación de esa persona estará pagada con fondos públicos o los honorarios del puesto oficial. Sin embargo, la ley no prohíbe el nombramiento, el votar por, o la confirmación de alguna persona que continuadamente ha sido empleado de la oficina o ha sido empleado durante el siguiente plazo antes de la elección o el nombramiento del oficial o miembro que está emparentado con el empleado en el grado prohibido: un año, si el oficial o miembro está elegido en la elección general para oficiales del estado y del condado.

Ningún candidato podrá obrar para influir a un empleado del puesto oficial al cual el candidato desea estar elegido o un empleado o oficial del cuerpo fiscal al cual el candidato desea estar elegido en cuanto al nombramiento o al empleo de una persona que está emparentada con el candidato en un grado prohibido como notado arriba. Esta restricción no se dirige a las acciones de un candidato respecto a una clase o categoría de buena fe de empleados o empleados anticipados.

Los ejemplos de parientes dentro del tercer grado de consanguinidad son los siguientes:

- (1) Primer grado: padre, madre, hijo(a);
- (2) Segundo grado: hermano(a), abuelo(a), nieto(a);
- (3) Tercer grado: bisabuelo(a), bisnieto(a), tío(a), sobrino(a).

Los siguientes incluyen parientes de linaje (sangre), medios hermanos, y adopción legal.

Los ejemplos de parientes dentro del segundo grado de afinidad son los siguientes:

- (1) Primer grado: esposo(a), suegro(a), yerno(a);
- (2) Segundo grado: cuñado(a), abuelo(a) del esposo o esposa.

Las personas que están emparentadas por afinidad (matrimonio) incluyen los esposos o esposas de parientes que están emparentados por consanguinidad, y, si casados, el esposo o esposa y los parientes del esposo o esposa por consanguinidad. No todos estos ejemplos son inclusivos.

ANOTACIONES

¹Una solicitud para un lugar en la boleta electoral, incluyendo cualquier petición adjunta, es información pública inmediatamente después de su presentación. (Sección 141.035, Código Electoral de Texas)

²La inclusión del número único de identificación de votante (VUID, por sus siglas en Inglés) es opcional. Sin embargo, para muchos candidatos, es un requisito estar registrados como votantes en el territorio por el cual serían electo/a a partir de la fecha límite de la solicitud.

³Todos los juramentos, declaraciones juradas o afirmaciones hechas dentro de este Estado pueden ser administrados y un certificado del hecho dado por un juez, secretario o comisionado de un tribunal de registro, un notario público, un juez de paz y el Secretario de Estado de Texas. Consulte el Capítulo 602 del Código del Gobierno de Texas para obtener la lista completa.

FILING FEE SCHEDULE

United States Senator	\$5,000
All Other Statewide Offices	\$3,750
United States Representative	\$3,125
State Senator	\$1,250
State Representative	\$750
Member, State Board of Education	\$300
Chief Justice or Justice, Court of Appeals	\$1,875
Chief Justice or Justice of a Court of Appeals that serves a Court of Appeals District in which a county with a population of more than one million is wholly or partly situated	\$2,500
District Judge or Judge specified by Sec. 52.092(d) for which this schedule does not otherwise prescribe a fee	\$1,500
District or Criminal District Judge of a court in a judicial district wholly contained in a county with a population of more than 1.5 million	\$2,500
Judge of a Statutory Court (except as provided below)	\$1,500
Judge of a Statutory County Court in a county with a population of more than 1.5 million	\$2,500
District Attorney or Criminal District Attorney or County Attorney performing the duties of a District Attorney	\$1,250
County Judge, County Commissioner, District Clerk, County Clerk, Sheriff, County Tax-Assessor-Collector and County Treasurer	
County of 200,000 more population	\$1,250
County of under 200,000 population	\$750
Justice of the Peace or Constable	
County of 200,000 more population	\$1,000
County of under 200,000 population	\$375
County Surveyor, Public Weigher or Inspector of Hides and Animals	\$75
All County Offices not otherwise listed	\$750

LISTA DE CUOTAS DE REGISTRO

Senador de los Estados Unidos	\$5,000
Todos los otros puestos oficiales representando todo el Estado	\$3,750
Representante de los Estados Unidos	\$3,125
Senador del Estado	\$1,250
Representante del Estado	\$750
Miembro, Junta de Educación Estatal	\$300
Juez Presidente o Juez, Corte de Apelación (excepto como provisto abajo))	\$1,875
Juez presidente o juez de una corte de apelación que sirve una corte de apelación del distrito en el cual un condado con una población de más de un millón está situado total o parcialmente	\$2,500
Juez de Distrito o Juez mencionado específicamente por la Sec. 52.092(d) por el cual esta lista no prescribe de otro modo una gratificación	\$1,500
Juez de Distrito o Juez de Distrito Criminal de una corte en un distrito judicial situado completamente en un condado con una población de más de 1.5 millones	\$2,500
Juez de una Corte de Condado Estatutaria (excepto como provisto abajo)	\$1,500
Juez de una corte de condado estatutario en un condado con una población de más de 1.5 millones	\$2,500
Fiscal de Distrito o Fiscal de Distrito Criminal o Procurador del Condado que cumple con las mismas obligaciones de un fiscal del distrito	\$1,250
Juez de Condado, Comisionado del Condado, Secretario del Distrito, Secretario del Condado, Sherife, Asesor-Colector de Impuestos del Condado o Tesorero del Condado	
Un condado con una población de 200,000 habitantes o más	\$1,250
Un condado con una población de menos de 200,000 habitantes	\$750
Juez de Paz o Agente de la policía	
Un condado con una población de 200,000 habitantes o más	\$1,000
Un condado con una población de menos de 200,000 habitantes	\$375
Agrimensor del Condado, Pesador Público o Inspector de Pieles y Animales	\$75
Todos los puestos oficiales del condado que no se han mencionado	\$750

ELECTION CODE

TITLE 15. REGULATING POLITICAL FUNDS AND CAMPAIGNS

CHAPTER 255. REGULATING POLITICAL ADVERTISING AND CAMPAIGN COMMUNICATIONS

The following section was amended by the 86th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see H.B. [2554](#), 86th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting the following section.

Sec. 255.001. REQUIRED DISCLOSURE ON POLITICAL ADVERTISING. (a) A person may not knowingly cause to be published, distributed, or broadcast political advertising containing express advocacy that does not indicate in the advertising:

(1) that it is political advertising; and

(2) the full name of:

(A) the person who paid for the political advertising;

(B) the political committee authorizing the political advertising; or

(C) the candidate or specific-purpose committee supporting the candidate, if the political advertising is authorized by the candidate.

(b) Political advertising that is authorized by a candidate, an agent of a candidate, or a political committee filing reports under this title shall be deemed to contain express advocacy.

(c) A person may not knowingly use, cause or permit to be used, or continue to use any published, distributed, or broadcast political advertising containing express advocacy that the person knows does not include the disclosure required by Subsection (a). A person is presumed to know that the use of political advertising is prohibited by this subsection if the commission notifies the person in writing that the use is prohibited. A person who learns that political advertising signs, as defined by Section 255.007, that have been distributed do not include the disclosure required by Subsection (a) or include a disclosure that does not comply with Subsection (a) does not commit a continuing violation of this subsection if the person makes a good faith attempt to remove or correct those signs. A person who learns that printed political advertising other than a political advertising sign that has been distributed does not include the disclosure required by Subsection (a) or includes a disclosure that does not comply with Subsection (a) is not required to attempt to recover the political advertising and does not commit a continuing violation of this subsection as to any previously distributed political advertising.

(d) This section does not apply to:

(1) tickets or invitations to political fund-raising events;

(2) campaign buttons, pins, hats, or similar campaign materials; or

(3) circulars or flyers that cost in the aggregate less than \$500 to publish and distribute.

(e) A person who violates this section is liable to the state for a civil penalty in an amount

determined by the commission not to exceed \$4,000.

Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 899, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987; Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 249, Sec. 2.23, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Sec. 255.002. RATES FOR POLITICAL ADVERTISING. (a) The rate charged for political advertising by a radio or television station may not exceed:

(1) during the 45 days preceding a general or runoff primary election and during the 60 days preceding a general or special election, the broadcaster's lowest unit charge for advertising of the same class, for the same time, and for the same period; or

(2) at any time other than that specified by Subdivision (1), the amount charged other users for comparable use of the station.

(b) The rate charged for political advertising that is printed or published may not exceed the lowest charge made for comparable use of the space for any other purposes.

(c) In determining amounts charged for comparable use, the amount and kind of space or time used, number of times used, frequency of use, type of advertising copy submitted, and any other relevant factors shall be considered.

(d) Discounts offered by a newspaper or magazine to its commercial advertisers shall be offered on equal terms to purchasers of political advertising from the newspaper or magazine.

(e) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly demands or receives or knowingly pays or offers to pay for political advertising more consideration than permitted by this section.

(f) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 899, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

Sec. 255.003. UNLAWFUL USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR POLITICAL ADVERTISING. (a) An officer or employee of a political subdivision may not knowingly spend or authorize the spending of public funds for political advertising.

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply to a communication that factually describes the purposes of a measure if the communication does not advocate passage or defeat of the measure.

(b-1) An officer or employee of a political subdivision may not spend or authorize the spending of public funds for a communication describing a measure if the communication contains information that:

(1) the officer or employee knows is false; and

(2) is sufficiently substantial and important as to be reasonably likely to influence a voter to vote for or against the measure.

(c) A person who violates Subsection (a) or (b-1) commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(d) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution for an offense under this section or the imposition

of a civil penalty for conduct under this section that an officer or employee of a political subdivision reasonably relied on a court order or an interpretation of this section in a written opinion issued by:

- (1) a court of record;
- (2) the attorney general; or
- (3) the commission.

(e) On written request of the governing body of a political subdivision that has ordered an election on a measure, the commission shall prepare an advance written advisory opinion as to whether a particular communication relating to the measure does or does not comply with this section.

(f) Subsections (d) and (e) do not apply to a port authority or navigation district.

Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 899, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 644 (H.B. [1720](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 843 (S.B. [2085](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2009.

Sec. 255.0031. UNLAWFUL USE OF INTERNAL MAIL SYSTEM FOR POLITICAL ADVERTISING. (a) An officer or employee of a state agency or political subdivision may not knowingly use or authorize the use of an internal mail system for the distribution of political advertising.

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply to:

- (1) the use of an internal mail system to distribute political advertising that is delivered to the premises of a state agency or political subdivision through the United States Postal Service; or
- (2) the use of an internal mail system by a state agency or municipality to distribute political advertising that is the subject of or related to an investigation, hearing, or other official proceeding of the agency or municipality.

(c) A person who violates this section commits an offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

(d) In this section:

(1) "Internal mail system" means a system operated by a state agency or political subdivision to deliver written documents to officers or employees of the agency or subdivision.

(2) "State agency" means:

(A) a department, commission, board, office, or other agency that is in the legislative, executive, or judicial branch of state government;

(B) a university system or an institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code; or

(C) a river authority created under the constitution or a statute of this state.

Added by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 229, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

The following section was amended by the 86th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes,

see S.B. [751](#), 86th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting the following section.

Sec. 255.004. TRUE SOURCE OF COMMUNICATION. (a) A person commits an offense if, with intent to injure a candidate or influence the result of an election, the person enters into a contract or other agreement to print, publish, or broadcast political advertising that purports to emanate from a source other than its true source.

(b) A person commits an offense if, with intent to injure a candidate or influence the result of an election, the person knowingly represents in a campaign communication that the communication emanates from a source other than its true source.

(c) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 899, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

Sec. 255.005. MISREPRESENTATION OF IDENTITY. (a) A person commits an offense if, with intent to injure a candidate or influence the result of an election, the person misrepresents the person's identity or, if acting or purporting to act as an agent, misrepresents the identity of the agent's principal, in political advertising or a campaign communication.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 899, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 864, Sec. 249, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Sec. 255.006. MISLEADING USE OF OFFICE TITLE. (a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly enters into a contract or other agreement to print, publish, or broadcast political advertising with the intent to represent to an ordinary and prudent person that a candidate holds a public office that the candidate does not hold at the time the agreement is made.

(b) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly represents in a campaign communication that a candidate holds a public office that the candidate does not hold at the time the representation is made.

(c) For purposes of this section, a person represents that a candidate holds a public office that the candidate does not hold if:

(1) the candidate does not hold the office that the candidate seeks; and

(2) the political advertising or campaign communication states the public office sought but does not include the word "for" in a type size that is at least one-half the type size used for the name of the office to clarify that the candidate does not hold that office.

(d) A person other than an officeholder commits an offense if the person knowingly uses a representation of the state seal in political advertising.

(e) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor.

Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 899, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987; Acts 1993, 73rd Leg., ch. 300, Sec.

30, eff. Aug. 30, 1993; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 864, Sec. 250, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1134, Sec. 9, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 62, Sec. 5.17, eff. Sept. 1, 1999; Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 737, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1999.

The following section was amended by the 86th Legislature. Pending publication of the current statutes, see H.B. [2554](#), 86th Legislature, Regular Session, for amendments affecting the following section.

Sec. 255.007. NOTICE REQUIREMENT ON POLITICAL ADVERTISING SIGNS. (a) The following notice must be written on each political advertising sign:

"NOTICE: IT IS A VIOLATION OF STATE LAW (CHAPTERS 392 AND 393, TRANSPORTATION CODE), TO PLACE THIS SIGN IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF A HIGHWAY."

(b) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) knowingly enters into a contract to print or make a political advertising sign that does not contain the notice required by Subsection (a); or

(2) instructs another person to place a political advertising sign that does not contain the notice required by Subsection (a).

(c) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

(d) It is an exception to the application of Subsection (b) that the political advertising sign was printed or made before September 1, 1997, and complied with Subsection (a) as it existed immediately before that date.

(e) In this section, "political advertising sign" means a written form of political advertising designed to be seen from a road but does not include a bumper sticker.

Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 288, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 1991. Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1134, Sec. 10, eff. Sept. 1, 1997; Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 1349, Sec. 71, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

Sec. 255.008. DISCLOSURE ON POLITICAL ADVERTISING FOR JUDICIAL OFFICE. (a) This section applies only to a candidate or political committee covered by Subchapter F, Chapter 253.

(b) Political advertising by a candidate who files a declaration of intent to comply with the limits on expenditures under Subchapter F, Chapter 253, or a specific-purpose committee for supporting such a candidate may include the following statement: "Political advertising paid for by (name of candidate or committee) in compliance with the voluntary limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act."

(c) Political advertising by a candidate who files a declaration of intent to comply with the limits on expenditures under Subchapter F, Chapter 253, or a specific-purpose committee for supporting such a candidate that does not contain the statement prescribed by Subsection (b) must comply with Section 255.001.

(d) Political advertising by a candidate who files a declaration of intent to exceed the limits on expenditures under Subchapter F, Chapter 253, or a specific-purpose committee for supporting such a candidate must include the following statement: "Political advertising paid for by (name of candidate or committee),

(who or which) has rejected the voluntary limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act."

(e) The commission shall adopt rules providing for:

(1) the minimum size of the disclosure required by this section in political advertising that appears on television or in writing; and

(2) the minimum duration of the disclosure required by this section in political advertising that appears on television or radio.

(f) A person who violates this section or a rule adopted under this section is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed:

(1) \$15,000, for a candidate for a statewide judicial office or a specific-purpose committee for supporting such a candidate;

(2) \$10,000, for a candidate for chief justice or justice, court of appeals, or a specific-purpose committee for supporting such a candidate; or

(3) \$5,000, for a candidate for any other judicial office covered by Subchapter F, Chapter 253, or a specific-purpose committee for supporting such a candidate.

(g) Section 253.176 applies to the imposition and disposition of a civil penalty under this section.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 763, Sec. 6, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

POLITICAL ADVERTISING

What You Need to Know



The Texas Election Code requires certain disclosures and notices on political advertising. The law also prohibits certain types of misrepresentation in political advertising and campaign communications. This brochure explains what you need to know to insure that your political advertising and campaign communications comply with the law.

If you are not sure what the law requires, do the cautious thing. Use the political advertising disclosure statement whenever you think it might be necessary, and do not use any possibly misleading information in political advertising or a campaign communication. If you are using political advertising or campaign communications from a prior campaign, you should check to see if the law has changed since that campaign.

Candidates for federal office should check with the Federal Election Commission at (800) 424-9530 for information on federal political advertising laws.

NOTICE: This guide is intended only as a general overview of the disclosure statements that must appear on political advertising as required under [Chapter 255 of the Election Code](#), which is distinct from political reporting requirements under [Chapter 254 of the Election Code](#).

Texas Ethics Commission
P.O. Box 12070
Austin, Texas 78711-2070

(512) 463-5800

TDD (800) 735-2989

Visit us at www.ethics.state.tx.us.

Revised July 16, 2019

REQUIRED DISCLOSURE ON POLITICAL ADVERTISING

I. What Is Political Advertising?

The disclosure statement and notice requirements discussed in this section apply to “political advertising.” In the law, “political advertising” is a specifically defined term. Do not confuse this special term with your own common-sense understanding of advertising.

To figure out if a communication is political advertising, you must look at what it says and where it appears. If a communication fits in one of the categories listed in Part A (below) and if it fits in one of the categories listed in Part B (below), it is political advertising.

Part A. What Does It Say?

1. Political advertising includes communications supporting or opposing a candidate for nomination or election to either a public office or an office of a political party (including county and precinct chairs).
2. Political advertising includes communications supporting or opposing an officeholder, a political party, or a measure (a ballot proposition).

Part B. Where Does It Appear?

1. Political advertising includes communications that appear in pamphlets, circulars, fliers, billboards or other signs, bumper stickers, or similar forms of written communication.
2. Political advertising includes communications that are published in newspapers, magazines, or other periodicals in return for consideration.
3. Political advertising includes communications that are broadcast by radio or television in return for consideration.
4. Political advertising includes communications that appear on an Internet website.

II. When Is a Disclosure Statement Required?

The law provides that political advertising that contains express advocacy is required to include a disclosure statement. The person who causes the political advertising to be published, distributed, or broadcast is responsible for including the disclosure statement.

The law does not define the term “express advocacy.” However, the law does provide that political advertising is deemed to contain express advocacy if it is authorized by a candidate, an agent of a candidate, or a political committee filing campaign finance reports. Therefore, a disclosure statement is required any time a candidate, a candidate’s agent, or a political committee authorizes political advertising.

The precise language of political advertising authorized by someone other than a candidate, the candidate's agent, or a political committee will determine if the advertising contains express advocacy and is therefore required to include a disclosure statement. Generally, the question is whether the communication expressly advocates the election or defeat of an identified candidate, or expressly advocates the passage or defeat of a measure, such as a bond election. The inclusion of words such as "vote for," "elect," "support," "defeat," "reject," or "Smith for Senate" would clearly constitute express advocacy, but express advocacy is not limited to communications that use those words. Similar phrases, such as "Cast your ballot for X," would also constitute express advocacy. Additionally, in 2007, the United States Supreme Court held that an advertisement included express advocacy or its functional equivalent "if the ad is susceptible to no reasonable interpretation other than as an appeal to vote for or against a specific candidate." *FEC v. Wis. Right to Life, Inc.*, 551 U.S. 449 (2007). It is a question of fact whether a particular communication constitutes express advocacy. If you are not sure whether political advertising contains express advocacy, do the cautious thing and include the disclosure statement. That way, there is no need to worry about whether you have violated the law.

Remember: The concept of "express advocacy" is relevant in determining whether political advertising is required to include a disclosure statement. However, the political advertising laws governing the right-of-way notice, misrepresentation, and use of public funds by political subdivisions will apply to political advertising regardless of whether the advertising contains express advocacy.

III. What Should the Disclosure Statement Say?

A disclosure statement must include the following:

1. the words "political advertising" or a recognizable abbreviation such as "pol. adv."; and
2. the full name of one of the following: (a) the person who paid for the political advertising; (b) the political committee authorizing the political advertising; or (c) the candidate or specific-purpose committee supporting the candidate, if the political advertising is authorized by the candidate.

The disclosure statement must appear on the face of the political advertising or be clearly spoken if the political advertising is audio only and does not include written text.

The advertising should not be attributed to entities such as "Committee to Elect John Doe" unless a specific-purpose committee named "Committee to Elect John Doe" has filed a campaign treasurer appointment with the Ethics Commission or a local filing authority.

IV. Are There Any Exceptions to the Disclosure Statement Requirement?

The following types of political advertising do not need the disclosure statement:

1. t-shirts, balloons, buttons, emery boards, hats, lapel stickers, small magnets, pencils, pens, pins, wooden nickels, candy wrappers, and similar materials;
2. invitations or tickets to political fundraising events or to events held to establish support for a candidate or officeholder;

3. an envelope that is used to transmit political advertising, provided that the political advertising in the envelope includes the disclosure statement;
4. circulars or fliers that cost in the aggregate less than \$500 to publish and distribute;
5. political advertising printed on letterhead stationery, if the letterhead includes the name of one of the following: (a) the person who paid for the advertising, (b) the political committee authorizing the advertising, or, (c) the candidate or specific-purpose committee supporting the candidate, if the political advertising is authorized by the candidate. (Note: There is also an exception for holiday greeting cards sent by an officeholder, provided that the officeholder's name and address appear on the card or the envelope.)
6. postings or re-postings on an Internet website if the person posting or re-posting is not an officeholder, candidate, or political committee and did not make an expenditure exceeding \$100 in a reporting period for political advertising beyond the basic cost of hardware messaging software and bandwidth;
7. an Internet social media profile webpage of a candidate or officeholder, if the webpage clearly and conspicuously displays the full name of the candidate or officeholder; and
8. postings or re-postings on an Internet website if the advertising is posted with a link to a publicly viewable Internet webpage that either contains the disclosure statement or is an Internet social media profile webpage of a candidate or officeholder that clearly and conspicuously displays the candidate's or officeholder's full name.

V. What Should I Do If I Discover That My Political Advertising Does Not Contain a Disclosure Statement?

The law prohibits a person from using, causing or permitting to be used, or continuing to use political advertising containing express advocacy if the person knows it does not include the disclosure statement. A person is presumed to know that the use is prohibited if the Texas Ethics Commission notifies the person in writing that the use is prohibited. If you receive notice from the Texas Ethics Commission that your political advertising does not comply with the law, you should stop using it immediately.

If you learn that a political advertising sign designed to be seen from the road does not contain a disclosure statement or contains an inaccurate disclosure statement, you should make a good faith attempt to remove or correct those signs that have been distributed. You are not required to attempt to recover other types of political advertising that have been distributed with a missing or inaccurate disclosure statement.

VI. The Fair Campaign Practices Act.

The [Fair Campaign Practices Act](#) sets out basic rules of decency, honesty, and fair play to be followed by candidates and political committees during a campaign. A candidate or political committee may choose to subscribe to the voluntary code by signing a copy of the code and filing it with the authority with whom the candidate or committee is required to file its campaign

treasurer appointment. A person subscribing to the code may indicate that fact on political advertising by including the following or a substantially similar statement:

(Name of the candidate or political committee, as appropriate) subscribes to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

VII. Special Notice to Political Subdivisions and School Districts.

You may not use public funds or resources for political advertising. Please see our “Publications and Guides” section of our website for more information.

ROAD SIGNS

I. When Is the “Right-Of-Way” Notice Required?

All written political advertising that is meant to be seen from a road must carry a “right-of-way” notice. It is a criminal offense to omit the “right-of-way” notice in the following circumstances:

1. if you enter into a contract or agreement to print or make written political advertising meant to be seen from a road; or
2. if you instruct another person to place the written political advertising meant to be seen from a road.

II. What Should the “Right-Of-Way” Notice Say?

Section 259.001 of the Texas Election Code prescribes the exact language of the notice:

NOTICE: IT IS A VIOLATION OF STATE LAW (CHAPTERS 392 AND 393, TRANSPORTATION CODE) TO PLACE THIS SIGN IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF A HIGHWAY.

III. Do Yard Signs Have to Have the “Right-Of-Way” Notice?

Yes. The “right-of-way” notice requirement applies to signs meant to be seen from any road. The notice requirement assures that a person responsible for placing signs is aware of the restriction on placing the sign in the right-of-way of a highway.

IV. What About Bumper Stickers?

Bumper stickers do not need the “right-of-way” notice. They do, however, need a political advertising disclosure statement.

V. Where May I Place My Signs and How Long May Signs Be Posted?

For information about exactly where you may or may not place signs, or for information regarding the length of time your signs may be posted, check with your city or county government or your homeowner’s association. The Texas Ethics Commission does not have

jurisdiction over matters involving the location of signs, and the length of time that they may be posted.

MISREPRESENTATION

I. Are There Restrictions on the Contents of Political Advertising?

Political advertising and campaign communications may not misrepresent a person’s identity or official title, nor may they misrepresent the true source of the advertising or communication. The election law does not address other types of misrepresentation in political advertising or campaign communications.

Note that the misrepresentation rules apply to both political advertising and campaign communications. “Campaign communication” is a broader term than “political advertising.”

A “campaign communication” means “a written or oral communication relating to a campaign for nomination or election to public office or office of a political party or to a campaign on a measure.”

II. Misrepresentation of Office Title.

A candidate may not represent that he or she holds an office that he or she does not hold at the time of the representation. **If you are not the incumbent in the office you are seeking, you must make it clear that you are seeking election rather than reelection by using the word “for” to clarify that you don’t hold that office.** The word “for” must be at least one-half the type size as the name of the office and should appear immediately before the name of the office. For example, a non-incumbent may use the following formats:

**Vote John Doe
for Attorney General**

**John Doe
For
Attorney General**

A non-incumbent may not be allowed to use the following verbiage:

**Elect John Doe
Attorney General**

**John Doe
Attorney General**

III. Misrepresentation of Identity or Source.

A person violates the law if, with intent to injure a candidate or influence the result of an election, the person misrepresents the source of political advertising or a campaign communication or if the person misrepresents his or her own identity or the identity of his or her agent in political advertising or in a campaign communication. (If someone else is doing something for you, that person is your agent.) For example, you may not take out an ad in favor of your opponent that purports to be sponsored by a notoriously unpopular group.

IV. Use of State Seal.

Only current officeholders may use the state seal in political advertising.

V. Criminal Offenses.

Be aware that many violations of the Election Code are criminal offenses. For example, unlawfully using public funds for political advertising can be a Class A misdemeanor. So can misrepresenting one's identity or office title in political advertising. For more details on these offenses and political advertising in general, see [Chapter 255 of the Election Code](#).

Campaign Signs

During campaign season, the landscape blooms with a special kind of flower - the political sign. Unlike wildflowers that are welcome anywhere, putting campaign signs on public lands is illegal. So before you plant that sign, learn the law and keep Texas beautiful. TxDOT only regulates campaign signs under chapter 394 of the Texas Transportation Code.

You Need to Know

- It is illegal to place any signs on or within the right of way. This includes posting signs on trees, telephone poles, traffic signs and other objects on the right of way.
- Campaign signs along Texas roads can be placed on private property with the owner's permission.
- Before placing a sign inside of incorporated city limits, check with the city for applicable ordinances.

More information can be found in the [Political and Campaign Signs pamphlet](#).

Sign Removal

If you've placed your sign in the right of way or it's posing a traffic hazard, we will remove it without prior notice. All costs associated with sign removal will be paid by the sign owner.

More Information

TxDOT only controls the placement of signs in relation to the highway. For other questions concerning campaign signs or political advertising, you may wish to visit the [Texas Ethics Commission](#).

Contact Us

(512) 416-3030

[Email](#)

POLITICAL AND CAMPAIGN SIGNS

NON-COMMERCIAL SIGNS VISIBLE TO PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

PRIMARY HIGHWAYS

During campaign season, the landscape blooms with a special kind of flower - the political sign. Unlike wildflowers which are welcome anywhere, putting campaign signs on public lands is illegal. So before you plant that sign, learn the law and keep Texas beautiful.

TxDOT does not control the content of private signage. If you have questions about what may be on a political sign, please contact the Texas Ethics Commission at (512) 463-5800

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Where can I place political signs?

As far as TxDOT is concerned, you can place your signs anywhere so long as they are not in the highway right of way or in a location that poses a safety hazard (e.g. blocking sight to a driveway). Always make sure to check with local authorities (Cities, Counties, Homeowner's Associations, etc.) as they may have their own restrictions.

When can I place political signs?

TxDOT does not control when signs may be displayed for elections. However, cities and counties may have their own time restrictions for political signs.

There is a sign on private property posing a safety hazard

TxDOT does not have the authority to remove non-commercial signage from private property. If you believe a sign or signs create a safety hazard, contact local law enforcement as they can have the owner remove or relocate their sign(s).

There are signs located on the Right of Way (ROW)

Signs cannot be placed on the ROW as per Texas Transportation Code (TTC) §393.002. "A sheriff, constable, or other trained volunteer authorized by the commissioners court of a county may confiscate a sign placed in violation of Section 393.002." (TTC §393.003). For state-maintained highways, your local TxDOT district office also has the authority to remove signs located on state owned right of way.

Where is the ROW?

Typically, the ROW edge can be estimated by using one of the following features (whichever is furthest from the pavement's edge):

- Utility Lines
- Fences

If they are present, ROW markers would be the best way to determine the edge of state property. If you are unsure where the ROW starts or ends, you should contact your local TxDOT district office.

PRIMARY VS. RURAL HIGHWAYS

Interstates, US highways, and the majority of state highways, Farm to Market, and Ranch Roads in Texas are considered Primary Highways. The remaining public highways in Texas are considered Rural Roads.

TxDOT only regulates Rural Roads outside of incorporated city limits.

PUBLIC MAPS

TxDOT maintains a public map that shows which roads are considered Primary and which are considered Rural. To access this map, do the following:

Go to
www.txdot.gov



Select Business



Select Commercial Signs



Go to the bottom of the page and select "Commercial Sign Maps"

OR

Search Online:
"TxDOT Commercial Signs and Regulated Highways Map"

RURAL ROADS

On Rural Roads outside city limits, TxDOT controls the placement of political signage on private property. The placement of signs on the highway ROW is still prohibited on Rural Roads, and is handled the same as outlined above.

Political signs on Rural Roads must be:

1. On private property;
2. Erected no earlier than 90 days before an election and be removed no later than 10 days after the election;
3. Constructed of lightweight material; and
4. Not larger than 50 square feet.

For information on determining whether a roadway is a Primary or Rural Road, see above right or call our office at the number below.

For any other questions concerning political signs along Texas highways, contact the TxDOT Commercial Signs Regulatory Program by email at ROW_OutdoorAdvertising@txdot.gov or by phone at (512) 416-3030.

First Steps for Candidates Running for a County, Precinct, or District Office

This quick-start guide for non-judicial candidates is not intended to provide comprehensive information. Different filing requirements apply to certain judicial offices. For more details, including information for judicial candidates, see the Texas Ethics Commission's (TEC) website at www.ethics.state.tx.us.

1. All candidates must file a Campaign Treasurer Appointment (Form CTA)

All candidates must file [Form CTA](#) even if you do not intend to raise or spend any money. [Form CTA](#) is required to be filed before you file an application for a place on the ballot, raise or spend any money for your campaign, or announce your candidacy. Candidates for a county office (except for multi-county district offices) will file [Form CTA](#) with the county clerk, elections administrator, or tax assessor, as applicable.

2. Opposed Candidates: Will you accept or spend more than \$500 for the election?

• YES:

- You do not qualify to file on the modified reporting schedule.
- You are **required** to file pre-election campaign finance reports using [Form C/OH](#) if you have an opponent on the ballot. Find [Form C/OH](#) and its instructions on our "[Local Filers Non-Judicial Candidate/Officeholder](#)" webpage.
- Pre-election reports are due 30 days and 8 days prior to each election. To be timely filed, pre-election reports must be received by the county clerk, elections administrator, or tax assessor no later than the due date.

• NO:

- You can elect to file on the modified reporting schedule by completing the *Modified Reporting Declaration* on page two of [Form CTA](#). File [Form CTA](#) with the county clerk, elections administrator, or tax assessor.
- If you elect to file on the modified reporting schedule, you do not have to file pre-election campaign finance reports due 30 days and 8 days prior to the election.

• Exceed \$500: If you elect to file on the modified reporting schedule but later exceed \$500 in either contributions or expenditures, what reports you will be required to file depends upon when you exceed \$500.

- If you exceed \$500 prior to the 30th day before the election, you are **required** to file pre-election campaign finance reports due 30 days and 8 days prior to an election using [Form C/OH](#). To be timely filed, pre-election reports must be received by the county clerk, elections administrator, or tax assessor no later than the due date. Find [Form C/OH](#) and its instructions on our "[Local Filers Non-Judicial Candidate/Officeholder](#)" webpage.
- If you exceed \$500 after the 30th day before the election, you are **required** to file an Exceeded \$500 Limit report using [Form C/OH](#). To be timely filed, this report must be filed with the county clerk, elections administrator, or tax assessor within 48 hours of exceeding \$500. Find [Form C/OH](#) and its instructions on our "[Local Filers Non-Judicial Candidate/Officeholder](#)" webpage.

- If you exceed \$500 prior to the 8th day before the election, you are **required** to file a pre-election campaign finance report due 8 days prior to an election using [Form C/OH](#). To be timely filed, the pre-election report must be received by the county clerk, elections administrator, or tax assessor no later than the due date. Find [Form C/OH](#) and its instructions on our “[Local Filers Non-Judicial Candidate/Officeholder](#)” webpage.

3. Unopposed Candidates

If you do not have an opponent whose name will appear on the ballot in the election, you are an unopposed candidate and are not required to file pre-election campaign finance reports prior to that election.

4. All candidates must file semiannual campaign finance reports ([Form C/OH](#))

All candidates are **required** to file semiannual reports using [Form C/OH](#) even if you have no campaign activity or were unsuccessful in the election. Semiannual reports are due on January 15th and July 15th and must be filed with the county clerk, elections administrator, or tax assessor. To end your filing obligations, you must cease campaign activity and file a Final report using [Form C/OH](#) and attaching Form C/OH-FR (Designation of Final Report). Form C/OH-FR is found on the last page of [Form C/OH](#). Find [Form C/OH](#) and its instructions on our “[Local Filers Non-Judicial Candidate/Officeholder](#)” webpage. For more information, see “[Ending Your Campaign](#)” for local filers.

5. All candidates can use the TEC’s Filing Application to prepare campaign finance reports ([Form C/OH](#))

You can use the TEC’s [Filing Application](#) to prepare a PDF version of your campaign finance reports ([Form C/OH](#)). Select “Local Authority” and follow the steps to set up an account and login to the application. The filing application will walk you through each reporting schedule. Once you have completed your report, print out a copy, add your treasurer information, get it notarized, and file it with the county clerk, elections administrator, or tax assessor by the appropriate deadline.

6. Need More Information?

See the [Campaign Finance Guide for Candidates and Officeholders Who File With Local Filing Authorities](#), forms, instructions, examples on how to disclose contributions and expenditures, political advertising and fundraising guides, and other information you may find useful on our website at www.ethics.state.tx.us under the “Resources” and “Forms/Instructions” main menu items.

CANDIDATE MODIFIED REPORTING DECLARATION

FORM CTA
PG 2

11 CANDIDATE
NAME

12 MODIFIED
REPORTING
DECLARATION

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF YOU ARE CHOOSING MODIFIED REPORTING

•• This declaration must be filed no later than the 30th day before the first election to which the declaration applies. ••

•• The modified reporting option is valid for one election cycle only. ••
(An election cycle includes a primary election, a general election, and any related runoffs.)

•• Candidates for the office of state chair of a political party may NOT choose modified reporting. ••

I do not intend to accept more than \$500 in political contributions or make more than \$500 in political expenditures (excluding filing fees) in connection with any future election within the election cycle. I understand that if either one of those limits is exceeded, I will be required to file pre-election reports and, if necessary, a runoff report.

Year of election(s) or election cycle to
which declaration applies

Signature of Candidate

This appointment is effective on the date it is filed with the appropriate filing authority.

TEC Filers may send this form to the TEC electronically at treasappoint@ethics.state.tx.us
or mail to
Texas Ethics Commission
P.O. Box 12070
Austin, TX 78711-2070

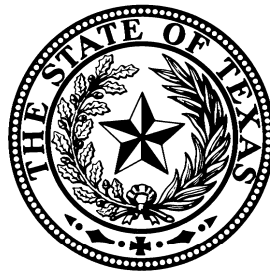
**Non-TEC Filers must file this form with the local filing authority
DO NOT SEND TO TEC**

For more information about where to file go to:
<http://204.65.203.6/filinginfo/QuickFileAReport.php>

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A CANDIDATE

FORM CTA – INSTRUCTION GUIDE



Revised July 14, 2010

Texas Ethics Commission, P.O. Box 12070, Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 463-5800 FAX (512) 463-5777 TDD 1-800-735-2989

Visit us at <http://www.ethics.state.tx.us> on the Internet.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Texas Ethics Commission does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

FORM CTA–INSTRUCTION GUIDE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Duties of a Candidate or Officeholder	1
Qualifications of Campaign Treasurer.....	1
Duties of a Campaign Treasurer	1
Requirement to File Before Beginning a Campaign.....	1
Where to File a Campaign Treasurer Appointment.....	2
Filing With a Different Authority	3
Forming A Political Committee.....	3
Changing a Campaign Treasurer	4
Amending a Campaign Treasurer Appointment	4
Reporting Requirement for Certain Officeholders	4
Terminating a Campaign Treasurer Appointment	4
Filing a Final Report	4
Electronic Filing	5
Guides	5

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Page 1	5
Page 2.....	6

APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A CANDIDATE

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

These instructions are for the APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A CANDIDATE (Form CTA). Use Form CTA only for appointing your campaign treasurer. Use the AMENDMENT (Form ACTA) for changing information previously reported on Form CTA and for renewing your choice to report under the modified schedule. Note: Candidates for most judicial offices use Form JCTA to file a campaign treasurer appointment.

DUTIES OF A CANDIDATE OR OFFICEHOLDER. As a candidate or officeholder, you alone, not the campaign treasurer, are responsible for filing this form and all candidate/officeholder reports of contributions, expenditures, and loans. Failing to file a report on time or filing an incomplete report may subject you to criminal or civil penalties.

QUALIFICATIONS OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER. A person is ineligible for appointment as a campaign treasurer if the person is the campaign treasurer of a political committee that has outstanding filing obligations (including outstanding penalties). This prohibition does not apply if the committee in connection with which the ineligibility arose has not accepted more than \$5,000 in political contributions or made more than \$5,000 in political expenditures in any semiannual reporting period. A person who violates this prohibition is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed three times the amount of political contributions accepted or political expenditures made in violation of this provision. Note: A candidate may appoint himself or herself as his or her own campaign treasurer.

DUTIES OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER. State law does not impose any obligations on a candidate's campaign treasurer.

REQUIREMENT TO FILE BEFORE BEGINNING A CAMPAIGN. If you plan to run for a public office in Texas (except for a federal office), you must file this form when you become a candidate even if you do not intend to accept campaign contributions or make campaign expenditures. A "candidate" is a person who knowingly and willingly takes affirmative action for the purpose of gaining nomination or election to public office or for the purpose of satisfying financial obligations incurred by the person in connection with the campaign for nomination or election. Examples of affirmative action include:

- (A) the filing of a campaign treasurer appointment, except that the filing does not constitute candidacy or an announcement of candidacy for purposes of the automatic resignation provisions of Article XVI, Section 65, or Article XI, Section 11, of the Texas Constitution;
- (B) the filing of an application for a place on the ballot;
- (C) the filing of an application for nomination by convention;

- (D) the filing of a declaration of intent to become an independent candidate or a declaration of write-in candidacy;
- (E) the making of a public announcement of a definite intent to run for public office in a particular election, regardless of whether the specific office is mentioned in the announcement;
- (F) before a public announcement of intent, the making of a statement of definite intent to run for public office and the soliciting of support by letter or other mode of communication;
- (G) the soliciting or accepting of a campaign contribution or the making of a campaign expenditure; and
- (H) the seeking of the nomination of an executive committee of a political party to fill a vacancy.

Additionally, the law provides that you must file this form before you may accept a campaign contribution or make or authorize a campaign expenditure, including an expenditure from your personal funds. A filing fee paid to a filing authority to qualify for a place on a ballot is a campaign expenditure that may not be made before filing a campaign treasurer appointment form with the proper filing authority.

If you are an officeholder, you may make officeholder expenditures and accept officeholder contributions without having a campaign treasurer appointment on file. If you do not have a campaign treasurer appointment on file and you wish to accept *campaign* contributions or make *campaign* expenditures in connection with your office or for a different office, you must file this form before doing so. In such a case, a sworn report of contributions, expenditures, and loans will be due no later than the 15th day after filing this form.

WHERE TO FILE A CAMPAIGN TREASURER APPOINTMENT. The appropriate filing authority depends on the office sought or held.

a. Texas Ethics Commission. The Texas Ethics Commission is the appropriate filing authority for the Secretary of State and for candidates for or holders of the following offices:

- Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, Treasurer, Land Commissioner, Agriculture Commissioner, Railroad Commissioner.
- State Senator or State Representative.
- Supreme Court Justice, Court of Criminal Appeals Judge, and Court of Appeals Judge.*
- State Board of Education.
- A multi-county district judge* or multi-county district attorney.
- A single-county district judge.*

- An office of a political subdivision other than a county if the political subdivision includes areas in more than one county and if the governing body of the political subdivision has not been formed.
 - A chair of the state executive committee of a political party with a nominee on the ballot in the most recent gubernatorial election.
 - A county chair of a political party with a nominee on the ballot in the most recent gubernatorial election if the county has a population of 350,000 or more.
- * Judicial candidates use FORM JCTA to appoint a campaign treasurer.

b. County Clerk. The county clerk (or the county elections administrator or tax assessor, as applicable) is the appropriate local filing authority for a candidate for:

- A county office.
- A precinct office.
- A district office (except for multi-county district offices).
- An office of a political subdivision other than a county if the political subdivision is within the boundaries of a single county and if the governing body of the political subdivision has not been formed.

c. Local Filing Authority. If a candidate is seeking an office of a political subdivision other than a county, the appropriate filing authority is the *clerk or secretary of the governing body* of the political subdivision. If the political subdivision has no clerk or secretary, the appropriate filing authority is the governing body's presiding officer. Basically, any political subdivision that is authorized by the laws of this state to hold an election is considered a local filing authority. Examples are cities, school districts, and municipal utility districts.

FILING WITH A DIFFERENT AUTHORITY. If you have a campaign treasurer appointment on file with one authority, and you wish to accept campaign contributions or make or authorize campaign expenditures in connection with another office that would require filing with a different authority, you must file a new campaign treasurer appointment *and* a copy of your old campaign treasurer appointment (certified by the old authority) with the new filing authority before beginning your campaign. You should also provide written notice to the original filing authority that your future reports will be filed with another authority.

FORMING A POLITICAL COMMITTEE. As a candidate, you must file an APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A CANDIDATE (FORM CTA). You may also form a specific-purpose committee to support your candidacy. Remember that filing a campaign treasurer appointment for a political committee does not eliminate the requirement that a candidate file his or her own campaign treasurer appointment (FORM CTA) and the related reports.

NOTE: See the *Campaign Finance Guide for Political Committees* for further information about specific-purpose committees.

CHANGING A CAMPAIGN TREASURER. If you wish to change your campaign treasurer, simply file an amended campaign treasurer appointment (FORM ACTA). This will automatically terminate the outgoing campaign treasurer appointment.

AMENDING A CAMPAIGN TREASURER APPOINTMENT. If *any* of the information reported on the campaign treasurer appointment (FORM CTA) changes, file an AMENDMENT: APPOINTMENT OF A CAMPAIGN TREASURER BY A CANDIDATE (FORM ACTA) to report the change.

REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN OFFICEHOLDERS. If you are an officeholder who appoints a campaign treasurer after a period of not having one, you must file a report of contributions, expenditures, and loans no later than the 15th day after your appointment is effective. This requirement is not applicable if you are a candidate or an officeholder who is merely changing campaign treasurers.

TERMINATING A CAMPAIGN TREASURER APPOINTMENT. You may terminate your campaign treasurer appointment at any time by:

- 1) filing a campaign treasurer appointment for a successor campaign treasurer, or
- 2) filing a final report.

Remember that you may not accept any campaign contributions or make or authorize any campaign expenditures without a campaign treasurer appointment on file. You may, however, accept officeholder contributions and make or authorize officeholder expenditures.

If your campaign treasurer quits, he or she must give written notice to both you and your filing authority. The termination will be effective on the date you receive the notice or on the date your filing authority receives the notice, whichever is later.

FILING A FINAL REPORT. For filing purposes, you are a “candidate” as long as you have an appointment of campaign treasurer on file. If you do not expect to accept any further campaign contributions or to make any further campaign expenditures, you may file a final report of contributions and expenditures. A final report terminates your appointment of campaign treasurer and relieves you of the obligation of filing further reports as a candidate. If you have surplus funds, or if you retain assets purchased with political funds, you will be required to file annual reports. (*See instructions for FORM C/OH - UC.*) If you are an officeholder at the time of filing a final report, you may be required to file semiannual reports of contributions, expenditures, and loans as an officeholder.

If you do not have an appointment of campaign treasurer on file, you may not accept *campaign* contributions or make *campaign* expenditures. A payment on a campaign debt is a campaign expenditure. An officeholder who does not have an appointment of campaign treasurer on file may accept *officeholder* contributions and make *officeholder* expenditures.

To file a final report, you must complete the CANDIDATE/OFFICEHOLDER CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT (FORM C/OH), check the “final” box on Page 1, Section 9, and complete and attach the DESIGNATION OF FINAL REPORT (FORM C/OH-FR).

ELECTRONIC FILING. All persons filing campaign finance reports with the Texas Ethics Commission are required to file those reports electronically unless the person is entitled to claim an exemption. Please check the Ethics Commission’s website at <http://www.ethics.state.tx.us> for information about exemptions from the electronic filing requirements.

GUIDES. All candidates should review the applicable Ethics Commission’s campaign finance guide. Guides are available on the Ethics Commission’s website at <http://www.ethics.state.tx.us>.

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Each numbered item in these instructions corresponds to the same numbered item on the form.

PAGE 1

- 1. TOTAL PAGES FILED:** After you have completed the form, enter the total number of pages of this form and any additional pages. A “page” is one side of a two-sided form. If you are not using a two-sided form, a “page” is a single sheet.
- 2. CANDIDATE NAME:** Enter your full name, including nicknames and suffixes (e.g., Sr., Jr., III), if applicable. Enter your name in the same way on Page 2, Section 11, of this form.
- 3. CANDIDATE MAILING ADDRESS:** Enter your complete mailing address, including zip code. This information will allow your filing authority to correspond with you. If this information changes, please notify your filing authority immediately.
- 4. CANDIDATE PHONE:** Enter your phone number, including the area code and extension, if applicable.
- 5. OFFICE HELD:** If you are an officeholder, please enter the office you currently hold. Include the district, precinct, or other designation for the office, if applicable.
- 6. OFFICE SOUGHT:** If you are a candidate, please enter the office you seek, if known. Include the district, precinct, or other designation for the office, if applicable.
- 7. CAMPAIGN TREASURER NAME:** Enter the full name of your campaign treasurer, including nicknames and suffixes (e.g., Sr., Jr., III), if applicable.
- 8. CAMPAIGN TREASURER STREET ADDRESS:** Enter the complete street address of your campaign treasurer, including the zip code. You may enter either the treasurer’s business or residential street address. If you are your own treasurer, you may enter either your business or residential street address. Please do not enter a P.O. Box.

- 9. CAMPAIGN TREASURER PHONE:** Enter the phone number of your campaign treasurer, including the area code and extension, if applicable.
- 10. CANDIDATE SIGNATURE:** Enter your signature after reading the summary. Your signature here indicates that you have read the following summary of the nepotism law; that you are aware of your responsibility to file timely reports; and that you are aware of the restrictions on contributions from corporations and labor organizations.
- The Texas nepotism law (Government Code, chapter 573) imposes certain restrictions on both officeholders and candidates. You should consult the statute in regard to the restrictions applicable to officeholders.
 - A candidate may not take an affirmative action to influence an employee of the office to which the candidate seeks election in regard to the appointment, confirmation, employment or employment conditions of an individual who is related to the candidate within a prohibited degree.
 - A candidate for a multi-member governmental body may not take an affirmative action to influence an officer or employee of the governmental body to which the candidate seeks election in regard to the appointment, confirmation, or employment of an individual related to the candidate in a prohibited degree.
 - Two people are related within a prohibited degree if they are related within the third degree by consanguinity (blood) or the second degree by affinity (marriage). The degree of consanguinity is determined by the number of generations that separate them. If neither is descended from the other, the degree of consanguinity is determined by adding the number of generations that each is separated from a common ancestor. Examples: (1) first degree - parent to child; (2) second degree - grandparent to grandchild; or brother to sister; (3) third degree - great-grandparent to great-grandchild; or aunt to niece who is child of individual's brother or sister. A husband and wife are related in the first degree by affinity. A wife has the same degree of relationship by affinity to her husband's relatives as her husband has by consanguinity. For example, a wife is related to her husband's grandmother in the second degree by affinity.

PAGE 2

- 11. CANDIDATE NAME:** Enter your name as you did on Page 1.
- 12. MODIFIED REPORTING DECLARATION:** Sign this option if you wish to report under the modified reporting schedule.

The modified reporting option is not available for candidates for the office of state chair of a political party.

To the left of your signature, enter the year of the election or election cycle to which your selection of modified reporting applies.

Your selection of modified reporting is valid for an entire election cycle. For example, if you choose modified reporting before a primary election, your selection remains in effect for any runoff and for the general election and any related runoff. You must make this selection at least 30 days before the first election to which your selection applies.

An opposed candidate in an election is eligible to report under the modified reporting schedule if he or she does not intend to accept more than \$500 in political contributions or make more than \$500 in political expenditures in connection with an election. The amount of a filing fee paid to qualify for a place on the ballot does not count against the \$500 expenditure limit. An opposed candidate who reports under the modified schedule is not required to file pre-election reports (due 30 days and 8 days before an election) or runoff reports (due 8 days before a runoff). (Note: An *unopposed* candidate is not required to file pre-election reports in the first place.) The obligations to file semiannual reports, special pre-election reports (formerly known as telegram reports), or special session reports, if applicable, are not affected by selecting the modified schedule.

The \$500 maximums apply to each election within the cycle. In other words, you are limited to \$500 in contributions and expenditures in connection with the primary, an additional \$500 in contributions and expenditures in connection with the general election, and an additional \$500 in contributions and expenditures in connection with a runoff.

EXCEEDING \$500 IN CONTRIBUTIONS OR EXPENDITURES. If you exceed \$500 in contributions or expenditures in connection with an election, you must file according to the regular filing schedule. In other words, you must file pre-election reports and a runoff report, if you are in a runoff.

If you exceed either of the \$500 limits *after the 30th day before the election*, you must file a sworn report of contributions and expenditures within 48 hours after exceeding the limit. After that, you must file any pre-election reports or runoff reports that are due under the regular filing schedule.

Your selection is not valid for other elections or election cycles. Use the amendment form (ACTA) to renew your option to file under the modified schedule for a different election year or election cycle.

For more information, see the Ethics Commission’s campaign finance guide that applies to you.

CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

FORM CFCP COVER SHEET

Pursuant to chapter 258 of the Election Code, every candidate and political committee is encouraged to subscribe to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices. The Code may be filed with the proper filing authority upon submission of a campaign treasurer appointment form. Candidates or political committees that already have a current campaign treasurer appointment on file as of September 1, 1997, may subscribe to the code at any time.

Subscription to the Code of Fair Campaign Practices is voluntary.

OFFICE USE ONLY
Date Received
Date Hand-delivered or Postmarked
Date Processed
Date Imaged

1 ACCOUNT NUMBER (Ethics Commission Filers)	2 TYPE OF FILER CANDIDATE <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICAL COMMITTEE <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If filing as a candidate, complete boxes 3 - 6, then read and sign page 2.</i> <i>If filing for a political committee, complete boxes 7 and 8, then read and sign page 2.</i>				
3 NAME OF CANDIDATE (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)	TITLE (Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.) NICKNAME	FIRST LAST	MI SUFFIX (SR., JR., III, etc.)		
4 TELEPHONE NUMBER OF CANDIDATE (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)	AREA CODE ()	PHONE NUMBER	EXTENSION		
5 ADDRESS OF CANDIDATE (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)	STREET / PO BOX;	APT / SUITE #;	CITY;	STATE;	ZIP CODE
6 OFFICE SOUGHT BY CANDIDATE (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)					
7 NAME OF COMMITTEE (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)					
8 NAME OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)	TITLE (Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.) NICKNAME	FIRST LAST	MI SUFFIX (SR., JR., III, etc.)		

GO TO PAGE 2

CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

There are basic principles of decency, honesty, and fair play that every candidate and political committee in this state has a moral obligation to observe and uphold, in order that, after vigorously contested but fairly conducted campaigns, our citizens may exercise their constitutional rights to a free and untrammelled choice and the will of the people may be fully and clearly expressed on the issues.

THEREFORE:

- (1) I will conduct the campaign openly and publicly and limit attacks on my opponent to legitimate challenges to my opponent's record and stated positions on issues.
- (2) I will not use or permit the use of character defamation, whispering campaigns, libel, slander, or scurrilous attacks on any candidate or the candidate's personal or family life.
- (3) I will not use or permit any appeal to negative prejudice based on race, sex, religion, or national origin.
- (4) I will not use campaign material of any sort that misrepresents, distorts, or otherwise falsifies the facts, nor will I use malicious or unfounded accusations that aim at creating or exploiting doubts, without justification, as to the personal integrity or patriotism of my opponent.
- (5) I will not undertake or condone any dishonest or unethical practice that tends to corrupt or undermine our system of free elections or that hampers or prevents the full and free expression of the will of the voters, including any activity aimed at intimidating voters or discouraging them from voting.
- (6) I will defend and uphold the right of every qualified voter to full and equal participation in the electoral process, and will not engage in any activity aimed at intimidating voters or discouraging them from voting.
- (7) I will immediately and publicly repudiate methods and tactics that may come from others that I have pledged not to use or condone. I shall take firm action against any subordinate who violates any provision of this code or the laws governing elections.

I, the undersigned, candidate for election to public office in the State of Texas or campaign treasurer of a political committee, hereby voluntarily endorse, subscribe to, and solemnly pledge myself to conduct the campaign in accordance with the above principles and practices.

Signature

Date

Frequently Asked Questions

For Candidates

1. I've decided to run for office. Now what?

After you make the decision to run for office, you must file a [Campaign Treasurer Appointment](#). (Judicial candidates need to use [Form JCTA](#)). This is required before you file an application for a place on the ballot, raise or spend any money for your campaign, or announce your candidacy publicly or privately. Please be aware that becoming a candidate will trigger filing requirements. You can familiarize yourself with these requirements by consulting the appropriate [campaign finance guide](#) and [filing schedule](#).

If this is your first time filing reports with the Texas Ethics Commission, you will be assigned a Filer ID from the Commission after the Commission has received your Campaign Treasurer Appointment. This Filer ID and a link to set your password will be emailed to you. The Ethics Commission will also mail to you via the United States Postal System pertinent information on reporting requirements, late-filing penalties, and online locations of the Commission's forms, schedules, and guides. Once you have a Filer ID and have set your password, you can electronically file your campaign finance reports.

2. I'm not going to raise any money. Do I still need to appoint a treasurer?

Yes. The law requires every candidate to file a campaign treasurer appointment, even if the candidate does not intend to raise or spend money. You are permitted to appoint yourself as your treasurer.

3. If I run for office again do I need to appoint a campaign treasurer again?

If you are running for the same office and have not terminated your campaign treasurer appointment by filing a final report, you are not required to file another appointment of a campaign treasurer (Form CTA).

4. Where do I file my forms?

Where you file depends on whether you are running for a "local" office or one that is required to file with the Texas Ethics Commission.

5. How do I determine whether I am a "local" filer or a Texas Ethics Commission filer?

Local offices may include:

- County offices (county commissioner, tax assessor/collector, precinct chair, constable, justice of the peace, sheriff, etc.)
- City offices (mayor, council member, secretary, etc.)
- Political Subdivision offices (school board, community college trustee, municipal utility district, water district, etc.)

Statewide offices and other offices that file with the Texas Ethics Commission include:

- Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, Railroad Commissioner, Land Commissioner, Agriculture Commissioner, State Chair of political party
- Texas Senate, Texas House of Representatives
- Multi-county District Attorney
- State Board of Education
- Supreme Court Justice, Court of Appeals Justice, Court of Criminal Appeals Judge, and district judges

6. I am a “local” filer. Where do I file my forms?

Local candidates do not file with the Texas Ethics Commission. If you are a local candidate, you will file with your local filing authority.

The filing authority for a local candidate or officeholder depends on the nature of the office sought or held:

- County Clerk. The county clerk (or the county elections administrator or tax assessor, as applicable) is the appropriate filing authority for a candidate for:
 - a county office
 - a precinct office
 - a district office (except for multi-county district offices)
 - an office of a political subdivision other than a county if the political subdivision is within the boundaries of a single county and if the governing body of the political subdivision has not been formed.
- Other local filing authority. If a candidate is seeking an office of a political subdivision other than a county, the appropriate filing authority is the *clerk or secretary of the governing body* of the political subdivision. If the political subdivision has no clerk or secretary, the appropriate filing authority is the governing body’s presiding officer.

7. I have never filed with the Ethics Commission. How do I get started?

To file with the Texas Ethics Commission, you need a Filer ID. This Filer ID is assigned to you by the Commission. The fastest way to get started is to fill out a [Campaign Treasurer Appointment – Form CTA](#) (judicial candidates need to use [Form JCTA](#)) and a [Form Security](#). Email your treasurer appointment to the Ethics Commission at treasappoint@ethics.state.tx.us and email your security form to the Ethics Commission at formsecurity@ethics.state.tx.us. Your new Filer ID and a link to set your password will be emailed to you. The Ethics Commission will mail to you via the United States Postal System pertinent information on reporting requirements, late-filing penalties, and online locations of the Commission’s forms, schedules, and guides.

8. What reports will I need to file?

Candidates will typically need to file a treasurer appointment and periodic campaign finance reports disclosing the candidate's activity. The specific forms required will depend on what office you are seeking. Other forms may be required in less common situations, such as filing a correction or amending a treasurer appointment. All potentially required forms and their companion instruction guides can be found on our [Forms/Instructions ▾ Candidates and Officeholders](#) page.

9. Do I have to file my reports electronically?

Filers who file with the Texas Ethics Commission are required to file campaign finance reports electronically. A filer must request an electronic filing password using a [Form Security](#) and email it to the Ethics Commission at formsecurity@ethics.state.tx.us to file the reports. An exception exists for filers who have limited activity and do not use computer equipment to keep track of their political activity. A filer claiming this exception must attach an [affidavit of exemption](#) to each report filed on paper. The appointment of a campaign treasurer form and any amendments to that form must still be filed on paper.

Filers who file with local authorities are not required to file electronically under state law. However, these filers should check with their local filing authority to determine whether that authority requires electronic filing.

10. How do I get my name on the ballot?

Contact the Secretary of State’s Elections Division or your local party for questions about the application for a place on the ballot.

11. Do I still have to file reports if I chose modified reporting on my treasurer appointment?

By selecting the modified reporting schedule you are indicating that you plan to stay under the \$500 threshold in both contributions or expenditures in connection with an election. The modified reporting schedule exempts you from filing 30-day and 8-day pre-election reports. If you have selected the modified reporting schedule, you must still report activity during the entire period you were a candidate, either on a semiannual report or on a final report. Please note that the payment of a filing fee is not considered when calculating whether a filer has exceeded \$500 in expenditures.

12. What happens if I select modified reporting and then exceed \$500?

If you select modified reporting and exceed \$500 (in either contributions or expenditures in connection with an election) before the 30-day pre-election report is due, you must file required 30-day and 8-day pre-election reports (keep in mind that unopposed candidates are not required to file these reports regardless of their level of activity). If you exceed a \$500 threshold after the 30-day pre-election report is due, you must file an “exceeded \$500 report” within 48 hours of exceeding the threshold and, if the threshold is exceeded before the 8-day pre-election report is due, you must file the 8-day pre-election report.

13. When do I have to file my campaign finance reports?

Due dates for campaign finance reports can be found on the appropriate [filing schedule](#).

14. When do I have to file my report for it to be timely?

Most reports are considered timely filed if they are postmarked or electronically submitted by the due date. If filing electronically, a report must be filed by midnight Central time on the night of the due date to be considered timely filed. A 30-day, 8-day, or special pre-election report must be received by the filing authority no later than the due date to be considered timely filed.

15. I was a candidate in an election, and I lost. Do I need to file any further reports?

Losing an election does not end your filing responsibilities with the Texas Ethics Commission or with your local filing authority.

If your situation meets all of the following criteria, you may file a final report to terminate your treasurer and terminate future filing requirements:

- you do not currently hold an office, and
- you lost the election, and
- you have no remaining funds or assets in your campaign account

The final report will cover the period beginning where your last report ended and ending on the day the final report is filed.

Filing a final report terminates your campaign treasurer appointment and terminates your status as a “candidate” for filing purposes. Please remember that you may not accept campaign contributions or make campaign expenditures without having a campaign treasurer appointment on file.

If you do not file a final report after the election, you will be required to file semiannual reports until you file a final report. Officeholders who have filed a final report may still have additional filing requirements. See the relevant [campaign finance guide](#) for additional information.

16. How do I complete the campaign finance report?

Each form has a [companion instruction guide](#) that instructs you how to fill out the form line-by-line. Most questions about how to fill out the form can be answered by consulting these instructions. Other topics like reporting expenditures from personal funds, reporting staff reimbursements, and reporting credit card expenditures are explained more fully in the reporting resources found in the [Helpful Information section](#) on the Campaign Finance Resources page.

17. What kind of bank account should I open?

You must deposit your political contributions in a separate account from any other account you maintain. State law does not require this account to be a particular type of account (e.g., a business account), but bank policies may restrict the type of account you can use. Please consult your financial institution.

18. Do I need to get a tax identification number?

The laws under the jurisdiction of the Texas Ethics Commission do not require a candidate or political committee to obtain a Tax Identification Number. Please contact the Internal Revenue Service and the Texas Workforce Commission for further information.

19. How can I spend my campaign funds?

You may use your political funds to pay for most expenses you incur as a candidate or officeholder. The primary restriction in using campaign funds is that you cannot convert them to personal use. You can consult the commission's [preexisting opinions](#) about permissible and impermissible uses of political funds.

Additional restrictions exist for payments to close family members, payments to a business of the candidate, and payments from judicial candidates and officeholders to candidates or political committees. These restrictions are discussed in more detail in the [campaign finance guides](#).

20. I'm running for a city or county office. Do I need to file a personal financial statement?

A personal financial statement is a document disclosing a candidate or officer's personal financial activity over the period of a calendar year (in contrast to a campaign finance report, which discloses a campaign's financial activity).

Generally, the Texas Ethics Commission does not have jurisdiction to determine whether a candidate for local office is required to file a personal financial statement. However candidates for district attorney must file personal financial statements with the Commission. Other candidates should contact their local filing authority to determine whether they need to file a personal financial statement.

21. What has to be on my signs?

Most political advertising requires a political advertising disclosure statement and signs designed to be seen from a road must contain a highway right-of-way notice. Additionally, non-incumbent candidates must use the word "for" before the name of the office they are seeking. Please see the [Political Advertising Guide](#) for more specific information.

22. Where and when can I post my campaign signs?

The placement of signs is primarily regulated by the Texas Department of Transportation, which can be reached at (512) 416-2901. However, before distributing any political advertising, a candidate should have a treasurer appointment on file with the proper filing authority. Please be aware that the placement of signs or other advertising on corporate property may be a prohibited corporate contribution.

23. What are my contribution limits?

The state does not have contribution limits for most offices. Judicial candidates are subject to contribution limits, which are discussed further in the [Campaign Finance Guide for Judicial Candidates](#). Some political subdivisions do impose their own contribution limits, so a candidate should always check with the local authority to see if any relevant limits apply.

24. What are my restrictions on fundraising?

All candidates are prohibited from accepting contributions from a corporation or labor organization and from accepting a cash contribution exceeding \$100. Candidates are also prohibited from accepting anonymous contributions, so for this reason, fundraising strategies like contribution jars are discouraged. For more information about fundraising, see the [Political Fundraising Guide](#).

25. How do I correct a report?

A filer may correct a report filed with the Texas Ethics Commission or a local filing authority at any time. If you are required to file reports electronically with the Ethics Commission, then reports can be corrected through the software by selecting the option to "Correct a Filed Report." If you qualify to file reports on paper with the Ethics Commission, then you will need to submit a correction affidavit, an [affidavit for electronic filing exemption](#), and the pages of the report that are being corrected. If you are required to file reports with a local filing authority, you will need to submit a correction affidavit and the pages of the report that are being corrected. Depending on the type of report that is being corrected, you should use the appropriate correction affidavit form found at the [Forms/Instructions ▾Candidate/Officeholders](#) page.

26. Will the Ethics Commission make paper copies of electronically filed reports available?

Yes for a surcharge. Members of the public may make an [open records request](#) for specified copies of reports. There is a fee for copies.

27. May someone who files with a local filing authority file electronically?

Local filers may file electronically if your local authority has an electronic filing system for campaign finance reports. Check with your local authority to find out if electronic filing is an option. At this time, most local authorities *do not* offer electronic filing. There are, however, a few local filing authorities that offer, and in some instances even require, electronic filing. Local filers wanting to generate a pdf copy of their report, can also use the TEC filing application to generate the report. The report must still be filed with your local filing authority. See [Filing Reports ▾ Local Filers ▾ Campaign Finance Reports](#) to generate your report using TEC filing application.

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES

Texas Secretary of State – Elections Division

(512) 463-5650 or 1-800-252-VOTE (8683)

www.sos.state.tx.us

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 12060 - Austin, Texas 78711-2060

Physical Address:

1019 Brazos - Austin, Texas 78701

Texas Ethics Commission – State Capitol

(512) 463-5800

www.ethics.state.tx.us

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 12070 - Austin, TX 78711-2070

Physical Address:

201 E. 14 St - 10th Floor - Austin, Texas 78701

Federal Election Commission

1-800-424-9530

www.fec.gov

1050 First Street, NE. - Washington, D.C. 20463

Republican Party of Texas

(512) 477-9821

www.texasgop.org

Tom Mechler, Chair

1108 Lavaca St., Suite 500 - Austin, Texas 78701

Texas Democratic Party

(512) 478-9800

www.texasdemocrats.org

Gilberto Hinojosa, Chair

4818 East Ben White Blvd., Suite 104 - Austin, TX 78741

Libertarian Party of Texas

1-800-422-17764

www.leptexas.org

John Wilford, Chair

111 Congress Ave., Ste. 400 - Austin, TX 78701

Green Party of Texas

(210) 471-1791

www.txgreens.org

Alfred Molison, Co-Chair / Janis Richards, Co-Chair

P.O. Box 271080 - Houston, TX 77277-1080

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

VOTETEXAS.GOV

www.votetexas.gov

TEXAS CONSTITUTION, STATUTES & ELECTION CODES

www.statutes.capitol.texas.gov

TEXAS LEGISLATURE ONLINE

www.capitol.texas.gov

TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE – ELECTIONS

[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.viewtac?tac_view=4&ti=1&pt=4&ch=81](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.viewtac?tac_view=4&ti=1&pt=4&ch=81)

**REFER TO SOS WEBSITE OR CALL 1-800-252-VOTE
FOR ADDITIONAL VOTER AND ELECTION RESOURCES**

**VISIT THE SOS WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ON THE
FOLLOWING:**

- **OTHER FILING OPTIONS:**
 - LIBERTARIAN OR GREEN PARTY
 - INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE
 - WRITE-IN CANDIDATE
- **PETITION IN LIEU OF FILING FEE INFORMATION**
- **WITHDRAWALS**
- **CANDIDATE FORMS**

Refugio County

ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION

VOTER REGISTRATION

Rachael B. Garcia

Refugio County Elections Administrator

Catherine Fuller

Assistant Elections Administrator

**P.O. BOX 452 – 414 C North Alamo St.
Refugio, Texas 78377**

OFFICE: (361) 526-2151 • FAX: (361) 526-2102

EMAIL: rachael.garcia@co.refugio.tx.us

(Office Hours May Vary During Election Cycles)

**A DROP BOX IS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE FRONT (OUTSIDE) OF THE ELECTIONS OFFICE
FOR CANDIDATE & VOTER REGISTRATION FILINGS**

WEBSITE

www.co.refugio.tx.us

Click on Elections Administration

ALSO BE SURE TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



**Visit the Refugio County Elections Administration Website and
Facebook Page for Local Up-To-Date Information and Reminders**

VOTER REGISTRATION/ELECTION RECORDS PUBLIC INFORMATION REQUEST

All Request Must Be Made In Writing

You may now request voter registration list in person or by email.

(This includes list of registered voters & voting history list)

METHOD	LETTER SIZE 8.5 X 11	LEGAL SIZE 8.5 X 14	OTHER 11 X 17	HOW TO OBTAIN
	COST PER PAGE			
Hard Copy	.10	.25	.50	Complete A Voter Registration/Election Records Public Information Request Form At The Elections Administration Office
	For Colored Copies Add .05/Per Page			
Electronic Format	No Cost To Email			Request Must Be Specific And Detailed Chose Format (Pdf, Excel Or Csv)
	There May Be A Fee For List That Are Not Commonly Generated			In Order To Receive A Daily List, A Request Must Be Received Daily (Ex. Early Voting Voters Voted)
	<i>Note: Some Voter Information/Election Records May Not Be Submitted Via Electronic Format</i>			

The Information Requested Will Be Furnished Not Later Than The 15th Day After The Date The Request Is Received. (Texas Election Code, Section 18.066)

COMMON REQUEST

List of Registered Voters

- County/Precinct/City/School

Voting History

- Daily List of Voters Voted (In Person/By Mail)
- Voters Voted (Democratic Party/Republican Party/General)
- Current/Past Elections

Maps (County/Precinct/City/School)

WHEN CAN I GET THE RECORDS

PUBLIC INFORMATION REQUEST SCHEDULE

FORM	AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC
Application for Ballot by Mail	1st business day after election
Annual Application for Ballot by Mail	1st business day after voter was mailed a ballot for the earliest election submitted
List of Early Voting in Person	By 11:00 A.M. the next day after voter entered/voted
List of Absentee Ballots By Mail - Ballot Received	By 11:00 A.M. the next day after ballot was received
List of Absentee Ballots By Mail - Ballot Mailed	1st business day after election

NOTICE OF OFFENSE OF ILLEGAL USE OF LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS

The Information Obtained From The Copy Of The County Voter File Shall Not Be Used In Connection With Advertising Or Promoting Commercial Products Or Services, An Offense Under Section 18.009 V.T.C.A., Election Code Is A Class A Misdemeanor.

THINGS TO KNOW

WHERE DO I FILE MY PAPERWORK			
OFFICE	EA	PARTY CHAIR	COUNTY JUDGE
APPOINTMENT OF CAMPAIGN TREASURER	√		
FINANCE REPORTS	√		
APPLICATION FOR A PLACE ON THE BALLOT			
PRIMARY		√	
PETITION IN LIEU OF A FILING FEE			
PRIMARY		√	
GENERAL			√
WRITE-IN			
GENERAL			√
<p>A Person Who Was A Candidate For Office In The Primary Election Is Ineligible For A Place On The List Of Write-In Candidates For That Same Office In The Succeeding General Election For State And County Officers. Section 162.015, Texas Election Code.</p>			
INDEPENDENT			√
<p>You May Have Your Name Placed On The General Election Ballot As An Independent Candidate If You Are Not Affiliated With A Political Party. Section 1.005(9) Texas Election Code.</p> <p>If You Vote In A Party’S Primary Elections Or Participate In A Party’S Conventions, You Thereby Affiliate With The Party. Sections 142.008, 162.003, 162.007, Texas Election Code.</p>			

**THE FOLLOWING SERVES AS A GUIDE TO
THE MOST COMMON QUESTIONS AND
IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO HELP YOU
DURING YOUR CAMPAIGN.**

THINGS TO KNOW

POLITICAL ADVERTISING

Refer All Campaign Questions To The Texas Ethics Commission Or Texas Secretary Of State Office.

The Refugio County Elections Administration Office Is Not The Monitoring Authority For Candidate Signs, Sign Placements Nor The Accuracy Of The Language On The Signs.

ACTIVITIES IN VICINITY OF THE POLLING PLACE

BYSTANDER

A Person May Not Be In The Polling Place During Early Voting/Election Day Hours From The Time The Election Judge Arrives Until Polls Have Closed.

Exception: Candidates (If Voting Or Conducting Official Business Within The Building, And Not Within View/Hearing Of Voters And Not Engaged In Campaign Activity). It Is A Class C Misdemeanor.

ELECTIONEERING IN THE POLLING PLACE

No Advocating For Or Against A Candidate, Measure, Party Or Issue Within The Protective Legal Boundary Surrounding A Polling Place. Includes Posting, Use Or Distribution Of Political Signs Or Literature. It Is A Class C Misdemeanor.

Any Comments Or Actions Related To Such, Will Be Stopped Immediately Or Removed.

(Includes Political Signs, Shirts, Buttons, Pens, Vehicles Within 100 Feet Of Polling Place With A Car Decal/Sign)

100 FT WITHIN THE POLLING PLACE

Electioneering Is Not Allowed Within 100 Feet Of The Early Voting/Election Day Polling Place.

(Includes Vehicles Within 100 Feet Of Polling Place With A Car Decal Or Sign)

Electioneering Is Allowed Outside The 100 Foot Distance Marker.

SOUND DEVICES WITHIN 1000 FT OF THE POLLING PLACE

A Person May Not Use A Sound Amplification Device With 1000 Feet Of The Polling Place To Make A Political Speech Or Electioneer.

WRITTEN MATERIALS

Voters Are Permitted To Bring Written Materials As A Guide To Help Them Vote In The Polling Place As Long As The Material Is Not Shared Or Left Behind. Any Material Left Behind Will Be Disposed Of.

(Includes Newspaper Clipping, Marked Sample Ballot Or Any Other Guide To Help The Voter)

WIRELESS/RECORDING DEVICES

Wireless/Recording Devices May Not Be Used Within 100 Feet Within The Polling Place.

Includes Cell Phones, Cameras, Tablets, Etc. That Can Communicate Wirelessly Or Take Pictures.

Please Refrain From Talking On The Telephone Or Conversing With Other Voters Directly Outside The Polling Place Or Within The 100 Foot Distance Markers.

Exception: Election Workers Conducting Official Duties For The Conduct Of The Election.

THINGS TO KNOW

PARTY AFFILIATION

In The State Of Texas, A Voter Does Not Affiliate Or Register Him/Herself With A Certain Party.

The Voter Is Only Affiliated With A Party By Voting In A Party'S Primary Of That Primary Year.

Example: If A Voter Votes In A Democratic Primary, The Voter Is Affiliated For The Rest Of That Year With The Democratic Party. The Voter May Change Parties And Vote Republican In The Next Primary If The Voter Chooses To Do So.

It Means The Voter May Not Vote In Another Party'S Primary, Participate In Another Party'S Convention, Or Sign An Independent Candidates Petition If Independent Candidate Position Appears On The Primary Ballot.

Note: In The General Election In November, All Candidates Will Appear On One Ballot And The Voter May Vote For Any Candidate/Party The Voter Wishes.

SAMPLE BALLOTS

Sample Ballots Are Posted In Each Polling Place And On The Refugio County Elections Administration Office Website.

Voters And Candidates May Pick Up A Sample Ballot In The Refugio County Elections Administration Office.

Sample Ballots Can Be Pre-Marked And Copied For Distribution By Candidates And Voters.

Copies Of The Sample Ballots May Not Be The Same Color (Yellow) As The Original Sample Ballots.

WHERE DO I GO TO SEE IF I'M REGISTERED TO VOTE

Contact The Refugio County Elections Administration Office.

Visit Texas Secretary Of State Website > Elections > Am I Registered To Vote?

HOW DO I MAKE A VOTER REGISTRATION CHANGE (ADDRESS CHANGE/NAME CHANGE)

WITHIN THE COUNTY

Correct Your Current Voter Registration Certificate On The Back And Return It To The Refugio County Elections Administration Office.

Fill Out A New Voter Registration Application Form And Check The "Change" Box.

When You Apply For Or Change Your Texas Driver'S License, You Can Change Your Voter Information At The Same Time.

As Long As You Reside In The Same County, You Can Change Your Information Online At The Secretary Of State'S Voter Registration Name/Address Change Website.

Visit Sos Website > Elections > Am I Registered To Vote? > Change Your Address

MOVED OUT OF COUNTY

If You Moved To Another County, You Must Re-Register!

Fill Out And Mail A New Application, Or Take It In Person, To The Voter Registrar Of Your New County.

THINGS TO KNOW

WHEN CAN I VOTE

EARLY VOTING - IN PERSON

Texas Enables Residents To Vote In The Days And Weeks Before An Election To Make The Voting Process More Convenient And Accessible By Showing Up In Person During The Prescribed Early Voting Period.

All Early Voting Is Conducted At The Refugio County Elections Administration Office For All County/Political Subdivision Elections.

Hours Of Early Voting Will Vary Depending On Type Of Election.

EARLY VOTING - BY MAIL

Voters May Contact The Refugio County Elections Administration Office, Download An Application For Ballot By Mail/FPCA Form From The Texas Secretary Of State Website.

YOU MAY VOTE EARLY BY MAIL IF:

- Will Be Away From Your County On Election Day And During Early Voting
- Are Sick Or Disabled
- Are 65 Years Of Age Or Older On Election Day
- Are Confined In Jail, But Eligible To Vote

The First Day To Apply For A Ballot By Mail Begins January 1St Of Every Year

Voters Must Call And Request An Application For Ballot By Mail For Every Election In Order To Receive A Ballot.

ANNUAL APPLICATION FOR BALLOT BY MAIL

- Over 65 Years Of Age Or Older
- Disability

The First Day To Apply For A Ballot By Mail Begins January 1St Of Every Year.

The Voter Will Only Need To Request Once A Year.

The Voter Will Automatically Receive A Ballot For Each Election The Voter Qualifies To Vote In.

FEDERAL POST CARD REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST (FPCA)

- To Temporarily Register And Request Early Voting Ballots For:
 - Member Of Armed Forces, Their Spouses And Dependents
 - Members Of Merchant Marines, Their Spouses And Dependents
 - United States Citizens Domiciled In Texas But Temporarily Living Outside Of The U.S.
 - United States Citizens Dwelling Outside The U.S.

ELECTION DAY

Voters Can Vote From 7:00 A.M. Until 7:00 P.M. On Election Day At Their Polling Location/Precinct Assigned.

In Some Cases, Polling Places/Precincts May Be Combined/Consolidated.

To Find Your Polling Place/Precinct

- It Is Printed On The Right Side Of Your Voter Registration Card
- Contact the Refugio County Elections Administration Office
- Visit the Texas Secretary Of State Website > Elections > Am I Registered To Vote?

THINGS TO KNOW

WHAT IDENTIFICATION DO I NEED TO VOTE

VOTER ID

Voters Must Present An Acceptable, Valid Form Of Photo Id As Prescribed By Texas Secretary Of State Office. If The Voter Cannot Reasonably Obtain One Of The Acceptable Forms Of Photo ID As Required, The Voter Can Present An Alternate Supporting Form Of ID As Prescribed By The Texas Secretary Of State Office And Complete A Reasonable Impediment Declaration Form And Indicate The reason.

If The Voter Posses A Valid Form Of Photo Id, Such As A Drivers License, But Forgets It At Home, It Does Not Qualify For The Alternate Supporting Document /Reasonable Impediment Declaration Form.

In That Case, The Voter May Leave The Polling Place And Return With The Valid Photo Id Or Vote A Provisional Ballot And Bring Acceptable Form Of Photo Id To The Refugio County Elections Administration Office Within 6 Days To Cure Ballot.

Failure To Do So Will Result In Their Ballot Being Rejected.

The Address On The Voters Id, Such As A Drivers License, Does Not Need To Match Their Voter Registration Address.

VOTER REGISTRATION CARD

A Voter Does Not Have To Provide Their Voter Registration Card To Vote.

Only a valid form of ID is required as prescribed.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF VOTERS

SUSPENSE "S" VOTERS

The Voter Registrar Has Received Information Which Indicates That Voter May Have Moved.

The Voter Will Need To Update Their New Address Or Verify Existing Address Within The County/Political Subdivision.

Voter Must Completed A Statement Of Residence Card Before Being Allowed To Vote.

PROVISIONAL VOTERS

No Voter Will Be Denied The Opportunity To Vote. If The Voter Does Not Meet The Standard Qualifications To Vote, The Voter Will Have The Option To Vote A Provisional Ballot.

Reasons That A Voter May Vote A Provisional Ballot:

A Voter Who Does Not Possess Proper Form Of Acceptable Id Or Supporting Identification

Does Not Have Acceptable Photo Id With Them (There Is A Cure Period To Present Id To Be Accepted For Voting)

Does Not Have Due To Religious Objection To Being Photographed

Due To Natural Disaster Declared By Governor/President

Disability Exemption But Does Not Have Registration Certificate With (E)

THINGS TO KNOW

DIFFERENT TYPES OF VOTERS (CONTINUED)

PROVISIONAL VOTERS (CONTINUED)

- Id Cannot Be Verified By Photo Id Presented By Voter
- Is Not On The List Of Registered Voters
- Registered In Another Precinct/Wrong Precinct
- Voter Voted By Mail And Has Not Cancelled Mail Ballot Application
- Votes After 7:00 P.M. Due To Court Order Extending Hours
- On List Of Registered Voters But Residence Address Is Outside County/Political Subdivision
- Voter No Longer Lives In County/Political Subdivision

Each Provisional Ballot That Was Cast Will Then Be Researched By The Elections Administrator/Voter Registrar And The Early Voting Ballot Board Will Determine Whether The Ballot Is Counted Or Rejected.

LIMITED BALLOT

If A Voter Has Moved To This County From Another County And Has Not Registered Yet, A Voter May Vote A Limited Ballot If The Voter Was Registered In Old County.

This May Only Be Done During The Early Voting Period. Cannot Be Done On Election Day.

This Will Allow The Voter To Only Vote For Candidates Or Issues That Are In Common Between Your Old County And Your New County.

PRESIDENTIAL

Former Residents Of Texas Who Have Recently Moved To Another State But Did Not Register In Time To Vote In The New State May Vote A Presidential Ballot For President/Vice-President Under Certain Circumstances At The Elections Administration Office.

CURBSIDE VOTERS

A Voter Who Is Unable To Enter A Polling Place With Assistance Or Likelihood Of Injury Is Allowed To Vote Curbside.

Curbside Is Available During Early Voting And On Election Day.

The Voter May Want To Call Ahead So That The Election Workers Can Prepare And Be Readily Available To Go Outside When The Voter Arrives.

VOTING ORDER PRIORITY VOTER

An Election Officer May Give Voting Order Priority To Individuals With A Mobility Problem That Substantially Impairs The Person'S Ability To Move Around.

Disabilities And Conditions That May Qualify For Voting Order Priority Include Paralysis, Lung Disease, The Use Of Portable Oxygen, Cardiac Deficiency, Severe Limitation In The Ability To Walk Due To Arthritic, Neurological, Or Orthopedic Condition, Wheelchair Confinement, Arthritis, Foot Disorder, The Inability To Walk 200 Feet Without Stopping To Rest, Or Use Of A Brace, Cane, Crutch, Or Other Assistive Device.

THINGS TO KNOW

VOTER ASSISTANT/INTERPRETER

IN THE POLLING PLACE

A Voter Who Is Physically Unable To Mark Ballot, Cannot Read The Ballot Due To Visual Or Other Impairment Qualifies To Have A Voter Assistant/Interpreter.

An Assistant Can Be Any Person The Voter Chooses, Except: Employer, Agent Of Their Employer, Officer Or Agent Of Voters Union.

A Candidate May Assist.

Election Workers May Assist.

An Assistant Must Not Mark The Ballot In Any Way Other Than What The Voter Has Indicated. It Is A Class A Misdemeanor.

APPLICATION FOR BALLOT BY MAIL (ABBM)

WITNESS

You Can Qualify To Be A Witness If The Voter Is Unable To Sign Name/Mark Name Only/Unable To Mark Name.

Witness May Only Witness No More Than One (Which Is Only One) Application For Ballot By Mail. It Is A Class B Misdemeanor.

Unless Relative Is A Parent, Grandparent, Spouse Or Child/Sibling.

See Instructions For More Information.

ASSISTANT

An Assistant Is Someone Who Helped Fill Out Or Mail/Fax/Email The Application For Ballot By Mail For The Voter.

An Assistant May Assist As Many Voters As Needed.

See Instructions For More Information.

BALLOT BY MAIL (YELLOW CARRIER ENVELOPE)

WITNESS

You Can Qualify To Be A Witness If Voter Is Unable To Sign Name/Mark Name Only/Unable To Mark Name.

There Is No Limit On How Many Can Be Witnessed.

See Instructions For More Information.

ASSISTANT

An Assistant Is Someone Who Helped Fill Out Or Mail The Ballot For The Voter.

Assistant May Assist As Many Voters As Needed.

See Instructions For More Information.

THINGS TO KNOW

REQUESTING APPLICATIONS FOR BALLOT BY MAIL (ABBM)

VOTER

Contact The Refugio County Elections Administration Office To Have An ABBM Mailed To You.

ABBM Will Be Completed For The Voter With The Accurate Information.

The Voter Will Only Need To Complete Highlighted Areas, Sign And Return.

Download The ABBM From The Texas Secretary Of State Office Or The Refugio County Elections Administration Website.

CANDIDATE

Upon Request, The Refugio County Elections Administration Office Will Only Supply (5) Blank ABBM Cards To Each Candidate.

You May Be Able To Receive Additional Blank ABBM Cards By Contacting The Texas Secretary Of State Office.

ABBM Are Available in Both English and Spanish.

We Recommend That Voters Call Us Directly To Request That A Completed ABBM Be Mailed To The Voter.

This Eliminates The Common Errors Such As Incorrect Full Name Of Voter, The Physical/Mailing Address Not Matching The Voter Registration Records, The Primary Party Choice Being Left Blank And Duplicates From Being Received.

Allows Us To Communicate Better With The Voter As The Deadline To Receive It Nears.

We CANNOT Release Voter Information To A Candidate On Whether An ABBM Was Mailed To Or Received By A Voter.

Only A Voter May Call Themselves To Verify Their Own ABBM Status.

REQUESTING VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

We Will Only Supply A Candidate, Upon Request, With (10) Blank Voter Registration Cards. We Have Both English And Spanish Available.

Voter Registration Cards Are Available in Both English and Spanish.

We Advise That A Candidate Should Only Be Handing Voter Registration Cards To A Voter To Fill Out And Should Not Complete, Accept Or Mail The Voter Registration Application For The Voter.

If Desired To Do So, We Recommend Becoming A Volunteer Deputy Registrar.

PEACE OFFICER IN THE POLLING PLACE

Only The Election Judge May Summon A Peace Officer In A Polling Place To Preserve Order During Early Voting And Election Day.

The Voter Should Contact The Refugio County Elections Administration Office Directly If There Is Reason To Believe There May Be An Issue.

THINGS TO KNOW

DAILY ROSTER - VOTING HISTORY

Voters That Voted Early In Person, By Mail And On Election Day Is Available For Public Viewing.

EARLY VOTING

A Roster Of Voters That Voted Each Day Of Early Voting Will Be Posted In The Refugio County Elections Administration Office And Website For Public Viewing By 11:00 A.M. The Next Day And Available On The Texas Secretary Of State Office Website.

ELECTION DAY

The Roster Will Be Available On The Refugio County Elections Administration Office And Website And On The Texas Secretary Of State Office Website After All Voters That Voted On Election Day Have Been Entered Into Our Voter Registration System.

ELECTION NIGHT

POLLS CLOSE

Polls Close At 7:00 P.M. On Election Day.

All Voters That Were In Line By 7:00 P.M. Will Be Allowed To Vote.

POST ELECTION

All Results Are Unofficial Results Until The Official Results Have Been Canvassed.

It Is Possible That The Unofficial Results May Change Due To Provisional Ballots Cast/Late Ballots Received That Were Post Marked By 7:00 P.M. On Election Day/Fpca And Overseas Ballots Received By The Deadline After Election.

HOW MANY VOTES DOES IT TAKE TO WIN OFFICE

PRIMARY

MAJORITY VOTE

A Candidate Must Receive More Than 50% Of The Total Vote

PRIMARY RUNOFF

REQUIRED IF

No Candidate Received The Vote Necessary To Be Elected In An Election Requiring A Majority Vote

GENERAL

PLURALITY

A Candidate Must Receive More Votes Than Any Other Candidate For The Office

THINGS TO KNOW

RELEASING ELECTION RESULTS

EARLY VOTING

Early Voting Results Will Be Released At 7:00 P.M. On Election Day.

Note: We Do Not Know The Results Of Early Voting At Any Time During Early Voting Or When The Polls Close For Early Voting.

The Refugio County Elections Administration Office Tabulates The Results On Election Day.

ELECTION DAY

Election Day Results Will Be Posted Throughout The Night As Precincts/Polling Places Arrive And Are Accepted And Processed.

TOTAL

The Total Results For The Election Will Be Complete At The End Of The Night After All Precincts/Polling Locations Have Been Processed.

All Results Are Unofficial Results Until The Official Results Have Been Canvassed.

It Is Possible That The Unofficial Results May Change Due To Provisional Ballots Cast/Late Ballots Received That Were Post Marked By 7:00 P.M. On Election Day/Fpca And Overseas Ballots Received By The Deadline After Election).

SOCIAL MEDIA

All Results Will Be Posted Beginning At 7:00 P.M. And Throughout The Evening And At The End Of The Night:

The Refugio County Elections Administration Office Website

The Refugio County Elections Administration Office Facebook Page

The Texas Secretary Of State Office Website

CALLING THE EA OFFICE

You Also Call The Refugio County Elections Administration Office For Results.

Phone Lines Will Be Available Until We Have Completed All Of Our Duties For Election Night.

Calls Will Not Be Accepted By The Elections Administrator Once Tabulation Begins And Until All Results Have Been Completed.

Please Address Any Issues, Complaints Or Concerns, That Can Wait, After Election Day .

THINGS TO KNOW

86TH TEXAS LEGISLATION UPDATES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST FOR CANDIDATES			
APPROXIMATELY 246 AMENDMENTS WERE MADE TO THE TEXAS ELECTION CODE			
RELATED TO	SUMMARY	EFFECTIVE	BILL
STRAIGHT PARTY VOTING	Ends The Ability To Allow Voters The Option To Vote A Straight Party Ballot. Straight Ticket Voting Will Not Be An Option For The November 2020 Election.	9/1/2020	HB 25 (2017)
BALLOT ORDER FOR A RUNOFF	The Order Of Candidates' Name On The Ballot For A Runoff Election Shall Be In The Same Order As They Appeared On The Ballot For The Original Election (Ex: Primary).	9/1/2020	HB 88
CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY	Provides Additional Guidelines For What Constitutes Continuous Residence For The Purpose Of Candidate Eligibility Requirements.	1/1/2020	HB 831
NAME ON A BALLOT	Provides That On A Ballot, A Candidate May Use Any Surname Acquired By Law Or Marriage.	9/1/2019	HB 2075
POLITICAL PARTY PROCEDURES	This Bill Makes A Number Of Changes To Political Party Procedures.	9/1/2019	HB 2640
FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE UPDATES AND TO GET MORE INFORMATION ON THE UPDATES ABOVE, VISIT THE TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE OFFICE WEBSITE.			

THE REFUGIO COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE IS A NON-PARTISAN OFFICE. ANY INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM OUR OFFICE IS THE SAME AND EQUAL INFORMATION PROVIDED TO ALL CANDIDATES AND VOTERS.

OUR GOAL IS TO PROVIDE EVERY VOTER THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE, TO EASE VOTER DOUBT IN THE CONDUCT OF OUR ELECTION PROCESS AND TO GAIN VOTER CONFIDENCE THAT EACH VOTER IS RECEIVING A SECURE AND PRIVATE VOTE.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE CONDUCT OF OUR ELECTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE REFUGIO COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE DIRECTLY.

IT IS BEST TO RECEIVE INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM OUR OFFICE, AS OUTSIDE RESOURCES MAY BE INACCURATE OR MISUNDERSTOOD.

YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT THE TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE OFFICE.



Election Security Update

There is no evidence that any voting or voter registration systems in Texas were compromised before the 2016 Election or in any subsequent elections.

Additionally, the Department of Homeland Security has offered a statement reiterating this fact as well.

Election security is a top priority for the Texas Secretary of State's office as we continue to employ effective and forward-thinking cybersecurity measures to further strengthen our state's elections systems and safeguard our elections infrastructure against any malicious cyber activity.

We have worked continuously to educate our election officials through both in person training and written materials on the numerous protections that are in place and are required by state law.

These safeguards include:

- No voting system is ever connected to the internet at any point - either when votes are being cast or when they are being counted. (Section 129.054 Texas Election Code)
- Only software certified by the Texas Secretary of State can be loaded on a computer used for counting or accumulating vote totals. (Section 129.055, Texas Election Code)
- Before and after use each day, all voting systems are sealed with locks and with seals with unique serial numbers, and all election workers must follow proper chain of custody procedures during the election, including a careful tracking of the serial numbers used to seal the machines at the end of each period of voting. (Secs. 129.051, 129.053, Texas Election Code)
- While voting is occurring, election judges are required to periodically inspect the equipment to ensure there is no tampering or damage to the equipment (Section 125.005, Texas Election Code).
- All voting systems are tested three times, twice before the machines are used in the election and once immediately after. The tests consist of a deck of ballots being voted on the machines and then tabulated to ensure that the machine results are correct and match the test stack of ballots. The machines cannot be used or deployed until the test is 100% successful. Note that one of the tests conducted before the machines are used in an election is open to the public, and notice of this test is published in a local paper. Each political party has the right to submit names of individuals to represent that party on the testing board and thus every county usually has a testing board that consists of at least one person from each political party. (Sec. 129.023 and Subchapter D, Chapter 127, Texas Election Code).
- The election worker at the polling place (both during early voting and election day) must confirm that there are zero votes cast at the opening of voting and at the end of voting they must compare the number of ballots



cast to the number of voters that have checked-in on the poll list. ([Advisory 2014-06, 127.068](#), Texas Election Code)

- Background checks are required for all personnel that prepare, test or service all voting system equipment. ([Sec. 129.051](#), Texas Election Code)
- Poll watchers are allowed to observe at all early voting and Election Day polling locations and at the central counting or accumulation station where ballots are being counted or vote totals accumulated. ([Chapter 33](#), Texas Election Code)
- A post-election audit (partial manual count) is required for all elections that have paper ballots. ([Sec. 127.201](#), Texas Election Code).
- The Secretary of State has the authority to conduct a manual or electronic recount of any election using electronic voting systems ([Sec. 127.202](#), Texas Election Code).

These safeguards are outlined in [Section 5 of the Electronic Voting System Procedures Advisory 2014-06](#).

The Texas Secretary of State's office has also taken the following steps to further strengthen election infrastructure security in the State of Texas:

- Established effective communication protocols with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to coordinate cybersecurity monitoring and response.
- Engaged in a pilot program with DHS and the Multi-State Information Sharing & Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), which helped develop and improve information sharing protocols between the federal government and the states in the realm of election security.
- Instituted multi-factor authentication for election officials to ensure that only those who are authorized to do so can gain access to the statewide voter registration database.
- Installed an active Albert sensor on our voter registration database that alerts our agency when any suspicious cyber-activity occurs.
- Submitted Texas' [proposal to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission \(EAC\) \(PDF\)](#) for implementing new cybersecurity and election security measures – both at the state and local levels – using funds from the 2018 HAVA disbursement to states for election security.
- Informed and encouraged Texas counties to take advantage of free cybersecurity services and physical security assessments available from DHS, MS-ISAC, and EI-ISAC.
- Purchased licenses for a cybersecurity training course for county election officials to take prior to the November 2018 election.
- Removed legal roadblocks that prevented counties from upgrading to newer, more secure systems.

As always, our Elections and Information Technology officials are working tirelessly to ensure that every eligible Texas voter can cast a ballot with confidence.

To view this entire article, visit [Texas Secretary of State Website](#).

Refugio County Switching to Latest Election Technology

Verity Voting from Hart InterCivic Will Debut in November

Request a Verity Demo: 866-216-4278

REFUGIO, Texas, October 9, 2018 – In a region still slowly recovering from Hurricane Harvey, rebuilding has been a long, time-consuming process for many. Repairs continue in county offices, and there is uncertainty about the future of the courthouse. However, with the help of Texas-based Hart InterCivic, replacing aging election equipment with modern, secure voting technology is on the fast track. Refugio County Commissioners chose to purchase Verity® Voting in mid-September, and Hart delivered new equipment the following week.

“I was concerned about a short turnaround before our November election, but Hart had Verity delivered and my office trained within two weeks,” said Elections Administrator Rachael B. Garcia. “Hart knew the importance of my timeline.”

“Refugio County is still living with Harvey’s catastrophic fallout. We have partnered with their elections team since 2005, and it is our privilege to work with them to deliver successful elections,” said Phillip Braithwaite, President and CEO of Hart InterCivic, an Austin-based company with more than 100 years of experience providing election solutions. “The County has made a solid choice for the future.”

“We have never been dissatisfied with Hart or our election system,” said Garcia, who has more than a decade of election experience. “When other vendors would come by with their pitches, I’d listen, but always tell them upfront how pleased we are with Hart.”

Verity is a federally and state certified system designed and built in Texas. More than half of the voters in the State cast their ballots on Hart’s voting systems. Verity is a natural next step for those ready to modernize and has flexibility to be used with paper, electronic or hybrid voting. Refugio County voters will mark their choices using touchscreens.

“Verity has a “Wow” factor,” Garcia said. “Our voters and poll workers are going to love the system and the touchscreen. It is easy, fast and will simplify our preparation. I am very excited.”

Neighboring Aransas and San Patricio counties are already successfully using Verity, another advantage for Refugio County and the region. “We’re a close-knit group. We share information and help each other out,” Garcia said.

“I’m confident looking ahead to the November election,” she added.

Refugio County joins a growing number of Texas jurisdictions moving to Verity. Since the Texas Secretary of State certified the latest release of the system in late 2016, Hart has shipped more than 8,000 Verity devices across the State. First federally certified in 2015, the secure and efficient system is also in use in numerous counties throughout the U.S.

Braithwaite expects more announcements as additional jurisdictions choose Verity to refresh their election technology.

Learn more about Verity in Texas: <https://www.hartintercivic.com/texas/>

About Hart InterCivic, Inc.

Austin-based Hart InterCivic is a full-service election solutions innovator, partnering with state and local governments to deliver secure, accurate and reliable elections. Working side-by-side with election professionals for more than 100 years, Hart is committed to helping advance democracy one election at a time. Hart's mission fuels its passionate customer focus and a continuous drive for technological innovation. The company's new [Verity Voting system](#) makes voting more straightforward, equitable and accessible—and makes managing elections more transparent, more efficient and easier. Only Hart offers a completely new, secure voting system with electronic, paper and hybrid options.



Voting System Security Technology

Security and auditability are of paramount importance to Hart InterCivic. The Hart Voting System and the Verity Voting system are regulated, tested and certified at both the federal and state levels. They have both been proven to be secure and accurate, successfully capturing and reporting millions and millions of votes across nearly 800 jurisdictions representing over 26 thousand precincts and nearly 30 million registered voters.

Security comes not only from hardware/software technology features, but also from the people who use the systems and the procedures they follow. Hart provides training courses for system operators and election officials, which includes security topics, physical device configuration, and data transfer. Hart encourages jurisdictions to utilize best practices to mitigate risks. Some include:

- Employing a chain of custody processes throughout all pre/during/post-election activities, physical numbered and logged security seals on devices, and experienced trusted election workers on staff
- Conducting Acceptance Testing upon receipt of equipment
- Pre-Election Logic and Accuracy Testing (conduct as provided under your respective State law)
- Post- Election auditing by inspecting the precinct totals and comparing to the cumulative totals

Hart voting systems incorporate a well-defined, end-to-end defense-in-depth (multi-layer) security strategy across all software and hardware elements.

To be awarded certification at the federal level, by the EAC, and to attain state certification, which is required in many states, voting systems must meet or exceed established security standards. Certified voting systems adhere to standards designed to ensure that systems accurately record votes the way they are cast. Security standards include protections against tampering or manipulation and cover requirements for physical security of the equipment and ballots, features that prevent connection to the internet or a network during the voting period, auditing capabilities and more.

Hart's current voting system – Verity Voting – reflects the very latest best practices in system security. Across all software elements and across all devices, Verity puts security first. Verity also supports the most sophisticated and thorough post-election audit processes.

Verity Software

- Hart systems are designed, engineered and manufactured in the United States of America.
- Hart systems are NEVER connected to the internet, intranets, other election office networks, voter registration infrastructure or any other system.
- Hart systems, including devices and workstations, have never included remote access software (such as pcAnywhere); Hart voting systems HAVE NEVER been and WILL NEVER be remotely accessible by Hart or by anyone else.
- Hart systems use application whitelisting, a more effective form of anti-virus, that prevents any unauthorized program, application or code from running on any voting system device or workstation.
- Cast vote record data is digitally signed using NIST-compliant FIPS 140-2 cryptographic modules.
- Data is stored in multiple redundant locations, ensuring no loss of data and easy detection of any attempts to manipulate data.
- Voting devices and workstations operate in "kiosk" mode, ensuring the user can only access those parts of the system which are required for election operation.
- Two-factor authentication is required to ensure access to critical functions is limited to authorized users; role-based profiles ensure that users may only access those parts of the system which they need to do their job.
- Hart systems support the most rigorous post-election audits.
- Throughout all phases of operation, all Verity system components maintain complete audit logs. Every Verity application thoroughly logs all user authorization/authentication, data entry, user interaction, vote adjudication and system events
- Election managers can print or export audit logs from each application, using easy-to-use report filtering to access precise information, for audits

Verity Physical Security Features

External cards, drives or other devices can NOT be inserted by voters into any Hart voting device, nor can executable code be hidden and run from voting system media cards.

Verity devices utilize specific physical features to prevent physical tampering. Access controls include:

- Keyed locks
- Tamper-evident seals
- Non-standard ports that only fit Hart-proprietary cables and devices and prevent insertion of standard, commercial-off-the-shelf cables
- Non-standard electrical wiring in strategic areas
- Two-factor authentication devices to secure access to critical election management functions

Hart recommends our customers deploy strong Chain of Custody processes including all pre-election programming, transport to polling locations, set up and operation within a polling location, pack-up and transport back to central office and storage between elections.

Hart Voting System (HVS) Security

For those jurisdictions using the Hart Voting System, election officials and voters benefit from specific features designed to deliver high performance and reliable security, resulting in a high degree of confidence:

- Security has been a fundamental design concept for the Hart Voting System from the beginning.
- The Hart Voting System includes both physical and electronic intrusion detection controls, such as standard election seals and time-stamped transaction logs that record every system action related to the voting process.
- The Hart Voting System provides:
 - Digital encryption to protect data.
 - Multiple memory storage of cast ballot data.
 - Self-contained components that are not externally networked.
 - Thorough audit logs that provide transparency.
 - Malicious code, or any executable software, cannot be run off of the data card from the polling place. The technology simply doesn't support this scenario.
- eSlate
 - Once a vote is cast on the eSlate system, multiple copies of the electronic ballot are saved simultaneously in different locations (on the eSlate, on the JBC and on the MBB which is inserted in the JBC), making lost data or undetectable fraud virtually impossible.
 - The eSlate's SELECT Wheel™ interface does not require calibration like older touch screen systems. There is no chance of false touches due to ballot images that are misaligned with touch sensors.
 - The eSlate has no external openings that could create a breach in the system's security that might provide access for creative hackers or others seeking to tamper, subvert, or vandalize the system or the election.
 - The system's eSlate® device allows the voter to double-check the ballot before casting it.
 - Each of the vote records can be verified and audited for security and accuracy.
- eScan
 - The eScan provides triple redundancy of the voter's choices: on the MBB flash memory card, within the eScan memory, and on the original marked paper ballot.
 - The scanned paper ballots are secured in a locked ballot box connected to the eScan.
 - The eScan also provides an electronic audit log that records all actions performed on the device with a date-time stamp.
 - The audit log can be printed out as needed by the jurisdiction.

Neither Hart system is ever, in any way, connected to any of the following:

- Internet
- Intranet or in-office networks
- Voter rolls/registration
- Voter personal data
- Other county election office applications
- Campaign/donor information
- Party/campaign volunteer information or schedules
- Voter communications regarding times/locations for early or Election Day voting
- Email systems

Altogether, these features are part of securing elections, making sure that every vote is accurately recorded, the voting process is transparent to voters, and results are auditable. Security is a key element in providing fair and accurate elections for all voters.