

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

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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.