



Texas Secretary of State
ELECTIONS DIVISION



2025 Legislative Update and Updated Election Forms



Agenda

Review the bills passed
by subject matter

Election forms which
were updated or created



Texas Secretary of State
ELECTIONS DIVISION



General Election Law Changes



Office Hours Rule

- [House Bill 640](#) (Bumgarner): Clarifies the definition of “regular business day” for the office hours of election authorities during the election period.
- “Regular business day” means a day when the main business office of the county, city, or other political subdivision is regularly open for business.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code § 31.122



Elections Administrator

- [House Bill 677](#) (DeAyala): Prohibits a county elections administrator from holding another office or position appointed by an elected official.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code § 31.035



Notice for Meetings (Including Canvass)

- [House Bill 1522](#) (Gerdes): Modifies notice requirements for meetings conducted under the open meetings law.
- Requires posting notice at least three business days before date of scheduled meeting.
- New requirements for meetings where a governmental body will discuss or adopt a budget.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Government Code § 551.043



Election Supplies

- [House Bill 1661](#) (Vasut): Number of ballots distributed cannot exceed the total number of registered voters in the precinct, unless the county is part of the countywide polling place program.
- Criminal offense for intentionally failing to provide the required number of ballots or who does not promptly supplement the distributed ballots upon request from a polling place.
- Elevated additional offenses.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code §§ 51.005, 51.008, 51.010, 51.011, 61.007



Cancellation of Elections

- **House Bill 2253 (Bhojani)**: Authorizes entities to cancel a measure that authorizes the issuance of bonds if Governor issues a disaster declaration regarding a natural disaster or other disaster which threatens the health, safety, or general welfare of the authority's residents within 90 days of the date of the election.
- Governing body must take certain steps:
 - Determine by majority vote that cancellation of the election is necessary under certain conditions.
 - Provide reasonable public notice of the meeting and allow members of public and press to observe meeting.
- Effective Date: Immediately
- Statutes Affected: Election Code § 2.081



Cancellation of Elections

- For information regarding the cancellation of elections for local political subdivisions, please see the following:
 - Outline on [Cancellation of Election for Local Political Subdivisions](#)
 - [Pre-Recorded Presentation on our Training and Education Resources page](#)



Local Option Liquor Elections

- [House Bill 2885](#) (Gerdes): Authorizes Bastrop County and the City of Garland to order local option elections to determine whether the sale of alcoholic beverages of one or more of the various types and alcoholic contents shall be legalized.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code § 501.0211



Disclosure of Personal Information

- [House Bill 3425](#) (Capriglione): Makes it a criminal offense to post or disclose the residence addresses or telephone number of public servants and their families through electronic communication with the intent to cause harm or a threat of harm.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Penal Code §§ 36.06, 42.074



Bond Elections

- [House Bill 3526](#) (**Capriglione**): Requires Attorney General to send information to Bond Review Board for inclusion in reports required under the Government Code.
 - Requires Bond Review Board to maintain on board's Internet website a publicly accessible and searchable database that provides information on each bond proposed or issued by a local government.
 - Not later than the 20th day before election day for an election to authorize a local government to issue bonds, local government must submit a report to Bond Review Board that includes certain information.
 - Local government must submit a report to the Bond Review Board that includes certain information not later than 20th day after election day.
-
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
 - Statutes Affected: Government Code §§ 1202.008, 1231.024, 1231.025, 1231.026, 1231.065



Penalty for Election Fraud

- [House Bill 5115](#) (Shaheen): Increases penalty for election fraud by reclassifying the offense from a Class A misdemeanor to a second-degree felony.
 - Expanded definition of election fraud by including certain actions.
 - If offense is committed by a person while acting in their capacity as an elected official, it is a felony of the first degree.
-
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
 - Statutes Affected: Election Code § 276.013
 - Repeals: Election Code §§ 276.013(c), 276.014



Non-Substantive Changes

- [House Bill 1620](#) (Leach): Makes non-substantive changes to various provisions in the Code of Criminal Procedure, Election Code, and other codes.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code § 41.0052, Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 2A.001, 2A.002



Ballot Language for Home-Rule Cities

- **Senate Bill 506 (Bettencourt)**: Provides for review of ballot language provided by home-rule cities for initiative, referendum, and charter amendment elections.
- Prescribes procedures for Secretary of State to review ballot propositions drafted by a city for certain elections.
- Not later than the seventh day after a home-rule city issues its election order for a charter amendment, initiative, or referendum election, a registered voter or the city may submit proposition for review by the Secretary of State.
- SOS must review within seven days to determine if language is misleading, inaccurate, or prejudicial.
- If SOS determines this is the case, city has three days to cure the proposition and give notice.



Ballot Language for Home-Rule Cities

- Senate Bill 506 (Cont.)
- If amended proposition is subsequently submitted to the SOS, and SOS again determines that language is not sufficient, then SOS must draft proposition.
- Prohibits political subdivisions from proposing a measure that would appear on the same ballot as a petition-initiated measure if the two measures include the same subject matter or conflict with each other.
 - Conflicting measure would be rendered void.
- Applies to petitions submitted on or after January 1, 2026.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code §§ 52.072, 233.0115, 273.101, 273.102, 273.103, 273.104, 277.005



Meeting of Presidential Electors

- [Senate Bill 688](#) (Hughes): Provides that meeting of presidential electors shall convene at 2 p.m. on the first Tuesday after the second Wednesday in December following their election.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code § 192.006



Combination of Precincts

- [Senate Bill 985](#) (Bettencourt, Paxton): Allows for combination of precincts in two circumstances:
 - **Population-Based Combination:** If changes in county election precinct boundaries due to a redistricting plan result in county election precincts with fewer than 3,000 registered voters, the commissioners court (for a general or special election) or the county executive committee of a political party (for a primary election) may combine these precincts under certain circumstances.
 - Combined precinct is subject to maximum population prescribed under Section 42.006.
 - **Combination Due to Lack of Suitable Polling Location:** For counties that do not participate in the countywide polling place program, commissioners court (for a general or special election) or the county executive committee of a political party (for a primary election) may combine precincts if:
 - No suitable building available for use as a polling place in one or more precincts, and
 - Location of combined polling place adequately serves voters of the combined precinct.
 - Combined precinct may not contain more than 10,000 registered voters.
 - See **Election Advisory No. 2025-13: Election Precincts and Polling Place**
-
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
 - Statutes Affected: Election Code § 42.0051



Tax Increase Elections

- [Senate Bill 1025](#) (**Bettencourt**): Requires a ballot proposition that increases taxes to include, in capital typewritten letters of the same font size as the rest of the proposition, the statement "THIS IS A TAX INCREASE."
- Effective Date: Immediately
- Statutes Affected: Election Code § 52.072



Prosecution of Election Offenses

- [Senate Bill 12](#) (2nd C.S.) (Hughes): Provides that the Attorney General has jurisdiction to prosecute and represent the state in the prosecution of a criminal offense prescribed by the election laws of this state.
- Effective Date: December 4, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Government Code §§ 402.151, 402.152, 402.153, Election Code §§ 273.021, 273.022



Redistricting

- [House Bill 4](#) (2nd C.S.) (Hunter): Effect on Congressional Candidate Applications
 - The redistricted maps only affect candidates running for United States House of Representatives.
 - The new districts do not affect the membership or congressional districts of the 119th Congress.
 - The new districts apply to the 2026 primary election and the November general election.
 - Candidates will file their application for a place on the primary ballot based on the new districts.
 - Effective Date: December 4, 2025



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Changing Date of General Election



Independent School Districts

- [House Bill 3546](#) (Martinez): Provides independent school districts with authority to, not later than December 31, 2030, change date of their general elections for officers to November uniform election date.
- Allows board of trustees to adopt a resolution to modify length of trustee terms until date the November election is canvassed
- Resolution must specify how transition from the former term length to the new term length will occur.
- Effective Date: Immediately
- Statutes Affected: Education Code § 11.059(e), Election Code § 41.0052
- Repeals: Education Code § 11.059(f) and (g)



City of Mission

- [Senate Bill 447](#) (Hinojosa, Juan): Allows the City of Mission to change the date of its general election to the November uniform election date.
- Prohibited from reverting to a different date in the future.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code § 41.0052



City of Alpine

- [Senate Bill 914 \(Blanco\)](#): Authorizes the City of Alpine to change the date on which it holds its general election to the November uniform election date not later than December 31, 2026.
- Provision expires on January 1, 2027.
- Effective Date: Immediately
- Statutes Affected: Election Code § 41.0052



Changing General Election to November Uniform Election Date

- [Senate Bill 1494](#) (Johnson, West): Authorizes the governing body of a political subdivision, other than a county or municipal utility district, to change the date on which it holds its general election to the November uniform election date in odd-numbered years no later than December 31, 2025.
- Effective Date: Immediately
- Statutes Affected: Election Code § 41.0052



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Voting System Equipment



Public Logic and Accuracy Test/Tabulation Test

- [Senate Bill 2166 \(Parker\)](#): Modifies requirements for conducting Public Logic and Accuracy Test and Tabulation Testing for electronic voting system equipment.
- Requires Logic and Accuracy Testing for electronic pollbook systems.
- Clarifies that Public Logic and Accuracy Test and tabulation testing are both conducted at the same time and distinguishes testing procedures for precinct scanners from testing procedures for central accumulators.
- Harmonizes notice requirements for both tests and requires testing to be performed by the 48th day before election day.
 - Notice of the public testing must be published on political subdivision's website at least 48 hours before test begins.
- No longer required to publish notice in newspaper for First Tabulation Test.
- Requires general custodian to demonstrate, using a representative sample of voting system equipment, that source code of the equipment has not been altered.
 - "Representative sample" means ten of each type of voting device, or five percent of each type of voting device to be used in election.
 - Whichever number is smaller.



Public Logic and Accuracy Test/Tabulation Test

- Senate Bill 2166 (Cont.)
- Clarifies that precinct scanners are required to be tested once as part of the Public Logic and Accuracy Test.
- Central counting station equipment is required to be tested three times for each election.
- Test materials are available for public inspection beginning on the first day after final canvass of the election.
 - Allows the container containing the test materials to be unsealed to respond to a PIR.
- Requires Logic and Accuracy Test to be conducted for electronic pollbook systems.
 - Test must be conducted at least 48 hours before voting begins.
 - Notice of test must be posted on entity's website at least 48 hours before test begins.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code §§ 127.091, 127.092, 127.093, 127.094, 127.096, 127.099, 127.100, 129.021, 129.023, 129.0231, 129.024
- Repeals: Election Code § 127.096(a-1)



Public Logic and Accuracy Test/Tabulation Test

- Senate Bill 2166 (Cont.)
- **Updated Forms and Notes:**
 - Notes for Form 15-1: Certification of Second Test of Automatic Tabulating Equipment Used at the Central Counting Station
 - Notes for Form 15-3: Certification of Third Test of Automatic Tabulating Equipment Used at the Central Counting Station
 - Form 15-5 Certification of Public Logic and Accuracy Test and First Test of Automatic Tabulation Equipment
 - Form 15-6 Public Notice of Test of Automatic Tabulating Equipment
 - Form 15-9 Public Notice of Logic and Accuracy Test of Electronic Pollbook Equipment
 - Form 15-10 Certification of Logic and Accuracy Test of Electronic Pollbook Equipment



Storage of Equipment

- [Senate Bill 2216 \(Hughes\)](#): Requires that equipment used in operation of a voting system be stored in a locked room.
 - Inventory of electronic information storage media must include information on polling location at which the storage media will be used.
 - Requires general custodian to place security seals on each unit of voting system equipment to prevent unauthorized access to the equipment.
 - Requires general custodian of election records to create a procedure for documenting which specific seals are placed on each unit of voting system equipment and any instance where the seals are removed.
 - Including identity of individual who removed seals and purpose for accessing equipment.
-
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
 - Statutes Affected: Election Code §§ 123.034, 129.051



Electronic Pollbooks, Reports, and Central Count

- [Senate Bill 2217 \(Hughes\)](#): Electronic Pollbook Requirements
- Requires specific reports to be generated from an electronic pollbook system and retained
- Requires a report of the total number of ballots scanned by a precinct scanner to be generated when polls close on the last day of early voting and on election day
 - *Note:* Just the number of ballots scanned, **NOT** the results for each candidate/measure
- Requires a report of the total number of ballots scanned to each media drive by a central scanner to be generated at the CCS
- Requires a reconciliation form to be completed with the total number of votes cast against the total number of voters at each polling place



Electronic Pollbooks, Reports, and Central Count

- Senate Bill 2217 (Cont.)
- **September 1, 2026** – A system that uses a central accumulator must generate a report of the total number of votes received by each candidate and for/against each measure at each polling location
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code §§ 31.014, 65.057, 66.005, 66.006, 121.003, 125.0635, 127.1302, 127.133



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Voting by Mail



Instructions for Prescribed ABBM

- [House Bill 2259 \(DeAyala\)](#): Instructions for the officially prescribed Application for Ballot by Mail must be presented in portrait orientation.
 - On a single piece of paper that is 8 1/2 by 11 inches.
 - Printed in 12-point Calibri or Aptos font
 - Or the largest font size that allows the instructions to fit on a single piece of paper.
 - Must contain bold print to adequately relate the instructions to an item on the application.
-
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
 - Statutes Affected: Election Code § 84.0112



Officially Prescribed ABBM

- [House Bill 3697](#) (Cortez): Provides that officially prescribed Application for Ballot by Mail issued by the Secretary of State must be printed in at least 10-point type and printed in black text.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code § 84.011



Officially Prescribed ABBM and Instruction Sheet

- SOS issued an updated ABBM and a separate application instruction sheet as a result of HB 3697 and HB 2259.
 - Application and Instruction Sheet are posted under Form 6-1 in the Forms Index



Corrective Action for Carrier Envelopes

- [Senate Bill 2964](#) (Hughes): If early voting clerk identifies a defect in a voter's carrier envelope, clerk must notify the voter of defect and provide a corrective action form within two days of discovering defect.
- Notice must include an explanation of the defect and explain how defect may be corrected not later than the sixth day after election day.
- If voter cannot be timely notified of defect, early voting clerk may contact the voter by telephone or email.
- No longer authorized to return defective carrier envelope in person or by mail to voter.
- Revised Form 6-15 (Notice of Carrier Defect Issued by the Early Voting Clerk)
- Previous Form 6-14 (Notice of Carrier Defect Issued by the EV Clerk - Defective Carrier Envelope Returned to the Voter by Mail) is no longer in use

- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code §§ 86.011, 86.015



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Voting in Person



Curbside Voting and Assistant Procedures

- [House Bill 521](#) (Guillen): Makes changes to curbside voting and assistance procedures:
- Requires that curbside voters execute a form attesting that they are physically unable to enter the polling place.
 - Makes it a Class A misdemeanor to intentionally fail to complete form.
 - Executed forms must be delivered to Secretary of State.
- If an election worker will be assisting a curbside voter, then two election workers must be present to provide assistance
 - Assistants being from different political parties if possible.
 - During early voting, a single worker may assist.
- If four or more election officers are present at polling place, two election officers shall deliver a ballot to a curbside voter.



Curbside Voting and Assistant Procedures

- House Bill 521 (Cont.):
 - When curbside voters are given transportation by another person, election officer must ask the person providing transportation whether they have assisted seven or more curbside voters during entire voting period (early voting and election day combined).
 - If driver indicates that they have, then they must complete and sign a form that contains certain information.
 - Forms must be delivered to Secretary of State as soon as practicable.
 - Failure to fill out form is a Class A misdemeanor.
 - Requires election officers to complete an assistance form when assisting a voter.
 - Class A misdemeanor to knowingly fail to complete an assistance form.
 - County election official must forward information regarding any individual who assisted a total of seven or more voters during the voting period to Secretary of State.
 - By the 30th day after election day
 - Prohibits loitering or electioneering within 20 feet of designated curbside voting parking spaces.
-
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
 - Statutes Affected: Election Code §§ 61.003, 64.009, 64.0322, 85.036



Curbside Voting and Assistant Procedures

- House Bill 521 (Cont):
 - For additional information regarding curbside voting and assistant procedures, see **Election Advisory No. 2025-12: Changes to Curbside Voting Requirements and Assistant Procedures**
- **Forms:**
 - Form 7-35 Distance Marker
 - Form 7-43 Curbside Voting Sign – Notification by Phone Number
 - Form 7-44 Curbside Voting Sign – Notification by Ringing Bell
 - Form 7-45 Curbside Distance Marker
 - Form 7-65 Information of Person Who Provided Transportation to a Total of Seven or More Curbside Voters During Early Voting and Election Day
 - Form 7-66 Curbside Voter Statement
 - Form 7-67 Election Worker Assistance Sheet



Wireless Communication Devices

- [House Bill 3909](#) (Hickland): Except as permitted by Sections 61.012 and 61.013 of the Election Code, a person may not use a wireless communication device within a room in which voting is taking place.
- Requires presiding judge to post a notice in a prominent and reasonably visible location.
- See Updated Form 7-39 (Prohibition of Certain Devices Within a Room in Which Voting is Taking Place)
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code § 61.014



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Voter Registration and Jury Management



Exemptions from Jury Service

- [House Bill 2637 \(DeAyala\)](#): Individuals aged 75 and older may claim permanent exemption from grand jury service by filing a signed statement with district clerk.
- District clerk maintains a current register of individuals who are entitled to permanent exemptions due to age.
 - Prepare monthly updates for Secretary of State of exemptions which have been claimed or rescinded.
- Includes provisions for maintaining lists of individuals disqualified from jury service due to citizenship or residency issues.
- Separates misdemeanor theft convictions and felony convictions as two separate reasons a person may be disqualified from jury service.
- Requires district clerk to only send information on felony convictions to voter registrar.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 30.0071, Code of Criminal Procedure, Articles 19A.051, 19A.101, 19A.105, 19A.106, 19A.107, Government Code §§ 62.001, 62.0132, 62.102, 62.106, 62.107, 62.108, 62.109, 62.113, 62.114, 62.115



Qualifications for Serving as a Juror

- [House Bill 4749 \(Landgraf\)](#): Updates qualifications for serving as a grand juror or a petit juror in counties with a population of less than 1,000.
- Allows individuals who are residents of contiguous counties and qualified to vote in those counties to serve as a juror.
 - Even if individual does not reside in summoning county.
- Modifies jury wheel reconstitution process to include names of residents of contiguous counties.
- Clarifies sources for reconstituting the jury wheel.
 - Allows inclusion of voter registration lists and driver's license or identification card holders from neighboring counties.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Code of Criminal Procedure, Articles 19A.101, 19A.201
Government Code §§ 62.001, 62.0132, 62.014, 62.102



Performance of Duties by Voter Registrar

- **Senate Bill 510 (Bettencourt)**: Provides that the Secretary of State may withhold funds if a voter registrar fails to timely perform certain duties related to voter registration.
 - Such as approval, change, or cancellation of a voter's registration;
 - Scheduling of a hearing on a challenge to a voter's registration or cancellation;
 - Determination of a challenge; or
 - Delivery of a notice related to a challenge.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code § 16.039 (redesignated as Section 12.007)



Department of Public Safety

- [Senate Bill 1470](#) (Hughes): Requires Department of Public Safety to provide specific data to Secretary of State.
 - Related to individuals who hold a driver's license or personal identification card in Texas and who apply for same in another state.
- Requires Secretary of State to use data of registered voters who apply for a driver's license or personal identification card in another state to maintain statewide voter registration list.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code § 18.0625



Parole and Probation Officers

- [Senate Bill 523 \(Zaffirini\)](#): Authorizes parole officers and probation officers to use an office address as an alternative address on their driver's license.
- Are allowed to designate their office address, instead of their residence address, on voter registration certificate.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Transportation Code § 521.1211



Confidentiality Protections

- [Senate Bill 1540](#) (Bettencourt): Expands list of individuals eligible for confidentiality protections.
 - Includes a current or former election official;
 - Employee, volunteer, or designee of an election official; and
 - Employee of Secretary of State's office who performs duties related to elections.
-
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
 - Statutes Affected: Election Code § 1.005, Government Code § 552.1175



Confidentiality Protections

- [Senate Bill 1569](#) (King): Expands list of individuals eligible for confidentiality protections.
 - Include members of governing boards of higher education institutions;
 - Chancellors and chief executive officers of university systems; and
 - Presidents and chief executive officers of public and private universities.
-
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
 - Statutes Affected: Government Code §§ 552.117, 552.1175, Tax Code § 25.025



Confidentiality Protections

- [Senate Bill 370 \(Perry\)](#): Address Confidentiality for Public Defenders
 - Adds current or former employees of a public defender's office to the list of individuals eligible for confidentiality.
 - Adds current or former employees of the Attorney General's office, and the employee's family members (spouse and children), to the list of individuals eligible for confidentiality.
 - Previously only employees assigned to certain divisions within the Attorney General's office were eligible.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Government Code §§ 552.117, 552.1175, Tax Code § 25.025



Confidentiality Protections and Alternate Address

- As a result of bills passed which authorize additional individuals to participate in the Alternate Address Program and which expand confidentiality protections, see the following information:
 - Election Advisory No. 2025-11: Registering a Voter who is Part of a Confidentiality Program
 - Confidentiality Guide
- **Updated Forms:**
 - Form 2-67 Request for Confidentiality for Candidates Under Texas Government Code
 - Form 21-19 Request for Voter Registration Confidentiality Under Texas Government Code
 - Form 21-20 Confidentiality Affidavit for Voter Registration Under Texas Election Code



Confidentiality Protections

- [House Bill 16](#) (2nd C.S.) (Leach): Adds several groups of people to the list of individuals eligible for the alternate address program and/or address confidentiality
- Specifically, it includes:
 - a current or former county clerk, district clerk, or county and district clerk, or a current or former employee of the office of a county clerk, district clerk, or county and district clerk or municipal court personnel;
 - a current or former employee whose duties relate to court administration, including a court clerk, court coordinator, court administrator, juvenile case manager, law clerk, or staff attorney;
 - a current or former employee of the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System and entities administratively attached to the office; or
 - a current or former employee or commissioner of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct



Voter Registration Application

- [Senate Bill 1862 \(Hughes\)](#): Requires that voter registration applications include the address, city, and county where the voter previously resided.
 - If voter registration application indicates that the voter's previous residence address was outside of State of Texas, voter registrar must document voter's full legal name, date of birth, current address of residence, and previous address of residence.
 - Requires voter registrar to compile information and submit certain data to Secretary of State monthly.
 - Secretary of State must notify voter registrar with jurisdiction over previous residence of a voter that the voter may be removed from that jurisdiction's voter registration list.
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- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
 - Statutes Affected: Election Code §§ 13.002, 13.072



Voter Registration Application

- Senate Bill 1862 (cont.)
- **Updated Forms:**
 - Updated Voter Registration Applications
 - Form 21-3 Notice to Confirm Voter Registration Address
 - Form 21-4 Notice to Confirm Voter Registration Address
 - Form 21-5 Notice to Confirm Voter Registration Address by Providing Documentation
 - Form 21-6 Statement of Residence
 - Form 5-36 Application for Limited Ballot
 - Form 9-5 Affidavit of Provisional Voter



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Candidacy and Office Holding



Board of Directors of Appraisal Districts

- [House Bill 148 \(Turner\)](#): Requires candidates seeking election or appointment to the board of directors of appraisal districts to sign an acknowledgement of their duties and responsibilities
- Provisions apply to officers whose terms begin on or after January 1, 2026.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Tax Code §§ 5.044, 6.0302



Precinct Chairs

- [House Bill 766](#) (Cortez): Requires that candidate for precinct chair include on their application either an email address at which the candidate receives correspondence relating to the candidate's campaign or a telephone number at which the candidate can be reached.
- Updated Form 2-3 Application for a Place on the General Primary Ballot for a Precinct or County Chair
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code § 172.021



Board of Directors of Appraisal Districts

- [House Bill 3575](#) (Noble): Requires that candidates running for an office on the board of directors of appraisal districts file their candidate applications with the county clerk/elections administrator.
- Candidates will no longer file their candidate applications for a place on the ballot with the county judge.
- Effective Date: Immediately
- Statutes Affected: Election Code § 252.005, Tax Code § 6.032



Candidates for Independent School Districts

- [House Bill 3629](#) (**Noble**): Prohibits individuals who are required to register as sex offenders under Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure, from serving on board of trustees of an independent school district.
- Candidates must acknowledge on application that they are ineligible to serve if they are required to register as a sex offender.
- Effective Date: Immediately
- Statutes Affected: Education Code §§ 11.055, 11.061



Candidates for Independent School Districts

House Bill 3629 (cont.)

- Updated Local Candidate's Guide
- **Update Forms**
 - Form 2-49 Application for Place on the General Election Ballot for CSOs
 - Form 2-50 Application for a Place on the Special Election Ballot for CSOs
 - Form 2-55 Declaration of Write-in Candidacy for CSOs



Candidates for the General Election

- [Senate Bill 901](#) (Kolkhorst): Candidate who files a candidate application for a place on the primary election ballot or for nomination by convention with more than one political party within the same voting year will be ineligible for a place on the ballot for the primary election, nomination by convention, and participation in the subsequent general election as an independent candidate, the nominee of a political party, or a write-in candidate.
 - Secretary of State must determine a candidate's ineligibility within ten days after the regular filing deadline for the general primary.
 - Must provide written notice to candidate.
 - Candidate's name may not be certified.
 - See 2026 Candidate's Guide
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- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
 - Statutes Affected: Election Code §§ 162.0151, 172.028, 181.068, 182.007



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Poll Watcher Eligibility



Eligibility to Serve as a Poll Watcher

- [House Bill 493](#) (Shaheen): Individuals finally convicted of a first- or second-degree felony, or a felony in connection with conduct directly attributable to an election, are ineligible to serve.
- Certificate of Appointment must include an affidavit from the appointee affirming that they have not been finally convicted of a felony of the first or second degree or any felony offense related to election conduct.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code §§ 33.006, 33.035



Eligibility to Serve as a Poll Watcher

House Bill 493 (Cont.)

- Updated Poll Watcher's Guide
- Updated online Poll Watcher's Training
- **Updated Forms**
 - Form 4-26 Certificate of Appointment of Poll Watcher by Candidate
 - Form 4-27 Certificate of Appointment of Poll Watcher by Political Party
 - Form 4-28 Certificate of Appointment of Poll Watcher for Proposition or Measure
 - Form 4-29 Certificate of Appointment of Poll Watcher by Registered Voter on Behalf of a Write-In Candidate
 - Form 4-31 Election Day Poll Watcher Information Sheet
 - Form 4-32 Early Voting Poll Watcher Information Sheet



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Post-Election Hand Count



Post-Election Hand Count Audit

- [Senate Bill 827 \(Parker\)](#): Renames Partial Manual Count to the Post-Election Hand Count Audit.
- Modifies procedures for conducting the count.
- Modifies requirements and timelines for performing a Risk-Limiting Audit.
- Requires hand count audit of early voting locations and election day locations to be conducted by polling location rather than by precinct.
 - Still requires ballots by mail to be counted by precinct.
- Count will be conducted in at least one percent of election day polling locations and early voting locations, or in three locations, whichever is greater.
- For ballots by mail, count will be performed for at least one percent of the precincts in which a ballot by mail was cast, or in three precincts, whichever is greater.
- Requires general custodian to designate members of the early voting ballot board to perform hand count audit.
- Modifies the deadlines for performing the hand count audit in an election in which a risk-limiting audit is performed.
 - Hand count audit must begin not later than the first business day after the Secretary of State has certified the completion of the risk-limiting audit
 - Completed not later than 30th day after election day; or
 - By deadline designated by Secretary of State, whichever is later.



Post-Election Hand Count Audit

- Senate Bill 827 (Cont.)
- Authorizes general custodian to select additional precincts and polling places for the hand count audit.
- Watcher appointed must satisfy same eligibility requirements under Chapter 33 of the Election Code.
- General custodian must post the results on county's Internet website.
- Allows for multiple races or propositions to be selected for a statewide Risk-Limiting Audit.
- Requires statewide Risk-Limiting Audit be performed on a date designated by Secretary of State.
- Effective Date: September 1, 2025
- Statutes Affected: Election Code §§ 127.201, 127.302



Texas Secretary of State
ELECTIONS DIVISION



Integration of Early Voting by Personal Appearance and Election Day



Early Voting by Personal Appearance and Election Day

- [Senate Bill 2753](#) (Hall): Makes several changes to Election Code. Changes will apply to an election ordered on or after the date that Secretary of State releases a report on the implementation of the bill's procedures.
- See Election Advisory No. 2025-10: Bill Summary of Senate Bill 2753



Texas Secretary of State
ELECTIONS DIVISION



Constitutional Amendments



Joint Resolutions Passed During the 2025 Regular Session

- [HJR 1](#) - “The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation a portion of the market value of tangible personal property a person owns that is held or used for the production of income.”
- [HJR 2](#) - “The constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing death taxes applicable to a decedent’s property or the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift.”
- [HJR 4](#) - “The constitutional amendment prohibiting the legislature from enacting a law imposing an occupation tax on certain entities that enter into transactions conveying securities or imposing a tax on certain securities transactions.”
- [HJR 7](#) - “The constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue.”



Joint Resolutions Passed During the 2025 Regular Session

- [HJR 34](#) - “The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the amount of the market value of real property located in a county that borders the United Mexican States that arises from the installation or construction on the property of border security infrastructure and related improvements.”
- [HJR 99](#) - “The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail.”
- [HJR 133](#) - “The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a veteran who died as a result of a condition or disease that is presumed under federal law to have been service-connected.”



Joint Resolutions Passed During the 2025 Regular Session

- [SJR 2](#) - “The constitutional amendment to increase the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district from \$100,000 to \$140,000.”
- [SJR 3](#) - “The constitutional amendment providing for the establishment of the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, establishing the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to provide money for research on and prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and related disorders in this state, and transferring to that fund \$3 billion from state general revenue.”
- [SJR 5](#) – “The constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony.”
- [SJR 18](#) - “The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust.”



Joint Resolutions Passed During the 2025 Regular Session

- [SJR 27](#) - “The constitutional amendment regarding the membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the membership of the tribunal to review the commission’s recommendations, and the authority of the commission, the tribunal, and the Texas Supreme Court to more effectively sanction judges and justices for judicial misconduct.”
- [SJR 34](#) - “The constitutional amendment affirming that parents are the primary decision makers for their children.”
- [SJR 37](#) - “The constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen.”
- [SJR 59](#) - “The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the permanent technical institution infrastructure fund and the available workforce education fund to support the capital needs of educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System.”



Joint Resolutions Passed During the 2025 Regular Session

- [SJR 84](#) - “The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of the appraised value of an improvement to a residence homestead that is completely destroyed by a fire.”
- [SJR 85](#) - “The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled.”



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