



Texas Secretary of State
ELECTIONS DIVISION



Appointment Procedures for Election Workers for the November 2026 General Election



Types of Election Workers

Position	Duties
Election Judge	Management of polling place on election day; preserve order and prevent breaches of peace. Management of clerks' hours and activities.
Election Clerks	Performs duties assigned by judge in conducting election.
Early Voting Clerk	Officer in charge of conducting early voting for the election. Also, maintains hours on election day for early voting activities. Provides notice of clerk's address per Section 83.010.
Deputy Early Voting Clerk	Also, an officer of the election for conducting early voting with same authority of early voting clerk subject to their supervision.
Early Voting Ballot Board Judge(s) and Members	EVBB processes early voting results for the election and processes provisional ballots.
Signature Verification Committee Member	SVC compares signatures on application for mail ballot to carrier envelope to confirm signature is that of the voter's.
Central Counting Station Manager	Management of central counting station and personnel; established written plan for station.
Tabulation Supervisor	Management of automatic tabulating equipment for counting ballots.
Assistants to the Tabulation Supervisor	Assists with automatic tabulating equipment.
Judge of Central Count	Maintaining order of station, and conferring with personnel and review of irregularly marked ballots.
Clerk of Central Counting Station	Assists manager or judge with functions of station.



Election Worker Appointment

In the general election for state and county officers, the county chairs of the parties with whose candidates for governor in the most recent gubernatorial election received the highest and the second highest number of votes may submit lists of names to an appointing authority for the following positions:

- Presiding and Alternate Judge of a Polling Place (including countywide);
- Election Clerks of a Polling Place;
- Presiding and Alternate Early Voting Official of an Early Voting Location;
- Presiding and Alternate Judge and Members of the Early Voting Ballot Board;
- Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Signature Verification Committee (if created);
- Presiding and Alternate Judge of the Central Counting Station



Election Worker Appointment

The county chairs of other parties with ballot access and with candidates on the ballot in the general election for state and county officers may submit lists containing names of individuals eligible to be appointed to the following positions:

- Members of the Early Voting Ballot Board; and
- Members of the Signature Verification Committee (if created)



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Position	Date List Due	List Submitted to...
Election Judge (Presiding and Alternate)	June 30 in a county with a population over 500k; July 31 in a county of 500k or less	County Commissioners Court (Sec. 32.002)
Election Clerks	25 th day before Election Day (October 9, 2026)	Presiding Judge of Precinct*
Early Voting Election Officers	June 30 in all counties	County Clerk (Sec. 85.009)
Early Voting Ballot Board Judge/Alternate Judge/Member	Recommended deadlines: June 30 in a county with a population over 500k; July 31 in a county of 500k or less	County Election Board (Sec. 87.002)
Signature Verification Committee Member	Recommended deadline: Monday, August 31, 2026 in all counties	County Election Board (Sec. 87.027)
Presiding Judge/Alternate Presiding Judge of Central Counting Station	June 30 in a county with a population over 500k; July 31 in a county of 500k or less	County Commissioners Court (Secs. 32.002, 127.005)



Terms of Appointments – Election Judges

The Election Code provides for the commissioners court of a county to appoint election judges to either one-year or two-year terms.

- In counties with populations of more than 500,000, judges terms start on August 1, 2026
- In counties with populations of 500,000 or less, judges terms start on September 1, 2026



Additional Appointments

County chairs may supplement the list of names of election judges until the 20th day before election day (October 14, 2026), or until the 15th day before election day in a special election, if a judge becomes unable to serve for a term.

- If an appointed election judge cannot serve for a **specific election** then the alternate presiding judge serves as the judge for that polling location.

If both the appointed presiding judge and alternate presiding judge for a polling location are unable to serve and that discovery is made after the above deadline to supplement the list of names, the county judge may make an emergency appointment of an election judge. If the county judge is not available, the county elections officer may make the emergency appointments.



List Appointments

Commissioner's court
MUST appoint the first
eligible person on the list
submitted by the party
whose candidate for
governor received the
highest number of votes in
that election precinct as the
presiding judge of that
precinct



Commissioner's court
MUST appoint the first
eligible person on the list
submitted by the party
whose candidate for
governor received the
second highest number of
votes in that election
precinct as the alternate
presiding judge of that
precinct.



If the two parties'
candidates for governor
received the same number
of votes in that election
precinct, commissioner's
court MUST appoint the
first eligible person on the
list submitted by the party
whose candidate for
governor received the
highest number of votes in
the county as the presiding
judge of that precinct.



Eligibility

To be eligible to serve as a presiding or alternate presiding election judge, a person must be a qualified voter of the election precinct where that person is serving as a judge.

- However, if the appointing authority cannot find an eligible qualified voter of the election precinct to serve as an election judge, then a person may be appointed as election judge in a precinct if the person is a qualified voter of the county and not of the election precinct.

To serve as the presiding judge or alternate presiding judge of the early voting ballot board or the central counting station, a person must be a qualified voter of the county.



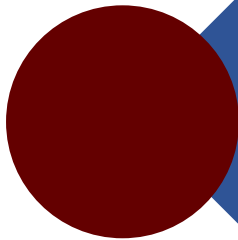
Compensation

Election judges and clerks may not be paid for more than two hours of work before the polls open.

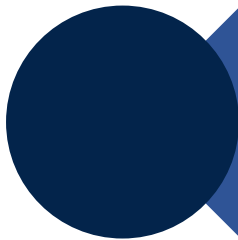
Election judges and clerks also may not be paid for more than two hours of work after the polls close or the last voter has voted, whichever is later.



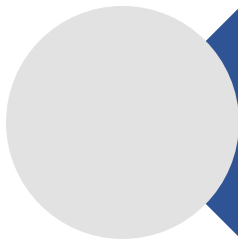
Countywide Polling Place Program Appointments



Presiding judges and alternate judges in countywide polling place counties are required to be registered voters of the county but not of any particular election precinct and are not required to reside in a particular election precinct.



Parties chairs in counties participating in the countywide polling place program submit lists of persons qualified to serve as election judges to the commissioners court in order of preference and not designated by election precinct or polling location.



Chairs may submit lists containing more names than judges required and the commissioners court may approve additional names. In the event an appointed judge could not serve, a preapproved judge would serve.



Countywide Polling Place Program Appointments

Judges in counties participating in the countywide polling place program must be apportioned based on the proportion of election precincts in each commissioners court won by each party in the last gubernatorial election.

- Example County has 10 county election precincts in commissioners court precinct #1. Party A won six of those ten election precincts in the 2022 gubernatorial election while Party B won the other four election precincts. The county plans to have five countywide polling places located in commissioners court precinct #1.
 - Because there was a 60%/40% split in the election precincts in the commissioners court precinct, judges must be apportioned in the same way.
 - This means that three of the five countywide polling places that will be located in commissioner's court precinct #1 must have a presiding judge from Party A while the other two countywide locations will have a presiding judge from Party B.



Failure to Submit List

If a county chair fails to submit the list for a particular election precinct by the June or July deadlines provided by the Election Code, then the county elections official must make a reasonable effort to confer with the chair. The county election official can then prepare their own list of election judges for that precinct and submit that list to the commissioners court.

Commissioners court must appoint an election judge affiliated or aligned with the appropriate party where possible.



Appointment and Qualifications of Election Clerks

Election clerks are appointed by the presiding judge of that election precinct or polling locations in the number set by commissioners court. The county chairs of the party receiving the highest number and second-highest number of votes in the county in the most recent gubernatorial election submits lists of clerks to those election judges.

- Those lists have to be submitted by the chairs by **October 9, 2026** for the November 3, 2026 general election.

If a timely list has been submitted to a judge, the judge must appoint at least one clerk from each provided list. The appointed alternate presiding judge must also serve as one clerk.

If only one additional clerk is to be appointed, they must be from the list of a different political party than the presiding and alternate judge.



Student Election Clerks

The Election Code provides that a person who is at least 16 years of age and enrolled in a public or private high school or home school may serve as an election clerk on election day or during early voting.

Student election clerks must have consent of the principal (or parent/legal guardian in charge of home school education) and written authorization from a parent or legal guardian in order to serve.

No more than two student election clerks may serve at a polling location. However, up to four student election clerks may serve at a countywide polling place.



Qualifications of Central Counting Station Personnel

The presiding judge of the central counting station is appointed from the lists provided by the county chairs.



However, the positions of central counting station manager and tabulation supervisor are not subject to the list procedure.



The central counting station manager must be a qualified voter of the county, except in the first year that the voting system is adopted or if the person is an employee of the political subdivision that adopts or owns the equipment.



The tabulation supervisor must either be a qualified voter of the county or if the person is an employee of the political subdivision that adopts or owns the equipment.



Appointment of Deputy Early Voting Clerks

Deputy early voting clerks in the November election will also be appointed via the lists provided by the county chairs.

The early voting clerk will appoint deputy early voting clerks from the list, but the early voting clerk (i.e. the elections administrator or county clerk) has ultimate responsibility for the overall conduct of early voting.

Party chairs must submit a list of names of persons, in order of preference, to serve at each early voting polling place. The list must be submitted by June 30, 2026 for the November 2026 election.



Appointment of Deputy Early Voting Clerks

Chairs may include the names of the early voting clerk's permanent deputies on the list. Permanent deputies of the early voting clerk are not subject to the eligibility requirements of election judges.

An early voting clerk's deputies or employees are not ineligible to serve, even when the early voting clerk is on the ballot.

Permanent employees are also not required to be registered voters of the county, but must be registered voters.

Deputy early voting clerks who are not permanent deputies of the early voting clerk or permanent employees of the county must be registered voters of the county (but not of a particular precinct).



Appointment of Deputy Early Voting Clerks

The county clerk or county elections administrator must appoint the first person on the list submitted by the party whose candidate for governor received the highest number of votes in the county as the lead deputy early voting clerk.

The alternate lead deputy early voting clerk must be the first person on the list submitted by the party whose candidate for governor received the second-highest number of votes in the county.

Additional deputy early voting clerks are appointed from the lists submitted by the county chairs.

If a county chair fails to submit a list of deputy early voting clerks, then the county clerk or county elections administrator must make a reasonable effort to consult with the party. If unsuccessful, the county clerk or elections administrator will appoint deputy early voting clerks in a manner to ensure equal representation between the parties.



Appointment of the Early Voting Ballot Board

The early voting ballot board is appointed by the county election board for the November general election.

The county election board consists of:

- The county clerk (or elections administrator), serving as the chair;
- the county voter registrar;
- the chair of each political party required to nominate by primary;
- the sheriff; and
- the county judge

The county election board must appoint a minimum of four members to the early voting ballot board (but equal representation in general election).



Appointment of the Early Voting Ballot Board

In the general election for state and county officers, each county chair of a political party with nominees on the general election ballot must submit a list of persons eligible to serve on the early voting ballot board to the county election board.



The highest ranked person on the list submitted by the chair of the party whose nominee for governor received the most votes in the county must be appointed as the presiding judge.



The highest rank person on the list submitted by the chair of the party whose nominee for governor received the second most votes in the county must be appointed as the alternate presiding judge.



We recommend that the county election board appoint the members of the early voting ballot board no later than Thursday, October 1, 2026, to allow time for notice requirements.



Appointment of Signature Verification Committee

A signature verification committee, if appointed, is the authority that compares signatures on the application for ballot by mail with the returned carrier.

A signature verification committee may be established at the discretion of the early voting clerk. However, a signature verification committee **must** be established if the clerk receives a request signed by at least 15 registered voters of the county to establish a signature verification committee.

- A request to establish a signature verification committee must be submitted no later than Thursday, October 1, 2026.

The early voting clerk determines the number of members to serve on the signature verification. Members of the committee are appointed by the county election board in the November general election.



Appointment of Signature Verification Committee

In the general election for state and county officers, each chair of a political party in the county with a nominee or aligned candidate on the ballot must submit a list to the county election board of persons eligible to serve on the signature verification committee.

The highest ranking person on the list submitted by the party whose candidate for governor received the most votes in the county is appointed as the chair of the signature verification committee.

At least two persons must be appointed from each list to serve on the signature verification committee. The appointments must be made in the order of preference indicated on each list. The same number of signature verification committee members must be appointed from each list.

The highest ranking person on the list submitted by the party whose candidate for governor received the second most votes in the county is appointed as the vice chair of the signature verification committee.



Available Support



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TRAINING



RESOURCES

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800-252-VOTE • 512-463-5650

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