



Texas Secretary of State  
ELECTIONS DIVISION



# Voter Registration



## Basic Resources

- **Elections Forms Index**

<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/pol-sub/index.shtml>

- **Conducting Your Elections Page**

<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/conducting/index.shtml>

- **Voter Registration Resources Page**

<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/voter-registration-resources.shtml>

- **Texas Election Code**

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/>

- **Texas Administrative Code**

[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.viewtac](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.viewtac)

- **VoteTexas.gov**



## Advisories

- **No.2023-07** - Volunteer Deputy Registrars
- **No.2025-17** - March 3, 2026 Primary Election Law Calendar and May 26, 2026 Primary Runoff Election Law Calendar
- **No.2025-11** - Registering a Voter who is Part of a Confidentiality Program
- **No.2026-02** - May 2, 2026 Election and June 13, 2026 Runoff Election Law Calendar
- **No.2023-26** - Voter Registration List Maintenance Under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) and the Texas Election Code as it Pertains to the Primary Election and Primary Runoff Election
- **LIMITED BALLOTS AND DISTRICT CHART ADVISORY – Coming Soon**



# Eligibility to Register (TEC 13.001)

- **You are eligible to register to vote if:**
  - You are a United States citizen;
  - You are a resident of the county where you submit the application;
  - You are at least 17 years and 10 months old on the date your voter registration application is submitted, and you are 18 years of age on Election Day.
  - You are not a convicted felon (you may be eligible to vote if you have completed your sentence, probation, and parole); and
  - You have not been declared by a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be either totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.



# Designated Voter Registrars

- County Role
  - Voter Registrar in County (12.001)
  - County Clerk (12.031)
  - Election Administrator (31.031)
- Volunteer Deputy Registrars (13.031)
- High School Deputy Registrars (13.046)
- Chapter 20 Agencies (20.001)



# Designated Voter Registrars

- Chapter 20 outlines the requirements and designates the following state agencies as voter registration agencies:
  - Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC);
  - Texas Workforce Commission (TWC);
  - Department of Public Safety (DPS);
  - Each public library, including any branch or other service outlet; and
    - [Texas Public Libraries](#)
  - Any other agency or program as determined by the Secretary of State that primarily provides public assistance or services to persons with disabilities.



## Applications

- If not already registered but have a drivers license or state ID card:
  - DPS Web Portal
- Can update VR Information online at [Texas.gov](https://www.texas.gov)
- Voter may submit an FPCA, which can be printed from [FVAP.gov](https://www.fvap.gov)
- Paper Applications
  - Can be obtained from their voter registrar, library, other governmental agencies or completed and printed from [VoteTexas.gov](https://www.vote.texas.gov)



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# Effective Date of Registration





# Effective Date of Registration

If an application is approved, the registration becomes effective the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the date the application was submitted to the registrar or on the date the applicant becomes 18 years of age.

- **County** – Date of submission is date of in person delivery or mailed postmark date. If no postmark date, the submission date is the date of receipt. (TEC 13.143)
- **Chapter 20 Agency** - Date the application was submitted to the agency employee.
- **High School Deputy Registrar** – Date the application was submitted to the High School Deputy Registrar.
- **Volunteer Deputy Registrar** - Date the application was submitted to the VDR.



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# Registration Deadlines and Postmark Information



# Voter Registration Deadlines

Deadline to Register to Vote or Make a Change of Address Effective is:

- Monday, February 2, 2026 (March 3, 2026 Primary Election)
- Thursday, April 2, 2026 (May 2, 2026 Uniform Election)
- Monday, April 27, 2026 (May 26, 2026 Primary Runoff Election)
- Thursday, May 14, 2026 (June 13, 2026 Runoff Election)



## Postmark Information

If voter registration application is not postmarked but sent directly to the county:

- A postmark directly on the voter application or accompanying envelope.
- Date written in by the applicant next to their signature.
- If none of these exist, then the date received by the voter registrar's office should be used.



# Postmark Information

Applications sent from the SOS:

- The date postmarked on the envelope sent to you by the Secretary of State's office.
- If the date postmarked on an envelope sent to you by the Secretary of State's office is **after** the deadline, we will **include a note** stating that the applications were received on or before the deadline.



## Postmark Information

- If an envelope containing applications is mailed from a source other than the Secretary of State and the manila envelope bears a post office cancellation mark, then:
  - all of the VR applications contained in the envelope should be treated as having been postmarked on the same day.
  - If the manila envelope is unmarked and there is no indication as to when the envelope was sent, the voters may be treated as having registered on the date the applications were received.



## Postmark Information

- Do not stop processing registration applications just because the voter registration deadline has passed for a given election!



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# **Voter Registration List Maintenance Under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA)**





# National Voter Registration Act of 1993

- Counties are now within the 90-day list maintenance period for the March 2026 primary election and the May 2026 primary runoff election.



# National Voter Registration Act of 1993

Under the NVRA, the only permissible voter removal programs that counties may undertake during this period until after the primary, and any subsequent primary runoff, are:

- to remove voters who voluntarily cancel their voter registration
- voters who are deceased
- voters who are finally convicted of a felony; or
- adjudicated mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.



# National Voter Registration Act of 1993

- Counties **must** continue to process voter registration applications during this 90-day period and should not stop processing voter registration applications
- **No.2023-26** - Voter Registration List Maintenance Under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) and the Texas Election Code as it Pertains to the Primary Election and Primary Runoff Election



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# Voter Registrar Office Hours



# Voter Registrar Office Hours

- The voter registrar's office must remain open to provide voter registration information during the extended hours or weekend hours that the main early voting polling place is open for voting.



## Voter Registrar Office Hours

Sun. Feb. 15	Mon. Feb. 16	Tue. Feb. 17	Wed. Feb. 18	Thurs. Feb. 19	Fri. Feb. 20	Sat. Feb. 21
Closed	Closed Presidents' Day	At least 9 hours	At least 9 hours	At least 9 hours	At least 9 hours	At least 12 hours
Sun. Feb. 22	Mon. Feb. 23	Tue. Feb. 24	Wed. Feb. 25	Thurs. Feb. 26	Fri. Feb. 27	Sat. Feb. 28
At least 6 hours	At least 12 hours	At least 12 hours	At least 12 hours	At least 12 hours	At least 12 hours	Closed unless normally open
Mar. 1		Mon. Mar. 2		Tue. Mar. 3		
Closed unless normally open		Texas Independence Day Closed unless normally open		Election Day open 7:00am to 7:00pm		



## Voter Registrar Office Hours

- If the registrar's county has a population of less than 55,000, the county may use Chapter 19 funding to defray the cost to the registrar's county of keeping the polling places in the county open during the early voting period
  - Questions about Chapter 19 funding should be directed to our office's Election Funds Management team.
  - Email: [EFMAdmin@sos.texas.gov](mailto:EFMAdmin@sos.texas.gov)
  - Phone: 512-463-5966



# Voter Registrar Office Hours

- Election day hours are 7:00 am – 7:00 pm!





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# Voter Registration Application Records



# Voter Registration Applications

- Instead of keeping the original registration applications and supporting documentation, a voter registrar **may** record the applications and documentation on an optical disk or other computer storage medium approved by the SOS. However, Texas Administrative Code Rule 81.412 provides that:
  - A voter registrar who records voter registration data for storage purposes on optical disk or other computer storage medium, **shall** follow the procedures for such storage as set forth in the rules under Title 13 of the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 7, Subchapter C, concerning Standards and Procedures for Management of Electronic Records.

Section 13.104



# Voter Registration Applications

- Title 13, Texas Administrative Code Rule 7.75 provides the following:
  - (a) Local governments must implement and maintain an electronic records security program for office and storage areas that:
    - (1) ensures that only authorized individuals have access to electronic records;
    - (2) provides for backup and recovery of records to protect against information loss;
    - (3) ensures that authorized individuals are trained to safeguard confidential electronic records; and
    - (4) minimizes the risk of unauthorized alteration or erasure of electronic records.
  - **(b) A duplicate copy of essential records and any software or documentation required to retrieve and read the records must be maintained in a separate storage area.**



# Voter Registration Applications

- So what does all of this mean?
  - The voter registrar **must** keep a duplicate copy of voter registration applications, whether originals of the documents or in another computer storage medium, in a separate storage area from the electronic records.
  - We recommend reviewing the Active and Inactive File Storage Policy in DocShare which addresses this matter in further detail.



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# Legislative Updates



## SB 1862

- Requires that voter registration applications include the address, city, and county where the voter previously resided.
- Before **SB 1862**, the city and county where the voter formerly resided was required, but not the address.
- If voter registration application reflects that the voter's previous residence address was outside of the State of Texas, the voter registrar must document the voter's full legal name, date of birth, current address of residence, and previous address of residence. Voter registrar must compile this information and, at least once a month, submit it to the SOS.
- SOS must notify the voter registrars with jurisdiction over the previous residence on a monthly basis that the voter may be removed from that jurisdiction's voter registration list.



# What Does This Mean for County Election Officials?

- **UPDATED FORMS:** Every voter-registration form that has a former residence address section, specifically:
  - Voter registration application
  - VDR application
  - Provisional Ballot Affidavit
  - Address Confirmation Notice
  - Statement of Residence
  - Limited Ballot Application



## SB 510

- 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 the approval, change, or cancellation of a voter's registration, the scheduling of a hearing on a challenge to a voter's registration or cancellation, the determination of a challenge, or the delivery of a notice related to a challenge.





## SB 523

- Authorizes parole officers and probation officers to use an office address as an alternative address on their driver's license.
- These individuals are allowed to designate their office address, instead of their residence address, on their voter registration certificate.
- Advisory 2025-11
  - [Registering a Voter who is Part of a Confidentiality Program](#)



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# Voter Registrar and Local Elections



## Local Elections

Don't forget about the May 2, 2026 Uniform Election!

- Send the list of registered voters (and supplemental list)
- Confirm receipt of the Notice of Election
- Request original FPCAs from local entities
- Review provisional ballot affidavits



## Available Support



**WEBINARS**



**TRAINING**



**RESOURCES**

[elections@sos.texas.gov](mailto:elections@sos.texas.gov)

800-252-VOTE • 512-463-5650

[sos.texas.gov](http://sos.texas.gov)