



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

Frequently Asked Questions: Voting 101

If you do not find your answer here, please contact the Texas Democratic Party Voter Information and Protection Hotline at **1-844-898-6837**.

How to Use This Guide

The structure of our FAQ: Voting 101 follows our Voting Plan. What *is* a Voting Plan?

It's a checklist that ensures that you're ready to vote!

- I'm registered to vote (<https://bit.ly/VoterRegSAAVETX>)
- I have an approved form of voter ID (<https://www.votetexas.gov/mobile/id-faqs.htm>)
- I've researched my local races and ballot initiatives (<https://vote411.org>)
- I've encouraged my family and friends to register to vote (send them this link <https://bit.ly/VoterRegSAAVETX>)
- I've saved the Texas Democratic Party Voter Information and Protection Hotline (844-898-6837) in case I need it
- I've requested my mail-in ballot (<https://bit.ly/VoterRegSAAVETX>) OR I've found my polling place (<https://vote411.org>)
- I've made a plan to either mail/overnight delivery or drop off in-person my completed mail-in ballot OR I have made a plan to vote in person
- If I am voting in person, I've reviewed the In-Person Voting Day Checklist



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

General Questions

1. What are the critical deadlines for the 2020 election?

	Deadline	SAAVE Texas's Recommended Mail By Date*
Voter Registration Deadline	Application <i>postmarked</i> on or before Tuesday, Oct 5 https://bit.ly/VoterRegSAAVETX	Oct 5, 3:00pm , if using USPS, or overnight carrier such as FedEx or UPS
Election Day	Tuesday, Nov 3	
Early Voting Dates	Tuesday, Oct 13 to Friday, Oct 30 Generally, 7:00am to 7:00pm (except Sunday) Sunday, October 18 and October 25, 1:00pm to 6:00pm Check your County Elections office website for specific dates and times	
Request a Vote by Mail Ballot	<i>Received</i> by your County Elections office (https://bit.ly/TX Cty Registrars) on or before Friday, Oct 23	Oct 1, 5:00pm if using USPS Oct 20, 5:00pm , if using overnight carrier such as FedEx or UPS (some rural counties may take 2-3 days for overnight service)



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

<p>Return a Completed Vote by Mail Ballot</p>	<p>For US and non-military voters: If you mail-it or use another common carrier such as FedEx or UPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Received</i> by County Elections office https://bit.ly/TXCtyRegistrars by Tuesday, Nov 3 at 7:00pm if carrier envelope is not postmarked, or ● Wednesday, Nov 4 at 5:00pm if the carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00pm on November 3. 	<p>Oct 15, 5:00pm, if using USPS</p> <p>Oct 15, 5:00pm, if using overnight carrier such as FedEx or UPS (some rural counties may take 2-3 days for overnight service)</p>
---	--	---

The “Recommended Mail By Date” column is *our recommendation* as to when you should put it in the mail / common carrier in order to be delivered by the deadline. We cannot guarantee that these dates will provide enough time for your materials to reach their destination in time.

2. *How do I become an election worker?*

There is a real need for poll workers, poll watchers and election judges this year. Traditionally, poll workers have been older retirees, and due to their greater susceptibility to coronavirus, many are unable to work this year.

These positions are paid positions, and you choose to work during the early voting and/or on Election Day. To become an election worker you must:

- Be a registered voter in the county where you are planning to be an election worker



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have been a resident of Texas for at least 30 days

Certain counties have student poll worker programs where students age 16 years or older are permitted to perform certain functions. Google “[your county name] election worker” to find more information.

3. *How do I find my County Elections office?*

You can find the addresses and phone numbers for all 254 counties in Texas by going to <https://bit.ly/TXCtyRegistrars>. To find their website, Google “[your county name] website” to find more information.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

VOTING BY MAIL

1. *Can I vote by mail?*

First, you must be a registered voter at your current address in order to request a ballot by mail. So, if your voter registration is not correct, you **MUST** complete that step first. Please see those instructions in the **Voter Registration** section below

Second, When it comes to voting by mail, Texas requires you to have a qualified reason to vote by mail. These reasons are:

- you will be age 65 or older on or before November 3, 2020
- you're disabled
- you are expected to be / will be absent from your home county for the entirety of the voting period (October 13, 2020 to November 3, 2020)
- confined in jail but not yet adjudicated with a felony (i.e., your voting rights remain in tact but you are confined in jail and not able to go to a polling location.)

Texas Election Code defines a disability as a “sickness or physical condition” that prevents a voter from appearing in person without the risk of “injuring the voter’s health”

The determination of disability is one made by you and does not require medical certification, and can include chronic medical conditions, physical disability, hospitalization or confinement in a nursing or rehabilitation facility.

The Americans With Disabilities Act prevents a governmental agent from questioning the validity of your disability; your application to vote by mail does not need a medical certification. When completing your application for vote by mail, do not write any extra explanation as to why you are making your selection. Simply follow the instructions, and complete the form.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

2. *How do I apply to vote by mail?*

You can apply to vote by mail by going to <https://bit.ly/VoterRegSAAVETX> and clicking on the blue bar at the top of the page entitled “SIGN UP TO VOTE BY MAIL”.

While the deadline to submit the completed Application for Ballot By Mail is October 23, we HIGHLY RECOMMEND that you put it in the mail no later than October 1.

After that date, we HIGHLY RECOMMEND that you hand deliver your Application for Ballot By Mail (each person must deliver their own, and ID will be required for verification) to your County Elections office (<https://bit.ly/TXCtyRegistrars>) or use an overnight courier service such as FedEx or UPS.

Your last method to submit your completed Application for Ballot By Mail is to e-mail or fax a copy of it to your County Elections office (<https://bit.ly/TXCtyRegistrars>), BUT the original form MUST BE MAILED OR HAND-DELIVERED within four (4) days of the fax or email.

If you have an inconsistent or shaky signature, consider getting a witness -- a trusted person such as a spouse, friend, neighbor, family -- to sign your Application for Ballot by Mail. This person can then act as witness when you sign your completed mail-in ballot.

3. *When can I vote by mail?*

You may return your completed mail-in ballot as soon as you receive it. If you want to return it before October 13, you will need to use the US Postal Service or an overnight carrier such as FedEx or UPS. By order of the Governor, all counties in Texas must accept hand delivered completed mail-in ballots commencing on October 13. However, some of our larger counties are allowing drop-off at the County Elections office sooner than October 13, so please contact them to see if they are allowing earlier drop-offs (<https://bit.ly/TXCtyRegistrars>).



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

4. *I'm traveling on Election Day. What do I do?*

If you are expected to be / will be absent from your home county for the entirety of the voting period (October 13, 2020 to November 3, 2020), you can complete an Application for Ballot By Mail.

If you will be home for some portion of the Early Voting period, it is recommended that you vote in person during Early Voting (see **Voting in Person** below). If you qualify to vote by mail using one of the other qualified reasons, such as disability or age, you may apply to vote by mail under one of those provisions.

5. *I'm a college student. How can I vote?*

Students may register to vote either at their college address or at their home address, not both. So, your first decision will be which county to register to vote in. This is your decision, but some considerations students use are:

1. Do I want to vote by mail or in person? Assuming your college is not in the same county as your home county, if you are registered in your home county, you will need to vote by mail.
2. Where do I consider "home"? If you do not plan to return to your home county other than to visit family, you may wish to register in the county where your college is.
3. Where will your vote be "strategic"? You may feel passionately about a candidate or issue, in either your home county or your college county, in which case, you may want to register to vote there.

Assuming you choose to vote in your home county, you will complete an Application for Ballot by Mail under the "absent from county" provision. You will have your ballot sent to your college address, and then complete and return it just like any other person. Please make sure you do this with plenty of time.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

6. *I'm a college student. I registered to vote at my college address, but now I am not there because classes are virtual. How can I vote?*

If you have registered at your college address, and wish to vote in your college town's elections, you would need to request an absentee ballot from that county / state (if not Texas). You should Google "[your college town] absentee voting".

If you have registered to vote at your college address and now wish to vote at your new address and that college address is *not* in Texas, you need to revoke your voter registration in that other state. Google "[your college state] revoke voter registration."

If you have registered to vote at your college address and now wish to vote at your new address and that college address is in Texas, you need to complete a new voter registration application. You can request an application to register to vote by going to <https://bit.ly/VoterRegSAAVETX> and completing the online form. At the end of this process you will be given an option to either (1) receive a printed form in the mail for you to sign, date and enter your ID information (Texas Drivers License or State Identification number or social security number), and then return to your county in the provided prepaid envelope, or (2) download a pdf of your application for you to print, sign, date, and mail yourself.

IF YOU REQUEST AN APPLICATION TO REGISTER TO VOTE USING THIS ONLINE TOOL AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU SELECT OPTION 2 AND PRINT THE PDF YOURSELF AND PLACE THE COMPLETED APPLICATION IN THE MAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 5.

7. *I've received a mail-in ballot, but I've changed my mind and want to vote in person. Can I do that?*

Yes, you can. You must surrender your mail-in ballot to the poll worker or election judge when you go to vote in person during Early Voting or on Election Day.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

8. *I received a mail-in ballot, but I've lost it. Can I get another one?*

Unfortunately, you cannot get another mail-in ballot. But you can still vote! It will have to be in person during Early Voting or on Election Day. When you go to the Polling location, inform the poll worker that you have lost your mail-in ballot, and you will be asked by the poll worker or election judge to complete a provisional ballot.

9. *I've filled out all of the information on my mail-in ballot. Do I need to sign my completed vote by mail ballot?*

Yes, you do. Your signature on the completed vote by mail ballot is compared to the signature on your Application For Ballot by Mail to limit fraud.

If you have an inconsistent or shaky signature, consider getting a witness -- a trusted person such as a spouse, friend, neighbor, family -- to sign your Application for Ballot by Mail AND your completed mail-in ballot.

10. *How many stamps do I put on my completed vote by mail ballot?*

While the deadline to receive the completed ballot by mail is November 4 provided that it is postmarked on or before November 3, we HIGHLY RECOMMEND you do not use the US Postal Service to deliver your completed ballot by mail after October 13, the first day of early voting. If you do use the US Postal Service, we recommend using two (2) first-class ("Forever") stamps.

After October 13, we HIGHLY RECOMMEND one of three options:

1. you, and only you, must take your completed ballot to your local County Elections office (<https://bit.ly/TX CtyRegistrars>) and hand deliver it to them. You will need a valid form of ID to do this, or



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

2. take your ballot by mail to an early polling location, surrender it there, and vote in person; you may not drop off the completed ballot by mail at a polling location as they are not authorized to accept it, or
3. Return your completed ballot by mail to your County Elections office (<https://bit.ly/TXCtyRegistrars>) using an overnight delivery service such as FedEx (<https://www.fedex.com/>) or UPS (<https://www.ups.com/>).

11. Can I drop off my completed mail-in ballot at an election drop box so I do not have to use the US Postal Service?

Texas does not allow the use of drop boxes for completed mail-in ballots. But, you can bypass the US Postal Service by:

- hand delivering your completed mail-in ballot (each person must deliver their own, and ID will be required for verification) to your County Elections office (<https://bit.ly/TXCtyRegistrars>), or
- using an overnight courier service such as FedEx or UPS so that it arrives at the County Elections office (<https://bit.ly/TXCtyRegistrars>) on or before November 4. (Can arrive by 5:00pm on November 4 but must be postmarked on or before 7:00pm on November 3.)

Some Counties have more than one County Elections office, so contact them

(<https://bit.ly/TXCtyRegistrars>) to see if there are other authorized locations for you to deliver your completed mail-in ballot. Some counties are also offering curbside drop off service; pull into the parking lot into a designated spot, text the number on the sign, and someone will come check your ID and accept your completed form.

12. Can I drop off my completed mail-in ballot at polling location during Early Voting or on Election Day?

No. Polling locations are not drop off locations for completed mail-in ballots, unless you wish to surrender your completed mail-in ballot and vote in person. This would require you to stand in line and surrender your completed mail-in ballot and vote in person.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

13. I've sent my completed mail-in ballot to my County Elections office, but now I've changed my mind about who I want to vote for. Can I go vote in-person to change my vote?

No. You cannot change your choices once you have voted.

14. How do I know my completed ballot by mail has been received by the County Elections office?

In Texas, there is no online tool (except for those in the military) to track whether your completed vote by mail ballot has been received and/or counted. You will need to contact your County Elections office (<https://bit.ly/TXCtyRegistrars>) to ask.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

COVID-19

1. *What can I do to minimize COVID-19 risks?*

There is a somewhat irreconcilable tension in this year's election, election security and integrity versus health and community transmission during a pandemic. Ultimately, you need to decide which is most important to you and then follow that path. If you are more concerned about election security, the safest and most reliable form of voting is in-person at a polling location. If you are more concerned about health, then voting by mail is your better option, so long as you qualify to do so.

You can certainly take precautionary measures on each path to help mitigate concerns you may have regarding the risks involved. For example, you can wear appropriate PPE, social distance while in line, and vote early in the day during the expanded Early Voting period to minimize the risk of exposure. Conversely, you can use FedEx or UPS to do an overnight delivery, or do an in-person drop off to your County Elections office to minimize the risk of postal delays. You can also call your County Elections office to confirm receipt of your mail-in ballot.

2. *What COVID-19 protections will be in place at polling locations? At County Elections offices?*

Statewide standards for polling locations have been provided, but no standard procedures have been established. So, each county will have slight variations, and polling locations within the same county may even have slight variations. The general protocols call for all poll workers to wear PPE, to clean voting equipment often, and to provide for social distancing while in line and voting. However, the Governor's order does *NOT* require poll workers or individual citizens to take precautions. So, be prepared to see poll workers or voters not wearing PPE. If you have specific questions, please contact your County Elections office (<https://bit.ly/TXCtyRegistrars>). If you are wearing PPE, you may be asked by the poll worker to temporarily remove it so they may verify your identity.

It is generally easier to maintain pandemic safety standards at the County Elections office, sometimes restricting the number of people in the building, having clearly marked social distance markers, requiring face masks, etc.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

3. *Will they have face masks and hand sanitizer for me at the polling location?*

There is no requirement for counties to provide PPE to poll workers or voters, although many are doing their best to provide some. IT IS HIGHLY recommended that , IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU BRING YOUR OWN PPE. See our **My In-person Voting Day Checklist** below.

4. *What do I do if I see someone practicing unsafe behaviors?*

If you are at a polling location, and you see any form of unacceptable behavior -- disrupting or disturbing *required* COVID-19 precautions, electioneering within 100 feet of the entrance of the polling location, harassment or threats to voters, etc. -- your first line of defense is the Judge at your polling location. Remember, voters at polling locations are NOT required to wear face masks, so be prepared to see people who are not doing so. Your second line of defense is the Texas Democratic Party Voter Information and Protection Hotline at 1-844-898-6837. Depending on where you live, your county Democratic Party may also have a voter protection hotline that can help you with a more localized response.

5. *What are the guidelines for voters to ensure healthy in-person voting during the COVID-19 pandemic?*

The Texas Secretary of State recommends:

- maintaining six (6) feet of distance from other individuals at the polling location,
- self-screening for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to going to any polling location. If you are exhibiting symptoms, contact your County Elections office to check if you are eligible for curbside voting,
- bringing your own marking instrument such as a pen, pencil with eraser, or stylus to use when checking in to vote and for marking your ballot,
- wearing latex gloves and bring your hand sanitizer to the polling location to use it after leaving the polling locations
- wearing an appropriate face mask over your nose and mouth at the polling location.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

There are recommendations, NOT requirements, so please be prepared to see people not following these measures. More detailed guidelines can be found here:

<https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/forms/health-protocols-for-voters.pdf>

6. What if I have been diagnosed with COVID-19 (or another illness or injury that prevents me from voting in person) and it's past the vote-by-mail deadline. What are my options to vote?

You can vote with what's called a "late ballot." To apply for a late ballot, print out and complete the top section of this <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/pol-sub/5-25f.pdf>, have a duly licensed physician, chiropractor, or accredited Christian Science practitioner complete the bottom section, and have a representative you select (who is at least 18 years old, not employed by or related to a candidate, and is not any other voter's representative) submit the application form in person at the main early voting polling place in your county (call to verify where that is for your county: <https://bit.ly/TXCtyRegistrars>). For this election, you can submit a late ballot application based on illness anytime between October 31 and November 3 at 5pm.

The County Elections office should provide the late ballot to your representative at the same time they submit your application, and then your representative must deliver the ballot to you to complete and seal.

The late ballot must be delivered by your representative to the main early voting polling place in your county no later than 7:00pm on November 3.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

VOTER REGISTRATION

1. *When is the last day to register to vote?*

Your voter registration application must be postmarked on or before Tuesday, October 5.

2. *Who is eligible to register to vote?*

There are a few requirements in order to register to vote:

1. You must be a US citizen.
2. You must be a resident of the county in which you are registering to vote.
3. You must not be finally convicted of a felony. Or if you have been, you have completed any term of incarceration, probation supervision, etc. (“off paper”) or have been pardoned.
4. You must not have a final judgement against you by a court of law declaring you totally or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.
5. You must be at least age 17 years and 10 months when you register and at least 18 on or before Election Day.

3. *Can I register to vote online in Texas?*

No. You may use online tools to either request or download a voter registration application, but you cannot complete the process online. We recommend requesting your voter registration application using the following link: <https://bit.ly/VoterRegSAAVETX>. In order to register to vote, you must complete the process by signing and dating the form, and returning it to the Secretary of State or your County Elections office (<https://bit.ly/TXCtyRegistrars>).

4. *How do I register to vote?*

You can request an application to register to vote by going to <https://bit.ly/VoterRegSAAVETX> and completing the online form. At the end of this process you will be given an option to either (1) receive a printed form in the mail for you to sign, date and enter your ID information (Texas Drivers License or State Identification number or social security number), and then return to your county in



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

the provided prepaid envelope, or (2) download a pdf of your application for you to print, sign, date, and mail yourself.

IF YOU REQUEST AN APPLICATION TO REGISTER TO VOTE USING THIS ONLINE TOOL AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU SELECT OPTION 2 AND PRINT THE PDF YOURSELF AND PLACE THE COMPLETED APPLICATION IN THE MAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 5.

5. *What would cause me to change or update my voter registration?*

The main reasons that you might need to change or update your voter registration are:

1. You have moved to a new address.
2. There is an error on your current voter registration, such as in your name or address.
3. You have had a change of name such as marriage or divorce or legal name change.
4. Your voting rights were revoked due to a felony conviction, and you have now completed your incarceration and probationary periods and are “off paper”.

6. *I think I’m registered to vote. How do I check?*

You can confirm your registration status by going to <https://bit.ly/VoterRegSAAVETX>. Enter your name and address to check your voter registration status. If you need to register, you can continue the process to receive an Texas Voter Registration Application. At the end of this process you will be given an option to either (1) receive a printed form in the mail for you to sign, date and enter your ID information (Texas Drivers License or State Identification number or social security number), and then return to your county in the provided prepaid envelope, or (2) download a pdf of your application for you to print, sign, date, and mail yourself. IF YOU REQUEST AN APPLICATION TO REGISTER TO VOTE USING THIS ONLINE TOOL AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU SELECT OPTION 2 AND PRINT THE PDF YOURSELF AND



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

PLACE THE COMPLETED APPLICATION IN THE MAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 5.

7. *If I moved within the same county, city, or state, do I have to register to vote again?*

Yes. There are many ballot measures that are dependent on your specific address, from city council and school board elections to Congressional races and MUD resolutions. So, you need to update your voter registration even if you have moved within the same county.

If you are moving within the same county, go to <https://txapps.texas.gov/tolapp/sos/SOSACManager> and complete the form. There has been high volume on this website, so if you experience difficulty, please keep trying. To complete this online form, you will need (i) your Texas Drivers License or State Identification, (ii) your VUID from your current voter registration card, or (iii) your social security number.

If you have moved into another county within Texas, you can change your voter registration by going to <https://bit.ly/VoterRegSAAVETX> and entering your name and *new* address. At the end of this online process you will be given an option to either (1) receive a printed form in the mail for you to sign, date and enter your Texas Drivers License or State Identification number or social security number, and then return to your county in the provided prepaid envelope, or (2) download a pdf of your application for you to print, sign, date, and mail yourself. IF YOU REQUEST AN APPLICATION TO REGISTER TO VOTE USING THIS ONLINE TOOL AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU SELECT OPTION 2 AND PRINT THE PDF YOURSELF AND PLACE THE COMPLETED APPLICATION IN THE MAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 5.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

8. *What do I do if my voter registration status is “in suspense”?*

There are many reasons why your voter registration may be in suspense -- error, returned mail, inactive voter, etc. But, don't worry. You can become an active voter again by simply re-registering. Go to <https://bit.ly/VoterRegSAAVETX> and complete the online form. At the end of this process you will be given an option to either (1) receive a printed form in the mail for you to sign, date and enter your ID information (Texas Drivers License or State Identification number or social security number), and then return to your county in the provided prepaid envelope, or (2) download a pdf of your application for you to print, sign, date, and mail yourself. IF YOU REQUEST AN APPLICATION TO REGISTER TO VOTE USING THIS ONLINE TOOL AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU SELECT OPTION 2 AND PRINT THE PDF YOURSELF AND PLACE THE COMPLETED APPLICATION IN THE MAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 5.

9. *What is the minimum age for me to register to vote?*

If you were born on or before November 3, 2002, you can vote in this year's election!

You must be at least 17 years and 10 months when you register to vote, though, so be sure to register within two months of your birthday. As an example, let's say my birthdate is October 19, 2002.

- Will I be age 18 on or before November 3, 2020? Yes!
- When is the earliest I can register to vote? Anytime between August 19, 2020 (two months before my birthday) and October 5, 2020 (the voter registration deadline). But don't wait! Register as soon as you're eligible.

Go to <https://bit.ly/VoterRegSAAVETX> to register. At the end of this online process you will be given an option to either (1) receive a printed form in the mail for you to sign, date and enter your Texas Drivers License or State Identification number or social security number, and then return to your county in the provided prepaid envelope, or (2) download a pdf of your application for you to



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

print, sign, date, and mail yourself. IF YOU REQUEST AN APPLICATION TO REGISTER TO VOTE USING THIS TOOL AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU SELECT OPTION 2 AND PRINT THE PDF YOURSELF AND PLACE THE COMPLETED APPLICATION IN THE MAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

VOTER ID

1. *Do I need an ID to vote?*

Yes, if you are voting in person. No, if you vote by mail, unless you plan to return your completed ballot to your County Elections office (<https://bit.ly/TXCtyRegistrars>) in person, in which case they will ask for an acceptable form of ID.

2. *What are the acceptable forms of voter ID?*

The acceptable forms of voter ID are:

1. Texas Drivers License
2. Texas Personal Identification Card
3. Texas Election ID Certificate
4. Texas Handgun License
5. US Citizenship Certificate with Photo
6. US Military ID Card with Photo
7. US Passport (Book or ID)

If you are age 69 or younger on Election Day, any of the acceptable forms of voter ID can be expired up to four (4) years as of Election Day (expired *more recently than* November 3, 2016). If you are 70 or older on Election Day, your ID can be expired for any length of time.

3. *What if I don't have one of these acceptable forms of ID?*

If you need assistance getting a Voter ID, go to <https://www.voteriders.org>. If you are seeking a Texas Drivers License or a Texas Personal Identification Card, the Texas Department of Public Safety is requiring appointments, and these have been scheduled through February 2021 in some locations. Please try to make your appointments as quickly as possible using the following link: <https://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/appointments.htm>. Even if you are able to obtain an appointment, you may not receive your ID in time, in which case, you can complete a Reasonable Impediment Declaration and still vote.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

If you cannot reasonably obtain an acceptable form of ID, you can still vote by (1) completing a Reasonable Impediment Declaration at your polling location and (2) showing a copy or original of:

- a certified domestic Certificate of Birth or court Admissible Birth Document
- current utility bill
- bank statement
- Government check
- Paycheck
- government document with your name and address such as your Voter Registration Card.

A Reasonable Impediment is any of the following:

- Lack of transportation
- Disability or illness
- Lack of a birth certificate or other documents needed to obtain an acceptable form of ID
- Work schedule
- Family responsibilities
- Lost or stolen ID
- Acceptable form of photo ID applied for but not received

The reasonableness of your impediment may not be questioned.

4. *The name on my photo ID does not match my voter registration card. Can I still vote?*

It depends on whether the names are “substantially similar”. The poll worker, sometimes with the help of the election judge, will determine if the discrepancy:

- is a standard variation of the formal name (e.g., Liz for Elizabeth, Pete for Peter, etc.)
- is an initial, middle or former name
- Is a clerical error resulting in the placement of a name in the wrong field in the list of registered voters

The poll worker may corroborate other information, such as date of birth or address, in determining whether your ID meets the substantially similar standard.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

If your name is deemed substantially similar, you will be permitted to vote if you sign an affidavit stating that you are the same person as listed on the list of registered voters.

If your name has been changed legally, e.g., due to marriage or naturalization, and they are substantially different, it is best to update your ID to minimize the risk of disenfranchisement. If you are not able to update your ID to more closely match your voter registration, we recommend that you bring supporting documentation for your substantial name change (marriage certificate, naturalization certificate, court orders changing your legal name, etc.) for the election judge to review. The election judge will be the one who makes the determination whether this will be adequate, and may require you to vote provisionally which may require additional actions from you.

5. *My acceptable form of voter ID has expired. Do I need to get it updated in order to vote?*

If you are age 69 or younger on Election Day, any of the acceptable forms of voter ID can be expired up to four (4) years as of Election Day (expired *more recently than* November 3, 2016). If you are 70 or older on Election Day, your ID can be expired for any length of time.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

CANDIDATES AND BALLOT MEASURES

1. Where can I find my sample ballot and Voter's Guide?

You can find your address-specific sample ballot and voter's guide with un-editorialized candidate responses on <https://vote411.org>.

In addition, in partnership with the National Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans, SAAVE Texas will publish a Voter's Guide for the following races:

- Texas Congressional District 2, Sima Ladjevardian (D)
- Texas Congressional District 6, Jana Lynne Sanchez (D)
- Texas Congressional District 7, Lizzie Fletcher (D)
- Texas Congressional District 9, Al Green (D)
- Texas Congressional District 22, Sri Preston Kulkarni (D)
- Texas Congressional District 32, Colin Allred (D)
- US Senate

This Voter's Guide will be distributed through mail, e-mail, social media and our website in early October.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

REGISTERING OTHERS TO VOTE

1. *How do I register other eligible voters?*

You may register others who are in direct relationship to you: your parents, your spouse, your children. You can complete the form and ask them to sign and date, or you may sign and date the form for them. If you sign and date the form for them, you **MUST** sign your name and then state the nature of your relationship to that person, such as “as spouse,” “as child/son/daughter,” or “as parent.” You may do this **ONLY** for biological or legally recognized relationships such as marriage or adoption; common law marriage and step-children are not permitted.

You can register them to vote by going to <https://bit.ly/VoterRegSAAVETX> and completing the online form. At the end of this process you will be given an option to either (1) receive a printed form in the mail for them (or you) to sign, date and enter their ID information (Texas Drivers License or State Identification number or social security number), and then return to their county in the provided prepaid envelope, or (2) download a pdf of their application for them (or you) to print, sign, date, and mail. **IF YOU REQUEST AN APPLICATION TO REGISTER TO VOTE USING THIS ONLINE TOOL AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU SELECT OPTION 2 AND PRINT THE PDF YOURSELF AND PLACE THE COMPLETED APPLICATION IN THE MAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 5.**

2. *How can I encourage other people to register to vote?*

Great question! We are always hopeful people will encourage their family and friends to register to vote. We recommend sending them a text or email explaining why you believe voting is so important on a personal level. For example, “I want to encourage you to vote in this election because I know we both care about [____]. You can check your registration status and/or register to vote here <https://bit.ly/VoterRegSAAVETX>.” This link can register voters in any state, not just Texas so share it far and wide!



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

ELECTION PROTECTION

3. *What are my rights as a Texas voter?*

You have rights, and it's important to know what they are. You can find the full list here:

<https://www.votetexas.gov/your-rights/>

One of the main ones is your right to cast a provisional ballot. You may cast a provisional ballot if:

- if your name does not appear on the list of registered voters
- if you do not meet the voter ID requirements (see **Voter ID** above) and cannot sign the Reasonable Impediment Declaration

If you need to cast a provisional ballot, the election judge will provide you details about how to cure the provisional status of your ballot and the time frame in which that must be done.

4. *Why might I need to call the Texas Democratic Party Voter Information and Protection Hotline at 1-844-898-6837?*

There are several reasons you may want to call the hotline, the main ones being:

- You have questions about voting that you cannot find the answers to
- You have been denied the right to vote
- You have witnessed illegal or questionable electioneering behavior
- You have experienced unusual delays or voting discrimination
- There is voter intimidation occurring
- You have been wrongly purged from the voter registration rolls

5. *There have been reports of a sham “National Ballot Security Task Force” turning people away from several polling stations in NJ for not having their voter registration card with them. Is this going on in Texas?*

We have not heard of this specific scam in Texas, but that doesn't mean it can't happen. That's why



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

it's important to keep the Texas Democratic Party Voter Information and Protection Hotline (844-898-6837) in your phone. If it doesn't sound or feel right, it's best to call and ask.

Now, specifically about this scam, in Texas you do not need your Voter Registration Card to vote, so please don't fall for this scam. Please see the **Voter ID** section above for the ID requirements to vote.

VOTING IN PERSON

6. *What can I expect when I go to the polls?*

There are some rules and etiquette things you should know when going to your polling location:

- You are not permitted to wear any clothing that promotes or denigrates a party, candidate or ballot measure; patriotic (US flags, red white and blue items, etc.) clothing and generic "Vote" messages are permitted.
- Within 100 feet of the entrance to the polling location, you are not permitted to "electioneer," which broadly includes promoting or denigrating a party, candidate or ballot measure.
- You should bring a face mask, latex gloves, water to drink and a snack / meal to eat depending on the length of the lines.
- Limit line cutting. It's one thing to hold a spot for your spouse while they are parking a car, but quite another thing to hold a spot in a two hour long line and then have six people show up when you're ten minutes away from getting in. These kinds of inconsiderate actions make tense voting days even more tense.
- When you enter the polling location, you will be asked to completely power down your mobile phone and put it away. You are not permitted to have electronic devices inside of the polling location. You may bring a printed sample ballot with your selections.
- As a general rule, you can make polite conversation, but avoid all political topics.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

7. *What is my Voting Day checklist?*

- No later than October 1, I have verified my voter registration status (<https://bit.ly/VoterRegSAAVETX>)

- Make sure you are healthy and able to go vote in person. If you are not well, but still want to vote: <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/pol-sub/5-25f.pdf>

- I have my acceptable form of ID (along with supplemental documents, if needed)(<https://www.votetexas.gov/mobile/id-faqs.htm>)

- I have my voter registration card (optional, not required)

- I have printed (or written down) my complete sample ballot (<https://vote411.org>) with all my selections for the entire ballot marked so I can quickly go through the ballot

- I have the Voter Protection Hotline number programmed into my phone (1-844-898-6837)

- I am comfortably dressed (in non-political attire) and I am wearing comfortable shoes
- Optional items: Water and a snack or meal, stylus or pencil or pen to make selections on voting machines
- Recommended items: Hand sanitizer, face mask, something to read or listen to (though phones must be turned off when voting), latex gloves



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

8. *I need a ride to the polls. How can I get one?*

These services are becoming more available every day, so it is important to search the Internet every day to locate them as they become available.

There is a free service for voters called Rideshare2Vote (<https://rideshare2vote.com>) that is providing COVID-19 precaution rideshares to the polls for certain areas of Texas:

- Texas House District 67, Lorenzo Sanchez (D)
- Texas House District 91, Jeromey Sims (D)
- Texas House District 94, Alisa Simmons (D)
- Texas House District 102, Ana Maria Ramos (D)
- Texas House District 107, Victoria Neave (D)
- Judge, 254th District Court, Kim Brown (D)

If you live in any of these candidates districts, you may request a free ride to the polls during Early Voting or on Election Day using the rider app:

- For Apple iOS, download the app at <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/rideshare2vote-rider/id1498572076?ls=1>
- For Android, download app at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.rideshare2vote>

If you'd like to be a volunteer driver for this effort, click here: <https://rideshare2vote.com/driver-application/>

9. *How long should I expect to wait in line?*

The lines are expected to be quite long this year because of several reasons:

- Presidential elections have more people vote in them, typically 65% to 70% of registered voters.



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

- Texas recently eliminated “straight ticket” voting which allowed you to make selections at the very top to vote for all members of a particular party. So, it is expected that people will take longer to vote because they will need to make selections in every race.
- Since the last Presidential election, many counties have installed new voting machines, so people may not be familiar with the voting equipment.
- Social distancing will make the lines feel longer because people will be much more stretched out.

Offsetting these factors is the fact that the Governor issued an order extending Early Voting by six (6) days. However, there has been a lawsuit filed by Republicans challenging this extension and a final judgment has not been rendered whether this will be permitted.

Many of the larger Counties have polling location wait time reporting on their websites. You can Google “[_____] County poll location wait times” to find the wait times in your county’s polling locations. Lines are typically shorter the earlier you go during Early Voting, and also earlier in the day, say 8:30 or so on.

10. What if I need a translator to help me when I vote?

You are allowed to bring someone with you to help understand the ballot and translate it into your preferred language. This person need not be a citizen. But they cannot be part of a party or candidate’s organization, or a representative of your employer or a labor union. This person will be given an oath that requires them to simply translate your ballot and mark it in accordance with your instructions; they may not influence your decision of who to vote for.

11. Can I vote early? If so, where?

Yes. Any registered voter can vote during Early Voting, which starts on Tuesday, October 13 and ends on October 30. The Governor established these dates, but there has been a lawsuit filed by Republicans challenging these dates and a final judgment has not been rendered. Certain dates may be



**Asian
Democrats
Central
Texas**

excluded; please check your County Elections office website for specific dates, hours, and locations. Early Voting polling locations often vary from Election Day polling locations.

12. *Can I vote at any polling location?*

It depends. During Early Voting, you can vote in any polling location authorized for your county. On Election Day, you may vote in any polling location that is designated as a “countywide” polling location, which you can identify here: <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/countywide-polling-place-program.shtml>. Most of our larger urban counties have countywide polling locations, but suburban and rural areas may not. You can find your complete list of Early Voting and Election Day polling locations at <https://Vote411.org>.

13. *Who qualifies for curbside voting?*

Curbside voting is available at all polling locations during Early Voting and on Election Day. This service is reserved for those who are “physically unable to enter the polling place,” typically the mobility-impaired and/or elderly. In addition, if you are ill (not COVID-19; if you have COVID and are in quarantine, please see **COVID-19** above) and still wish to vote, you may do so with curbside voting.

14. *What happens if I’m in line to vote when my polling location closes?*

If you are in line when the polling location closes, you are permitted to vote. But, you may not leave the line and return at a later time. So, please be sure to stay until you are allowed to vote.