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Young Texas Voters



John Hannah, Jr.
Secretary Of State

YOUNG TEXAS VOTERS

Did you know that according to the U.S. census, approximately 266,000 eighteen year olds become eligible in to vote in Texas each year. Unfortunately, if you take the normal registration rate in Texas of approximately 66% that lowers this number to approximately 175,000 registered eighteen year olds in the state. If you have a normal turnout rate at a presidential election of approximately 66%, this lowers that number to approximately 115,000 eighteen year olds voting for the president. This means that 43% of eighteen year olds are voting for *PRESIDENT* of the United States while the other 57% sit idly by and watch.

Many young people think that the issues at stake really don't affect them. Well, if you think that the money you make on the job, the hours that you work, the environment, future housing, crime and safety, and many other issues don't affect your life, then you need not register and vote. But if they do, then registering and voting is a great way to help control your future.

This past year, all over the world, people have put their lives on the line for self-government. In this country, where we have the right to vote, only 43% of eligible 18 year olds are willing to stand in line to vote. Come election day, will you be willing to stand in line for it?

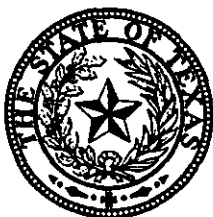
The United States ends up in the middle of the pack as far as voter turnout in the top 24 Western Democracies, behind countries such as Belgium and Australia which can produce 95% and 94% turnouts respectively.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT VOTER REGISTRATION

- Q.** How can I register to vote?
- A.** *You send in a voter registration application to your local Voter Registrar. These applications can be acquired at many local businesses, convenience stores, grocery stores or you can call the secretary of state's office toll free at (800) 252-VOTE (252-8683). There is an example of a voter registration card on the back of this brochure.*
- Q.** How old do I have to be to vote in Texas?
- A.** *You must be 18 years old the day of the election to be eligible to vote in that election.*
- Q.** How much does it cost to register to vote in Texas?
- A.** *There is no charge to register and vote. The registration forms are pre-paid postage by the state of Texas.*
- Q.** How many days before an election must I register to be eligible to vote?
- A.** *Your voter registration application must be postmarked 30 days prior to any election in which you want to vote.*
- Q.** Where do I vote?
- A.** *Check your local paper in the weeks preceding the election for lists of polling places. You can also call your county clerk for specific information.*
- Q.** What is early voting?
- A.** *Early voting is a method of casting your ballot before an election if you are unable to go to your polling place on election day. There are two ways to vote early:
(1) by personal appearance; and (2) by mail.*

- Q.** Can I vote early by personal appearance?
- A.** *Yes. If you are a registered voter, you may vote under Texas' "no excuse" law, which permits you to cast your ballot prior to election day. Call your local county clerk for early dates and hours.*
- Q.** Where can I get an early by mail ballot?
- A.** *You need to fill out an application for a ballot. These can be obtained from your county clerk or directly from the Secretary of State's Office at (800) 252-8683.*
- Q.** If I am going to college should I register in my hometown or in my college town?
- A.** *If you want to journey home or vote early, you can keep your registration in your hometown. However, if you wish, you can register to vote at your new residence.*
- Q.** If I don't know about a candidate or the candidate's views, should I vote?
- A.** *You should take the time to find out what the candidate's major platform points are. What if he or she is very much for something you are against? If you don't vote, you let someone else make your decisions for you.*
- Q.** One vote really doesn't matter anyway, does it?
- A.** *This is not true. The state of Texas was admitted to the Union by one vote in a Congressional Vote in 1845. There are numerous other examples where one vote literally made the difference, never assume an election is going to go one way or the other.*



IMPORTANT GENERAL ELECTION DATES

For further information on voter registration, please contact the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office toll-free at 1-800-252-VOTE (8683) or your local voter registrar.

The upcoming Nov. 3 presidential election promises to be one of the most exciting and interesting in recent years. The following is a list of important election-related dates and deadlines.

September 4--Last day write-in candidates may file their declaration of write-in candidacy.

September 4--First day to submit an application for an early ballot by mail to the early voting clerk (county clerk).

October 4--Last day citizens may register to vote in the Nov. 6 general election.

October 5--An application for voter registration that is submitted by mail is timely if it is postmarked by this date.

October 14--First day of early voting by personal appearance.

October 27--Last day that the early voting clerk (county clerk) may receive an application for an early ballot by mail.

October 30--Last day of early voting by personal appearance.

November 3--GENERAL ELECTION

The dreams we share can all come true. The future of Texas is up to you.

**Vote '92.
Every One Matters.**

VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION (SOLICITUD PARA REGISTRO DE VOTANTE)

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL OF THE INFORMATION BELOW. PRINT OR TYPE.

POR FAVOR COMPLETE LA SIGUIENTE INFORMACION SIGUIENDO EL ORDEN DE ABOUNDO EN ESPAÑOL O EN INGLÉS.

For County Use Only COUNTY	City	State
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Last Name (Apellido)	First Name (NOT HUSBAND'S) (Nombre de Pila (NO DEL ESPOSO))	Middle Name (if any) (Apellidos Intermedios (si los hay))	Maiden Name (Apellido de Soltera)
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Sex (Sexo)	Date of Birth: month, day, year (Fecha de nacimiento: mes, día, año)	Place of Birth: city or county, state or foreign country (Lugar de nacimiento: ciudad o condado, estado o país extranjero)	County and Address of Former Residence (Condado y dirección de su residencia pasada)
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Residence Address: Street Address and Apartment Number, City, State, and ZIP. If none, describe location of residence. (Do not include P.O. Box or Rural Rte.)
(Dirección de Residencia: Calle y Número de Departamento, Ciudad, Estado, y Zona Postal. Si no está, describa la localidad de su residencia. (No incluya ni caja postal ni ruta rural.)

Mailing Address, City, State and ZIP. If mail cannot be delivered to your residence address, (Correo Postal, Ciudad, Estado y Zona Postal) (Si es imposible entregar correspondencia a su domicilio)

Applicant is a United States citizen and a resident of the county and has not been finally restricted of a felony or if a felon eligible for registration under section 13.011, Election Code. I understand that giving false information to procure a voter registration is a misdemeanor. (Applicant is resident of the County of Dallas and is resident of the county and on his date probable eligible for registration of his county.) (El solicitante es ciudadano de los Estados Unidos y es residente del condado y en su fecha probable elegible para el registro de su condado.)	Radio Security No. (Número de Seguro de Radio)
	Telephone No. (City/County) (Número de Teléfono (Ciudad/Condado))
	TX Driver's License No. or Personal I.D. No. (State of Texas) (Número de Licencia de Conducir de Automóvil o Número de Identificación Personal de Proprietario de Vehículo de Texas)

Signature of Applicant or Agent or Printed Name of Applicant if Signed by Witness (Firma del Solicitante o Agente, o Nombre del Solicitante si Llega de Manera de Ser Firmado Por Un Testigo)	Count of Signatories, if Applicant (Cuenta de Firmantes, Si Aplicable)
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FOR AGENT / PARA AGENTE: Application may be made by agent who must be a qualified voter of the county or town submitting a registration application and must otherwise be eligible to vote and must be the applicant's husband, wife, father, mother, son or daughter. (La solicitud podrá ser hecha por un agente que deberá ser un votante registrado de ese condado o que habrá presentado una solicitud para registrarse para votar, y de otro modo deberá de estar elegible para votar. El agente deberá ser el esposo, esposa, padre, madre, hijo o hija del solicitante.)

*The disclosure of social security number is voluntary. It is submitted by authority of sec. 13.122 and will be used only to maintain the accuracy of the registration records. (El consentimiento de dar su número de seguro social es voluntario. Se solicita bajo la autoridad de la sec. 13.122 y se usará solamente para mantener la exactitud de los registros.)

VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

- Name:** Applicants must give their full legal name--no initials please. A married woman may not use her husband's first name in place of her own.
- Sex:** The sex should be indicated because many times it is difficult to determine whether the applicant is male or female by his or her given name.
- Date of Birth:** The date of birth blanks must be properly filled in with the applicant's month, day, and year of birth. Merely indicating that they are over 18 will not be acceptable.
- Place of Birth:** Section 13.002(c), amended by House Bill 613 requires a place of birth on the application.
 - Please explain to the applicant that, if they were born in a foreign country, not born to American parents, or were otherwise not entitled to U.S. citizenship at birth, they must also provide their court of naturalization.
- County and Address of Former Residence:** Applicants must indicate if they were formerly registered in another Texas county so that their previous registration will be canceled.
- Residence Address (or Description of or Physical Location if no Street Address):** The applicant's county street address must be provided in this space. Lack of zip code does not invalidate the application.
 - If the applicant cannot receive mail at the above address, then a description of the physical location of the residence is required, e.g., two miles west of Dripping Springs on Hwy. 290.
- 7, 8, and 9. Social Security Number, Telephone Number, and Texas Driver's License or Personal I.D. Number:** Although this information is optional, it is important because it is used to accurately maintain the voter registration records.
- 10. Signature:** A signature is required on all applications to make them valid. A husband, wife, mother, father, son, or daughter may act as an agent to register one another. If someone is unable to sign the application, you may have them mark the application, and their mark must be witnessed.