

ELECTION 2020

Call:
1-888-API-VOTE
(274-8683)

Bilingual assistance is available in English, Mandarin (普通话/普通话),
Cantonese (廣東話/广东话), Korean (한국어), Vietnamese (Tiếng Việt),
Tagalog, Urdu (اردو), Hindi (हिन्दी), and Bengali (বাংলা).



CHINESE COMMUNITY CENTER
中華文化服務中心



OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates
EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS



Are You Ready to Vote: TEXAS?

Updated Thursday, October 15, 2020

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020

When voting, you have the right to:

- Bring someone of your choice to help you vote in the voting booth if you have some difficulty with English.
- Receive language assistance from the government in certain places.
- Vote without being intimidated or discriminated against by others.
 - Intimidation or discrimination at the polls may look like harassing you or denying you the right to vote because of your accent or challenging your right to vote under the false stereotype that you are not a citizen because of your race.

Who can vote in Texas

- A United States citizen;
- A resident of the county where you submit your voter registration application;
- You are 18 years of age on Election Day.
- Not a convicted felon (you may be eligible to vote if you have completed your sentence, probation, and parole); and
- Not been declared by a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be either totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

You must be registered to vote in order to cast a ballot.

Key Dates

- Monday, October 5 – Deadline to register to vote.
- Tuesday, October 13 – Friday, October 30 – Early voting period
- Friday, October 23 – Deadline to request a Vote By Mail/Absentee Ballot.
- Tuesday, November 3 – Election Day! Vote in person at your polling place.
- Wednesday, November 4 – Ensure your Vote By Mail/Absentee Ballot is received by election officials.

Voter Registration: Are you registered?

- Have you registered to vote before?
 - Yes
 - Confirm you are still registered where you live now (*you may need to copy/paste the URL directly into your browser to access the page*): <https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do>
 - If you are no longer registered, re-register today: <https://vrapp.sos.state.tx.us/index.asp>
 - If you are not registered at the correct address, update your registration: <https://txapps.texas.gov/tolapp/sos/SOSACManager>
 - No, you can register by Monday, October 5 to vote in the 2020 General Election.
 - Mail
 - Fill out, print, and mail an online form here: <https://vrapp.sos.state.tx.us/index.asp>
 - Using the National Mail Voter Registration Form: <https://www.eac.gov/voters/national-mail-voter-registration-form>
 - The National Mail Voter Registration Form can be used to register U.S. citizens to vote, to update registration information due to a change of name, make a change of address, or to register with a political party.
 - You must follow the state-specific instructions listed for your state. They begin on page 3 of the form and are listed alphabetically by state. After filling out this form, you must sign your name where indicated and send it to your state or local election office for processing. Be sure you mail it in an envelope with the proper amount of postage.
 - Download the Form in 15 Languages:
 - [National Mail Voter Registration Form – English](#)
 - [طلب تسجيل الناخب – Arabic](#)
 - [জাতীয় ডাক ভোটার নিবন্ধন ফর্ম – Bengali](#)
 - [国家邮件选民登记表 – Chinese](#)
 - [Inscription sur les listes électorales – French](#)
 - [Aplikasyon Enskripsyon Elektè – Haitian Creole](#)
 - [राष्ट्रीय डक मतदाता पंजीकरण फॉर्म – Hindi](#)
 - [国立メール有権者登録フォーム – Japanese](#)
 - [ទម្រង់បែបបទនៃការចុះឈ្មោះអ្នកបោះឆ្នោតជាតិ – Khmer](#)
 - [전국 우편 유권자 등록 양식 – Korean](#)
 - [Solicitação para cadastro de eleitor – Portuguese](#)
 - [Заявка на регистрацию избирателя – Russian](#)
 - [Formulario nacional de inscripción de votantes – Spanish](#)
 - [National Mail Form ng Pagpaparehistro ng Botante – Tagalog](#)
 - [Mẫu đăng ký quốc gia Thư cử tri – Vietnamese](#)
 - Make sure you have the necessary documentation to register.

Vote by Mail (VBM)/Absentee Ballot

- How do I request a VBM/Absentee Ballot?
 - Requirements to cast a VBM/Absentee ballot:
 - be 65 years or older;
 - be sick or disabled;
 - be out of the county on election day and during the period for early voting by personal appearance; or
 - be confined in jail, but otherwise eligible.
 - If you are qualified to cast a VBM/Absentee ballot and would like to request one, there may still be time to do so.
 - Deadline: Friday, October 23 (when VBM/Absentee ballot application needs to be received)

- Call your local or county office holding the election and request that an application to vote by mail be sent to you, or download, print, and send a VBM/Absentee Ballot application here: <https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/forms/5-15f.pdf>.
 - Send your application for a VBM/Absentee ballot as early as 60 days before an election. This will give you plenty of time to receive your ballot, mark it, and mail it back to the Early Voting Clerk.
 - Applications to vote by must be submitted by mail, email, common or contract carrier, or fax (if a fax machine is available in the office of the Early Voting Clerk); if you submit the application by email or fax, you must mail the original application to the clerk within four business days.
 - If you are voting by mail because you are disabled or are 65 years of age or older, you may use a single application to request ballots by mail for all county elections in the calendar year. While you can submit this “annual” application anytime during the calendar year, it must be received at least 11 days before the first election in which you seek to request a ballot by mail.
 - Generally, a VBM/Absentee Ballot must be mailed to the address where you are registered to vote. However, if you are 65 or older or have a physical disability, you may have your VBM/Absentee Ballot sent to a hospital, nursing home or long-term care facility, retirement center, or relative, but you must check the blank on the form indicating which address you are providing. If your reason for voting by mail is absence from the county, the ballot must be mailed to an address outside the county.
- How can I return my VBM/Absentee Ballot?
 - Instructions are included with the VBM/Absentee Ballot. Complete your VBM/Absentee Ballot by following them fully and carefully.
 - If you plan to use U.S. Postal Service to mail back your VBM/Absentee Ballot,
 - The deadline to receive ballots mailed within the United States from non-military and military voters who submitted an Application for Ballot by Mail is 5 pm on Wednesday, November 4 if the carrier envelope has a postmark showing it was in the mail by Elect Day on Tuesday, November 3.
 - Address and mail the completed ballot to the Early Voting Clerk in your county.
 - Addresses for the Early Voting Clerks are available here: <https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/voter/county.shtml>
 - TIP: Do it early! At the latest, send it back at least one week before Election Day.
 - If you plan to drop off your VBM/Absentee ballot,
 - Deliver it to the Office of the Early Voting Clerk by 7pm on Election Day on Tuesday, November 3. Addresses for the Early Voting Clerks are available here: <https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/voter/county.shtml>
 - You will need a valid form of ID. (*see below for examples*)
 - Devise a plan of action if you do not receive the ballot or do not receive it in time.

In Person Voting

- If early voting is an option for you, and you'd like to vote early:
 - Early voting period: Tuesday, October 13 – Friday, October 30, 2020
 - Any registered voter may vote early by personal appearance (in person). You may vote at any early voting location in your county of registration.
 - You will be able to find early voting locations here (*you may need to copy/paste the URL directly into your browser to access the page*): <https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do>, which will be populated with voting sites a few days before early voting begins. Or, you may want to contact the [Early Voting Clerk for State and County Elections](#) in your county (<https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/voter/county.shtml>). Also, many newspapers publish early voting

and election day polling locations, so you might be able to find the information there.

- If you plan to vote on Election Day:
 - Polling places are open from 7 am to 7 pm. If you are the polling place by 7pm, stay in line and you must be allowed to cast your vote.
 - Find your polling place:
 - You will be able to find early voting locations here (*you may need to copy/paste the URL directly into your browser to access the page*): <https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do>
 - Check your local newspaper on the Saturday before the election for the address of the polling place for your precinct. If you do not possess one of the [seven \(7\) acceptable forms of photo identification](#) and you cannot reasonably obtain one, show a [supporting form of identification](#) to the election official and execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration. Depending on the type of voting machine they use, they'll provide you with a paper ballot or, for an electronic voting machine, a number or ballot activator card that enables you to vote on the machine.

- Voter ID is required to vote in Texas.
 - Acceptable forms of voter ID:
 - Texas Driver License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
 - Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
 - Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS
 - Texas Handgun License issued by DPS
 - United States Military Identification Card containing the person's photograph
 - United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph
 - United States Passport (book or card)

With the exception of the U.S. Citizenship Certificate, which does not expire, for voters aged 18-69, the acceptable form of photo identification may be expired no more than four years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place. For voters aged 70 or older, the acceptable form of photo identification may be expired for any length of time if the identification is otherwise valid.
 - If you do not have one of the acceptable forms of voter ID listed above and cannot reasonably obtain one, you may use the following:
 - copy or original of a government document that shows the voter's name and an address, including the voter's voter registration certificate;
 - copy of or original current utility bill;
 - copy of or original bank statement;
 - copy of or original government check;
 - copy of or original paycheck; or
 - copy of or original of (a) a certified domestic (from a U.S. state or territory) birth certificate or (b) a document confirming birth admissible in a court of law which establishes the voter's identity (which may include a foreign birth document).

If you use these other forms of voter ID, you will be required to execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration at the polling place, noting your reasonable impediment to obtaining an acceptable form of photo identification, stating that the information contained in the declaration is true, that you are the same individual personally appearing at the polling place to sign the declaration, and that you face a reasonable impediment to procuring an acceptable form of photo identification. Forgetting an acceptable form of voter ID is not considered a reasonable impediment.

- Know Your Rights: Provisional Ballots
 - In order to have the provisional ballot counted the voter will be required to visit the county voter registrar's office within six calendar days of the date of the election to either present an acceptable form of photo ID OR, if the voter does not possess and cannot reasonably obtain an acceptable form of photo ID, follow the Reasonable Impediment Declaration procedure, or, if applicable, submit one of the temporary affidavits addressed in these FAQs (religious objection or natural disaster) in the presence of the county voter registrar, or, if applicable, qualify for the disability exemption addressed in these FAQs with the county voter registrar.

Language Assistance

You have the right to language assistance during voting.

- Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act requires certain jurisdictions to provide in-language voting materials in areas with a significant number of limited English proficient voters. In Texas, Harris County must provide materials in Chinese and Vietnamese, and Tarrant County must provide materials in Vietnamese.
- Under Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act you can bring *your own interpreter/or translator to the polls, as long as they are not your employer or an agent of your union.*
 - **TIP: If you need language assistance, ask for help and find a person willing to help!**
- Check your state and law laws for any additional language assistance requirements.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.votetexas.gov/index.html>
www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/election2020

If you have any questions about voting, no matter how big or small,
call us at [1-888-API-VOTE \(1-888-274-8683\)](tel:1-888-API-VOTE) for help in

English, Mandarin (普通話), Cantonese (廣東話), Korean (한국어), Vietnamese (tiếng Việt), Tagalog, Urdu (اردو), Hindi (हिंदी), and Bengali/Bangla (বাংলা). We are available to provide assistance leading up to, on, and after Election Day.