



Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016

This guide is designed to help protect your right to vote. Keep it handy, and take it with you to the polls on Election Day.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is a nationwide, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with more than a million members, supporters and activists dedicated to defending the principles of liberty and equality embodied in the Constitution and our nation's civil rights laws. The ACLU does not endorse or oppose any candidate or party, but we believe that no civil right is more important in our democracy than the right to vote.

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- Check your voter registration status at https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/ mvp.do. Or call your county voter registrar. You can find the phone number at www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/votregduties.shtml.
- Locate your polling place and note the hours of operation by calling your county election office. You can find the phone number at www.sos.state.tx.us/ elections/voter/county.shtml. On or after November 6, you can also find out at https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do.
- Consider voting before Election Day, either in person or by mail. You can vote from October 24 – November 4 at any early voting location in your county. Early voting locations will be posted by the first day of early voting at https:// teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do Some people can also vote by mail.
- Vote early in the day to avoid the last-minute rush, especially if you plan to vote on November 8.

- Bring one of the following forms of ID, current or expired no more than four years :
 - o a Texas driver's license;
 - o a Texas Election Identification Certificate (a photo ID for voting);
 - o a personal identification card issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety;
 - o a United States military identification card with your photograph;
 - o a United States citizenship certificate with your photograph;
 - o a United States passport; or
 - o a license to carry a concealed handgun issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety.
- If you don't have any of those, you can vote by filling out a Reasonable Impediment Declaration and presenting one of the following documents:
 - o Current utility bill;
 - o Bank statement, paycheck, or government check;
 - o Voter registration certificate;
 - o Certified birth certificate; or
 - o Any other government document with your name and an address.
- Check to see if the polling place is accessible (if you have a mobility disability and need the access).
- Read all instructions carefully.
- Take your time, and ask for help if you need it.



| Tues, Oct 11, 2016 | Deadline to register for the general election. If you mail your registration form, it must be postmarked by this date. |
|--------------------|--|
| Mon, Oct 24, 2016 | Early voting begins |
| Fri, Oct 28, 2016 | Deadline to request an absentee ballot for the general election. Your ballot request must be received (not postmarked) by this date. |
| Fri, Nov 4, 2016 | Early voting ends |
| Tues, Nov. 8 2016 | General Election |

★ 🚥 WHO CAN VOTE 🔤 🛧

Can I vote in Texas?

- You can vote in the November 8 election if you register to vote by October 6, 2016.
- You can register if you meet **all** of the following qualifications:
 - (1) you are a U. S. Citizen;
 - (2) you're a resident of Texas and the county where you intend to vote;
 - (3) you'll be at least 18 years old on Election Day;
 - (4) if you were convicted of a felony, you're not serving a sentence or on parole, probation, or court supervision; and
 - (5) you haven't been declared by a court to be either totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

What if I'm a student

• You can register to vote at whatever address you regard as your permanent home. This can be your school address or your home address, but not both.

What if I have a physical disability?

- You have the right to an accessible voting place. It should be easy to get in the door, to the registration table and to your voting booth.
- You have the right to receive assistance if you are not able to read the ballot.
- You have the right to an accessible voting machine. This machine can read the ballot to you and record your vote privately. Every polling place must have one.
- If your polling place is still not able to accommodate you, you have a right to vote outside the polling place.

What if I have a mental disability?

- You have the same right to vote as anyone else.
- The only exception to this is if a judge, in a court proceeding, has found you incompetent to vote; then you cannot vote.
- A poll worker cannot decide whether you are competent to vote. Only a judge can do this.

What if I've been convicted of a crime?

 If you were convicted of a misdemeanor, you can vote, but you have to vote by absentee ballot if you're still in jail.

- If you were convicted of a felony:
 - You **can** vote if you have finished your sentence.
 - □ You **can** vote if you have been pardoned.
 - You can vote if you are appealing your conviction. If you are in jail without bail during your appeal, you have to vote by absentee ballot.
 - You **cannot** vote if you are in prison.
 - You **cannot** vote if you are on parole.
 - You **cannot** vote if you are on probation.
 - You **cannot** vote if you are under supervision.
- If you have been charged with a crime but not convicted, you can vote.
- If you are in jail without bail waiting for your trial, you have to vote by absentee ballot.

What if I'm homeless?

- You don't need a home to register to vote, but you do have to describe where you usually stay or return to. This can be a street corner, a park, a shelter, or any other place where you usually stay.
- You also have to list an address where you can receive mail. You may want to use the address of a shelter, outreach center, or anywhere else willing to accept mail on your behalf.

What if I've moved?

- If you moved to a **new county**, you need to re-register to vote there. If you moved to a new address within the **same county** and you're registered there, you just need to update your address.
- If you moved to a **new county**:
 - If you want to cast a regular ballot in the November 8 election, you need to reregister by October 11.
 - If you don't have time to register in your new county by October 6, but you were registered to vote in your old county, you can still cast a limited ballot. On a limited ballot, you can't vote in local or county elections, but you can vote in elections that are not related to the county you live in, like state and national elections.
 - To cast a limited ballot, you have to go to the main early voting location for your new county during the early voting period (between Oct. 24 and Nov. 4). You cannot vote on Election Day. If you are eligible to vote by mail, you can cast a limited ballot by mail.

- If you moved to a new address in the same county where you are already registered:
 - Update your address by October 6. If you update your address by October 6, you can vote in the polling place for your **new address**.
 - You can update your address online here: https://txapps.texas.gov/tolapp/sos/ SOSACManager. You also can update your address with the county voter registrar by 1) correcting your address on the back of your voter registration certificate and mailing it to the County Voter Registrar; 2) filling out a new voter application and checking the box labeled "change"; or 3) changing your address on your driver's license and voter registration when you update your driver's license.
 - If you don't update your address by October 6, you can vote only in the polling place for your **old address**. You can vote by regular ballot, but your vote will not count in any local elections that aren't covered by your new address.

What if I've changed my name?

- If you changed your name, update your name on your voter registration AND on the photo ID you plan to show when you vote.
 - The name on your photo ID must be "substantially similar" to the name on your registration. Otherwise you will not be allowed to vote.
- If the two names are similar but don't match exactly, you will be able to vote if a poll worker decides they are similar enough. You will have to sign a form confirming your identity. To avoid problems or delays, try to make sure the name on your ID is the same as the name on your voter registration.
- You can update your name on your voter registration by: 1) correcting your name on the back of your voter registration certificate and mailing it to the County Voter Registrar; 2) filling out a new voter application and checking the box labeled "change"; or 3) changing your name on your driver's license and voter registration when you update your driver's license.
- Update your name on your voter registration by October 6.

How do I know if I'm registered?

You can check your registration status online at https://team1.sos.state.tx.us/ voterws/viw/faces/SearchSelectionVoter.jsp. You can also call your county voter registrar's office. You can find the phone number here: http://www.sos.state.tx.us/ elections/voter/votregduties.shtml.

How do I register?

- You can register to vote:
 - 1) **in person**, by filling out an application for registration at your local county voter registrar's office;
 - 2) **by mail**, by filling out a mail-in voter registration form and mailing it to your local county voter registrar's office;
 - 3) when you apply for services at the Department of Public Safety and state agencies that provide public assistance (such as Medicaid, WIC, and food stamps) or services to people with disabilities. You may also be able to register at many other state and federal offices and agencies.
- Pick up a mail-in voter registration form from your local county voter registrar's office, libraries, government offices, and high schools. Fill it out and mail it to your county voter registrar.
- You can ask for a voter registrar form online at http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/ voter/reqvr.shtml. You can download and print an application or request to receive an application by mail. Fill out the application and mail it to your county voter registrar's office.

What's the registration deadline?

• October 11, 2016.

What if I miss the deadline?

 You won't be able to vote in the November 8 election, but you can register to vote in future elections.



Can I vote before Election Day?

- Yes. Any registered voter can vote before Election Day by casting a ballot in person at an early voting center. The early voting period begins on October 24 and ends on November 4.
- If you won't be able to get to the polls before or on Election Day, you may be able to vote early by mail. You can get a ballot by mail if you're registered to vote and you meet **any** of the following conditions: (1) you'll be away from your county during early voting and on Election Day; (2) you'll be 65 years of age or older on Election

Day; (3) you're sick, disabled, or are expecting to give birth around Election Day; OR (4) you're in jail but eligible to vote.

You are eligible to vote from jail if you are: 1) serving a misdemeanor sentence that ends on or after Election Day, 2) waiting for trial after bail has been denied, 3) appealing a felony conviction without bail, OR 4) waiting for trial or appeal on an offense for which release on bail before Election Day is unlikely.

What's early voting?

- Early voting allows any registered voter to vote in person at special early voting centers between October 24, 2016 and November 4.
- Contact your county election office for the location and hours of an early voting center near you.

How do I get a ballot to vote early by mail?

- You have to submit an application or written request for a ballot by mail. Your request must be received (not postmarked) by your local early voting clerk no later than October 28, 2016. If your early voting clerk has a fax machine, you can also submit your request by fax.
- You can download an application at http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/polsub/5-15f.pdf, or you can contact the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office at 1-800-252-8683 to have an application mailed to you. You can find the contact information for your local early voting clerk here: http://www.sos.state.tx.us/ elections/voter/county.shtml.

What's the deadline for returning my ballot by mail?

- Mail your completed ballot to your local early voting clerk. It must arrive by 7 p.m. on November 8 (Election Day).
- If you don't use your Ballot by Mail, you can still vote in person on Election Day. You have to sign an affidavit swearing that you are a registered voter in your county and that you did not vote early by mail. Then you will vote on a provisional ballot, which will count after election officials confirm your eligibility. A provisional ballot is used to record your vote when there is a question about your eligibility.

When is Election Day?

Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

When are the polls open?

 Polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. You have the right to vote if you're in line or inside your polling place when the polls close.

Can I get time off from work to vote?

Maybe. If you don't have two consecutive hours between your shift and when the
polls open or close, your employer must give you time off work. Your employer is not
allowed to dock your pay or punish you in any other manner because you took time
off to vote.

Where do I vote?

- On Election Day, you have to vote at your assigned polling place.
- Your assigned polling place is determined by your voting precinct, which will be listed on the voter registration certificate you receive in the mail when you register. You can find the voting location for your precinct by calling your county election office. You can find the phone number at www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/county. shtml. On or after November 6, you can also check https://team1.sos.state.tx.us/ voterws/viw/faces/SearchSelectionPolling.jsp.
- If you don't have your voter registration certificate, you can call your local county voter registrar's office or look up your polling place online at https://team1.sos. state.tx.us/voterws/viw/faces/SearchSelectionPolling.jsp.

What if I am disabled and my polling place is not accessible?

- If you find this out before Election Day, call the Texas Secretary of State or your county election official right away and ask for an accommodation. You have the right to an accessible polling place and an accessible voting machine.
- Or, if you prefer, you can vote early in person at an early voting center or by mail using a mail-in ballot. All early voting centers must be accessible to the elderly and people with disabilities.
- During the early voting period and on Election Day, you can also vote curbside. Send someone into the polling place or early voting center to request curbside voting on your behalf. Poll workers will bring a ballot outside so you can vote.
- You can also bring one or more people to help you. You have the right to ask anyone (including the poll worker) for help, except your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your labor union.

What if I am blind or I have a learning disability and I cannot read the ballot?

• You have the right to an accessible voting machine. This is like a computer that reads the ballot to you. It allows you to choose your candidate and cast your vote by pushing buttons. Every polling place must have at least one of these machines.

Can I get a ballot in my native language?

- Anywhere in Texas, you have the right to assistance in Spanish.
- If you vote in El Paso or Maverick Counties, you also have the right to assistance in certain Native American languages.
- If you vote in Harris County, you have the right to assistance in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese.
- REMEMBER: Poll workers are required to offer this assistance to you. If they don't, tell a poll worker that you want assistance in one of these languages. You have a right to receive translated ballots and election materials.

What if there are long lines?

- Tell a poll worker if it is hard for you to stand in long lines because of a physical or mental health condition or disability.
- Elections officials must try to assist you. For example, if it is hard for you to stand, they should give you a chair or a place to sit while you wait. If the crowds or noise are too hard for you, they could find you a quiet place to wait until it is your turn to vote. Or, they could call you on your cell phone when it is close to your turn, and you could wait in a place of your choice.

What if I need help in the voting booth?

- If you need help because of a physical disability or because you can't read the ballot, tell a poll worker when you get to your polling place. You have the right to vote on an accessible voting machine.
- You have the right to receive help from anyone of your choice except your employer, an agent of your employer, or an officer or agent of your labor union.
- You have a right to bring an interpreter with you to communicate with poll workers and to translate the ballot.
- If you need instructions on how to use the voting equipment, ask a poll worker for help. Poll workers are required to help you at any time you ask — even after you've entered the voting booth.

Do I have to have an ID to vote?

- All voters must present some form of ID in order to vote. Voters who don't have a photo ID and can't get one due to a reasonable impediment can still vote.
- When you arrive at your polling place, an election official will ask you to present one of the following photo IDs:
 - a Texas driver's license;
 - a Texas election identification certificate (a photo ID for voting);
 - a personal identification card issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety;
 - a United States military identification card with your photograph;
 - a United States citizenship certificate with your photograph;
 - a United States passport; or
 - a license to carry a concealed handgun issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety.
- If your ID is expired, you can still use it if it expired no more than 4 years before you show it.
- If you don't have any of those IDs, you can still vote if you present one of the documents below. The election official will give you a Reasonable Impediment Declaration. The Declaration states that you have a reasonable impediment to obtaining a photo ID. Complete and sign the form, and then present one of the following:
 - Current utility bill
 - Paycheck
 - Government check
 - Bank statement
 - Election certificate
 - Certified birth certificate or
 - Other government document with your name and an address.

What's a reasonable impediment?

- The Reasonable Impediment Declaration simply asks you to affirm that you had some difficulty in obtaining a photo voter ID. You can check the box that describes your situation—such as work schedule, lack of transportation, or disability—or you can write in your own reason. A poll worker cannot question the truth of whether you have ID or the reasonableness of your impediment.
- If you have a disability and do not have photo ID, you may also qualify for a
 permanent exemption to the photo ID requirement. If you get a permanent
 exemption, you will get a voter registration certificate showing your exemption.
 Show this certificate at the polls instead of ID. See below for instructions on how to
 apply for an exemption.

What if the address on my photo ID, utility bill, or other government document is different from the address on the registered voters list?

Poll workers can't reject your photo ID or other document because of mismatched addresses; they can only compare the name on your document against the name on the official registered voters list. However, if you've changed addresses recently, see the section above on where to vote if you've moved.

How do I get an election identification certificate (a photo ID for voting)?

- You can get an election identification certificate at your local Texas Department of Public Safety or at a DPS mobile station. You can find a list of DPS mobile stations here: http://votetexas.gov/election-identification-certificate-mobile-stations/. In some counties you can get an election identification certificate from your county voter registrar. You can find a list of those counties here: http://www.txdps.state. tx.us/DriverLicense/documents/EICCountyrun.pdf.
- You must be eligible to vote when you apply for an election identification certificate, but you do not have to be registered. If you are not registered, you must apply to register to vote when you apply for your election identification certificate.
- If you are under 70 years old when you receive your election identification certificate, it will be valid for six years after the date you submit your application. If you are 70 years old or older when you receive your election identification certificate, it will never expire.

What documents do I need to get an election identification certificate?

- To get the election identification certificate, you need to provide proof of citizenship and proof of identity.
- **To prove your citizenship**, you need to provide **one** of the following:

- □ a U.S. passport (more than 60 days expired);
 - Remember: if your passport is less than 60 days expired, you can use it as photo ID when you vote and you don't need an election identification certificate.
- a U.S. birth certificate;
- a Certificate of Report of Birth or Consular Report of Birth issued by the U.S. Department of State;
- a U.S. Certificate of Citizenship or Certificate of Naturalization; or
- a U.S. Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service U.S. Citizen ID Card.
- **To prove your identity**, you can show:
 - A Texas drivers' license or personal identification card issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety that has been expired for less than two years. o Remember: if your license has been expired for 4 years or less, you can use it as photo ID when you vote and you don't need an election identification certificate.

OR

- **Two** of the following documents:
 - an original or certified copy of your birth certificate;
 - an original or certified copy of a United States Department of State Certification of Birth (issued to US citizens born abroad);
 - an original or certified copy of a court order certifying your change of name or gender that includes your name and date of birth;
 - U.S. citizenship or naturalization papers.
 - If you only have one of those documents, you can still obtain an ID. You need to bring **two** additional documents showing your name and address. These can be a voter registration card, a marriage or divorce certificate, a Medicare or Medicaid card, a Social Security card, an ID card issued by a government agency, school records, a tribal membership card, or a driver's license from another state. You can see a full list of accepted documents at http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/driverlicense/electionid.htm.

What if I don't have the money to pay for an ID?

 You can get an election identification certificate for free. See above for information on how to apply.

Can I get an exemption from the photo ID requirement?

- If you have a disability and do not have photo ID, you can apply for a permanent exemption to the photo ID requirement.
 - If you qualify for a permanent exemption, you will receive a voter registration certificate that shows your exemption. Present this certificate at the polls instead of photo ID.
 - To apply for a permanent exemption, send your county voter registrar a letter saying you do not have photo ID. You also need to send proof that you have a disability. You can prove that you have a disability by sending:
 - documentation from the United States Social Security Administration showing that you have been determined to have a disability

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- documentation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs showing that you have a disability rating of at least 50 percent.
- If you move to a new county, your exemption will not transfer to your new county automatically. You have to re-submit your application to the county voter registrar for your new county.

What if I go to the polls without an ID?

 You can cast a provisional ballot, but that ballot won't be counted unless you go to the county voter registrar within six days of the election and show an accepted photo ID. If you have time and have ID at home or work, it's usually better to get your ID and return to the polls to cast a regular ballot.

What is a provisional ballot?

• A provisional ballot is used to record your vote when there's an unresolved question about your eligibility. Election officials make a determination later about whether the provisional ballot should counted. Most provisional ballots cast in Texas are not counted.



What if I'm not on the voter list?

- First, ask a poll worker to check the list again and to confirm that you're at the right polling place. Offer to spell your name.
- If you're at the right polling place but your name isn't on the voter list, ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if your name is not on the voter list, as long as you're willing to swear that you believe you registered to vote.

What if I go to the wrong polling place?

- Go to the right polling place! You can ask a poll worker to help you find the polling place where you're registered. You can also call your county voter registrar or look up your polling place online at https://team1.sos.state.tx.us/voterws/viw/faces/ SearchSelectionPolling.jsp.
- If you can't figure out where you're registered, go the polling place that you think is the right one and ask for a provisional ballot. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot even if you're not sure that you're at the right polling place.

What if the name on my voter registration doesn't match the name on my photo ID?

- You can vote as long as the names are "substantially similar." For example, if your photo ID includes your middle name, initial, or an abbreviation of your first name, but your voter registration doesn't, the poll worker should let you vote.
- Try to make sure the name on your voter registration matches the name on your photo ID before you go to the polls. You can find the name you are registered to vote under on your voter registration certificate, or you can check online here: https://team1.sos.state.tx.us/voterws/viw/faces/Introduction.jsp.

I am transgender. What if a poll worker gives me a hard time because of the gender marker on my ID?

Poll workers can reject your ID only if the name on it does not match the name on the list of registered voters. So long as the names match or are substantially similar, you have the right to cast a ballot.

What if someone tries to intimidate or harass me?

 Tell a poll worker right away. If the poll worker is the problem, tell a poll watcher, call your county voter registrar's office, or call one of the election hotline numbers listed at the end of this card.

What if I make a mistake on my ballot or the voting machine malfunctions?

Tell a poll worker before you cast your vote. If you spoil a paper ballot, you have the right to up to two replacement ballots as long as you catch your mistake before you cast your ballot. If your voting machine breaks down, you may be asked to vote on a different machine or on a paper ballot.

How do I make a complaint?

- Ask for an election judge at your polling place. He or she can handle most routine complaints that arise on Election Day. Candidates, political parties, and nonprofit groups may also have poll watchers at your polling place who might be able to assist you. If any of those people ask you who you voted for, or if they can't resolve your complaint, call your local county voter registrar's office or the Secretary of State.
- You can also call one of the election hotline numbers listed at the end of this card.



- Most counties in Texas have two different offices you can contact with questions about voting:
 - County Voter Registrar call here for questions about registration. You can find the contact information for your county here: www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/ voter/votregduties.shtml.
 - County Election Office call here for questions about your polling place, voter ID, or any other issue that might come up on Election Day. You can find the contact information for your county election office here: www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/county.shtml.
 - Secretary of State if you're not sure which local office to call, contact the Elections Division of the Texas Secretary of State at: 1-800-252-VOTE or www.votetexas.gov.
- From 7 a.m. 7 p.m., Oct. 24 Nov. 4 and Nov. 8, 2016, you can also call the ACLU of Texas Election Protection hotline at 1-888-507-2970.
- And if you feel your right to vote has been denied, contact the ACLU of Texas at the hotline number above during designated times, or send an email to letmevote@ aclutx.org. Or you can call the U.S. Department of Justice Voting Rights Section at: (800) 253-3931.

