



Texas Secretary of State
ELECTIONS DIVISION



Election Accessibility for Voters

Lena Proft, Managing Attorney

Elections Division of the Office of the Texas Secretary of State

The Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities
Accessibility and Disability Policy Webinar Series



Resources

- **VoteTexas.gov** is the official resource for voter information from the Secretary of State
 - Voter Registration Information
 - Voting in Person
 - Voting by Mail
 - Voters with Disabilities
 - Frequently Asked Questions



The screenshot shows the homepage of VoteTexas.gov. At the top, there are navigation buttons for 'Voter Registration', 'Voting in Person', 'Voting by Mail', 'Voters with Disabilities' (highlighted with a red box and a red arrow), and 'Frequently Asked Questions'. Below this is a search bar and a trending search section. The main content area features a banner for the primary election on March 3, 2026, with key dates: Last Day to Register (Feb 2), Mail Ballot App Deadline (Feb 20), Early Voting Begins (Feb 17), and Early Voting Ends (Feb 27). A grid of buttons provides quick access to various services like 'Am I Registered?', 'Register to Vote', 'What's on the Ballot?', 'Voter ID', 'Where's my Polling Place', 'Election Results', 'Elections Statistics & Turnout Data', 'Application for Ballot by Mail', 'Track my Ballot', 'Get Involved', 'File an Election Complaint', and 'Resources'. A 'Our Latest Tweets' section is also visible on the right side.



Topics We Will Discuss

- 1 Voter Identification
- 2 Polling Place Accessibility
- 3 Curbside Voting
- 4 Voter Assistance and Interpreters
- 5 Accessible Voting Equipment
- 6 Voting by Mail
- 7 How to Report a Problem



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ELECTIONS DIVISION



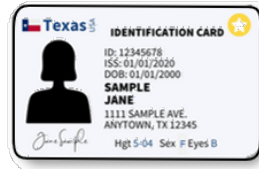
Voter Identification



Acceptable Forms of Photo ID



Texas Driver License
Issued by DPS



Texas Personal Identification
Card issued by DPS



License to Carry a Handgun
issued by DPS



Texas Election Identification
Certificate issued by DPS



United States Passport
(book or card)



United States Military
Identification Card containing
the person's photograph



United States Citizenship Certificate/Certificate of Naturalization
containing the person's photograph

VOTERS AGED 18-69
Photo ID can be expired
for no more than 4 years

VOTERS AGED 70 OR OLDER
Photo ID may be expired for any
length of time if otherwise valid



What if Voter Does Not Have Acceptable Form of Photo ID?

If a voter does not possess and cannot reasonably obtain a List A acceptable form of photo ID:



The voter may present a List B supporting form of ID:

- Government document with voter's name and an address;
- Certified domestic (from a U.S. state or territory) birth certificate or court admissible birth document;
- Current utility bill;
- Bank statement;
- Government check;
- Paycheck;
- Driver license from another state;
- ID card with address issued by federally recognized Native American tribe;
- DPS receipt (without a photo);
- Expired voter registration certificate; **OR**
- For voters aged 18-69, expired Texas DPS-issued driver license or personal ID card (not over 4 years)



Complete a Reasonable Impediment Declaration (Form 7-62)

7-62
Prescribed by Secretary of State Services
4/18/2014, Texas Election Code
§7502

REASONABLE IMPEDIMENT DECLARATION

TO BE COMPLETED BY VOTER

Name: _____

VOTER'S DECLARATION OF REASONABLE IMPEDIMENT

A person is subject to prosecution for perjury under Chapter 37, Penal Code, or Section 63.0013 of the Texas Election Code for providing a false statement or false information on this declaration. By signing this declaration, I swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that the information contained in this declaration is true, that I am the same individual personally appearing at the polling place to sign this declaration, and that I face a reasonable impediment to procuring an acceptable form of photo identification listed in Section 63.0101(a) of the Texas Election Code.

My reasonable impediment is due to the following reason(s):

(Check at least one box below)

<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability or illness
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of birth certificate or other documents needed to obtain acceptable form of photo ID	<input type="checkbox"/> Family responsibilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Work schedule	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable form of photo ID applied for but not received
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost or stolen identification	

The reasonableness of your impediment cannot be questioned.

X Signature of Voter _____ Date _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20____

Presiding Judge/ County Voter Registrar (if applicable) _____

VOID (Voter Unique Identification Number)

TO BE COMPLETED BY ELECTION OFFICIAL

The voter provided a copy or original of one of the following forms of identification:

<input type="checkbox"/> Certified copy of a domestic (from a U.S. state or territory) birth certificate or a document confirming birth admissible in a court of law which establishes the voter's identity (which may include a foreign birth document)
<input type="checkbox"/> Current utility bill
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Government check
<input type="checkbox"/> Government document that shows the voter's name and an address (including the voter's voter registration certificate)
<input type="checkbox"/> Paycheck

Location: _____ Date of Election: _____



Provisional Voting Process for ID Reasons

- If a voter does not possess and cannot reasonably obtain a List A photo ID, and does not present a List B ID at the polling place or does not possess but can obtain a List A ID and wishes to vote:
 - He/she must be offered a provisional ballot
 - However, for the provisional ballot to count, the voter must appear at the county voter registrar's office within six calendar days of election day and:
 - Present an acceptable List A form of photo ID;
 - Show a List B supporting form of ID and complete a Reasonable Impediment Declaration; **OR**
 - Qualify for one of the exemptions (e.g., disability, natural disaster, religious objection to being photographed)



Permanent Exemptions

- Voters with a disability may submit a [Request for Disability Exemption](#) (Form 21-7) with their county voter registrar for a permanent exemption and must:
 - Present an acceptable List A photo ID or follow the Reasonable Impediment Declaration procedure
 - Provide written documentation of disability from the U.S. Social Security Administration or a disability rating of at least 50% from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- The disability exemption will be displayed on the voter's voter registration certificate

Sections 13.002(f) and 63.001, Texas Election Code

REQUEST FOR DISABILITY EXEMPTION

To the Voter Registrar:
Pursuant to Section 13.002(f) of the Texas Election Code, I hereby request a permanent exemption in this county from the requirement to present identification other than the voter registration certificate at the time of voting on the ground that I have a disability and do not have a form of identification prescribed by Section 63.0101 of the Texas Election Code. The acceptable forms of photo identification are, in Section 63.0101(a) of the Texas Election Code, a (1) Texas Driver License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety ("DPS"); (2) Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS; (3) Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS; (4) Texas Handgun License issued by DPS; (5) United States Military Identification Card containing the person's photograph; (6) United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph; or (7) United States Passport (book or card). With the exception of the United States Citizenship Certificate, the identification presented for voter qualification at the polling place must be current or, for voters aged 18-69, have expired no more than 4 years before it is presented. A person 70 years of age or older may use a form of supporting identification in Section 63.0101(b) of the Texas Election Code, which may be used by voters who do not possess and cannot reasonably obtain an acceptable form of photo identification listed in Section 63.0101(a) of the Texas Election Code, and execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration, are a copy or original of one of the following: (1) a government document that shows the voter's name and an address, including the voter's voter registration certificate; (2) current utility bill; (3) bank statement; (4) government check; (5) paycheck; or (6) 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).

I have attached written documentation from the United States Social Security Administration evidencing that I have been determined to have a disability or from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs evidencing that I have at least a 50 percent disability rating. I understand that the voter registrar will maintain this documentation with other records pertaining to my registration in this county, and that the exemption cannot be granted without this documentation. I further understand that if I move to a new county and register to vote in that county, I will have to submit a new disability exemption request and supporting documentation to the county in which I am registering.

Name _____
Residence Address (number and street) _____
City, State, Zip Code _____
VUID Number _____
County of Residence _____

I certify that the information in this document is true and correct.
Sign Here _____ Date _____

Assistant/Witness

If voter cannot sign, voter's mark must be witnessed. If voter cannot make a mark, witness must check here X. If the voter is unable to read and/or mark this form, the witness must fill out the information below.

Printed name and Signature of Witness _____
Residence Address of person named above or title if being witnessed by the voter registrar's office. _____

For Office Use Only	VUID # _____	Proof of Disability Submitted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Voter Reg. Dept. Signature _____	
	Date _____	
	Comments _____	



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Polling Place Accessibility



Early Voting for March 3, 2026 Primary Election

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		At least 9 hours	At least 9 hours	At least 9 hours	At least 9 hours	At least 12 hours
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
At least 6 hours	At least 12 hours	At least 12 hours	At least 12 hours	At least 12 hours	At least 12 hours	None
March 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
None	None	Election Day				



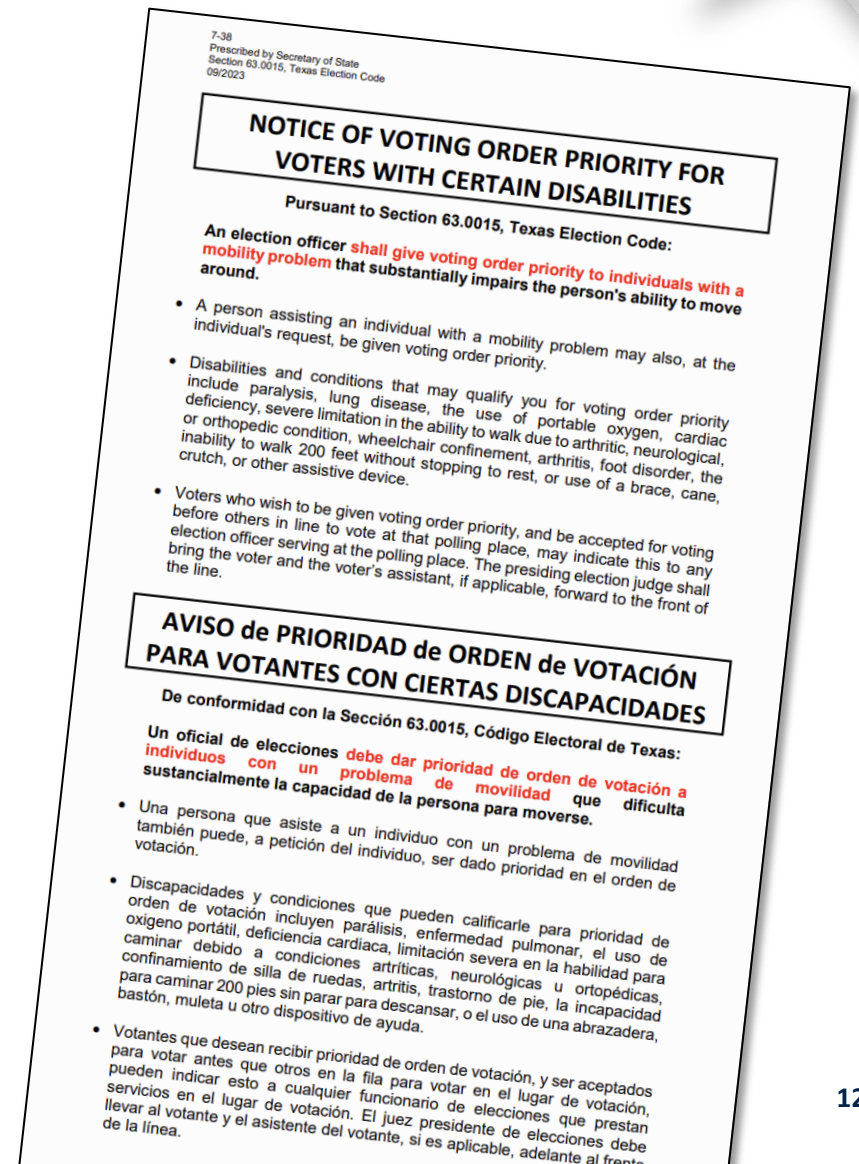
Required Accessibility for Voters

- Polling places must meet strict accessibility standards, including:
 - A location on the ground floor that can be entered from the street or via an elevator with doors that open at least 36 inches;
 - Doors, entrances, and exits used to enter or leave the polling place that are at least 32 inches wide;
 - Any curb next to the main entrance to the polling place must have curb-cuts or temporary non-slip ramps;
 - Stairs necessary to enter or leave the polling place must have handrails on each side and a non-slip ramp; **AND**
 - Removal of all barriers such as gravel, automatically closing gates, closed doors without lever-type handles, or any other barrier that impedes the path of a person with physical disabilities to the voting station



Voting Order Priority

- If a voter has a mobility problem that substantially impairs the voter's ability to ambulate, and the voter agrees to be given voting order priority, then the election officer must move the voter to the front of the line to be accepted for voting before others at the polling place who arrived before the person
- A person assisting an individual with a mobility problem may also, at the individual's request, be given voting order priority
- Election officers should routinely monitor the line to determine whether there are any voters who wish to request this form of voting order priority





Use of Wireless Devices for Accommodation

- Typically, wireless communication devices are prohibited in the room where voting is taking place
- However, wireless communication devices used to assist voters with disabilities are permitted
 - For example, a voter may use a program/application on a device to translate verbal communication into sign language, allowing the voter to understand communication by an election official





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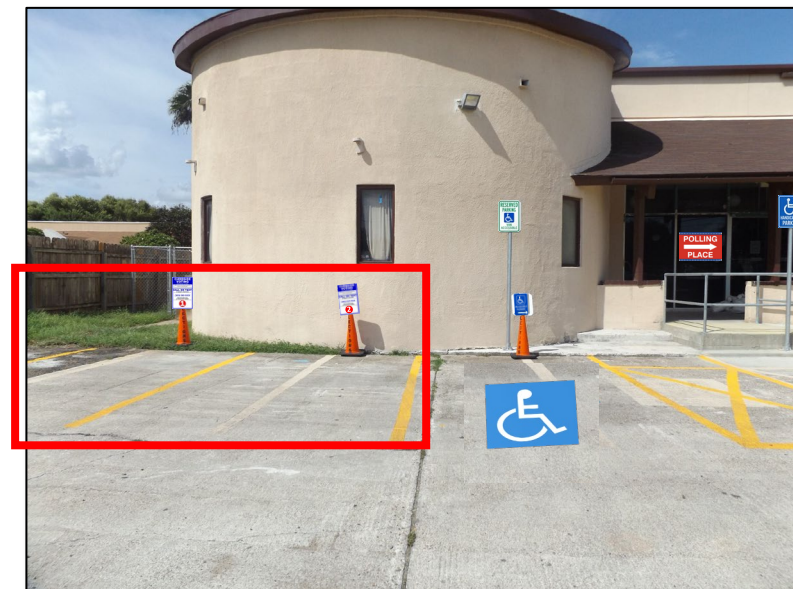


Curbside Voting



Eligibility for Curbside Voting

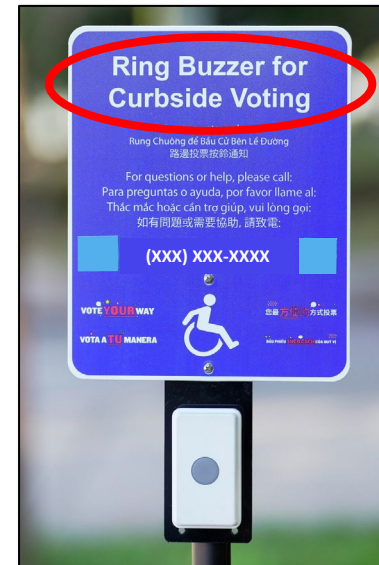
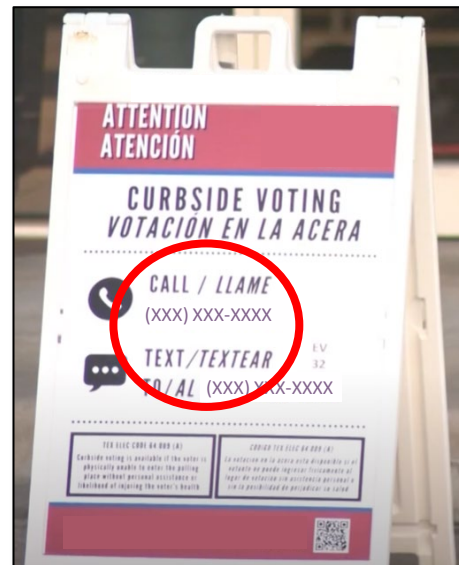
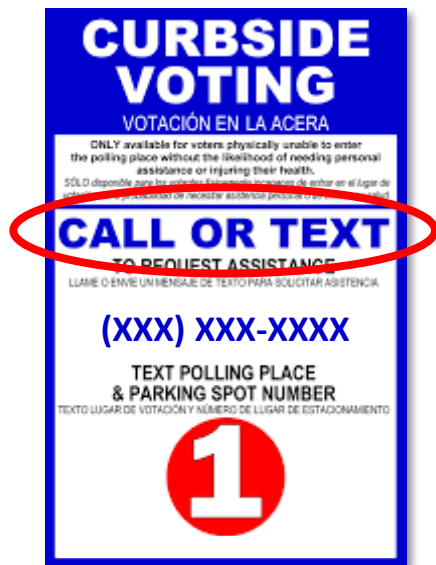
- Voters who are physically unable to enter the polling place without assistance or likelihood of injuring his or her health, are entitled to curbside voting
 - Election judges and/or clerks are prohibited from questioning the voter's disability or need for curbside voting
- Curbside voting must be available at **ALL** polling places during early voting and on election day
 - Each polling place is required to designate an area equivalent to at least one parking space for curbside voting.
 - This area must be separate from existing accessible parking spaces for vehicles displaying disability placards or license plates





How to Identify the Curbside Voting Area

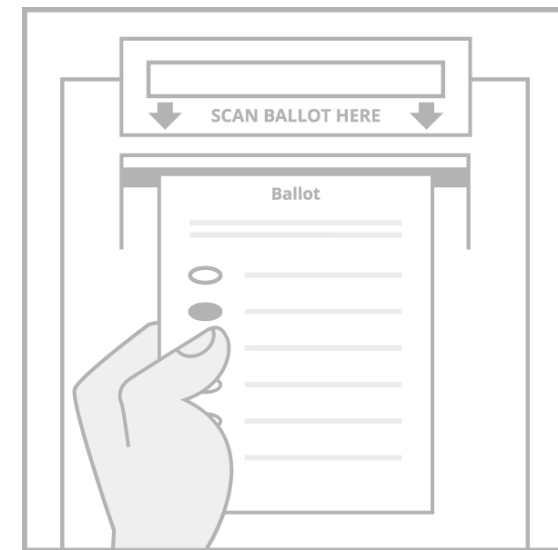
- The county is required to clearly indicate the curbside voting space with a sign that indicates the space is reserved for curbside voting
 - Sign must display a telephone number that voters may **CALL OR TEXT OR** offers a button/intercom for voters to request assistance from election officer





How the Curbside Voting Process Works

- 1 Vehicle will park in the designated curbside voting spot
- 2 Person will call or text the number provided on the sign, or press the button/intercom to alert an election worker that a curbside voter needs assistance
- 3 Election worker will have the voter complete the [Curbside Voter Statement](#) (Form 7-66), check in the voter on the ePollbook, and bring the curbside voter their ballot
- 4 Voter will mark their ballot
- 5 Election worker, or a person accompanying the voter on the voter's request, must deposit the ballot in the ballot box





How the Curbside Voting Process Works

- Curbside voters are entitled to the same procedures and accommodations as other voters with respect to qualifying and use of accessible voting system equipment:
 - If an ePollbook is used to qualify voters, election workers must bring it to curbside voters.



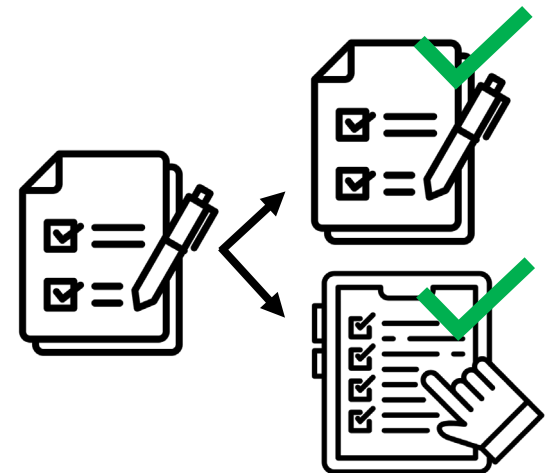


How the Curbside Voting Process Works



If an **electronic voting system** is the primary method of voting, counties must provide that system to all voters, whether they are curbside or in the polling place.

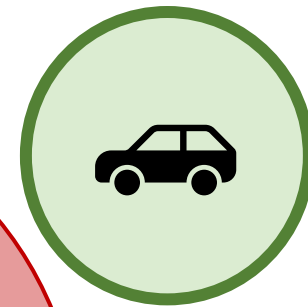
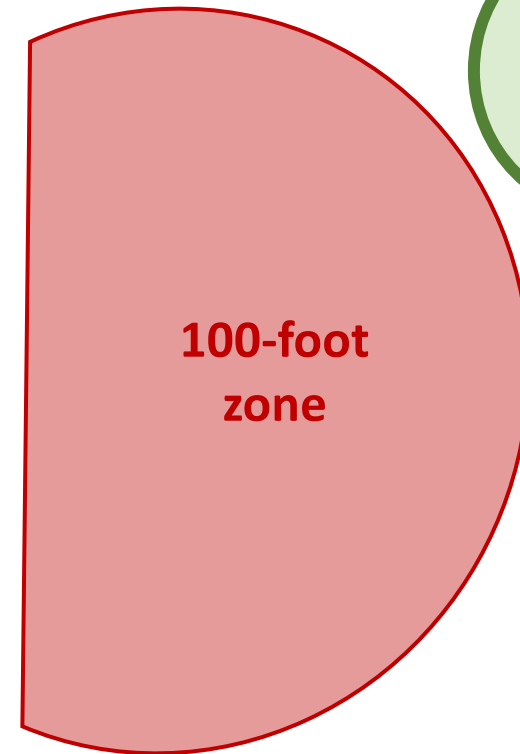
If **hand-marked paper ballots** are the primary method of voting and an electronic voting system is used for accessibility purposes, paper ballots may be offered to curbside voters, but workers should be prepared to provide an electronic voting system for any curbside voters who request it.





Curbside Voters Right to Privacy

- When people vote curbside, their vehicle becomes the voting booth
- Curbside voters must be afforded the opportunity to vote their ballot privately and thus are entitled to vote without the interference of campaigns or bystanders
 - Individuals are prohibited from loitering or electioneering within 20 feet of a parking space designated for curbside voting
 - Each polling place is required to post distance markers to mark the boundaries within which loitering or electioneering are prohibited



20-foot
zone



Transporting Curbside Voters

- If an individual is transporting a voter to the curbside voting station, the accompanying individual may receive a regular ballot
- An election officer must ask the person providing transportation whether they have assisted a total of seven or more voters during early voting and on election day by providing transportation to vote curbside
 - If the person indicates that they have assisted seven or more curbside voters, the person must complete and sign a form

7-65
Prescribed by Secretary of State
Sections 64.009, 64.034, Texas Election Code
9/2025

Type of Election	Polling Location
Date of Election	Authority Conducting Election

INFORMATION OF PERSON WHO PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION TO A TOTAL OF SEVEN OR MORE CURBSIDE VOTERS DURING EARLY VOTING AND ELECTION DAY/ INFORMACIÓN DE LA PERSONA QUE PROPORCIONÓ EL TRANSPORTE A UN TOTAL DE SIETE O MÁS VOTANTES EN LA ACERA DURANTE LA VOTACIÓN ADELANTADA Y EL DÍA DE LAS ELECCIONES

Signature of Person that Provided Transportation <i>Firma de la persona que proporcionó el transporte</i>	Printed Name of Person that Provided Transportation <i>Nombre en letra de molde de la persona que proporcionó el transporte</i>	Address of Person that Provided Transportation <i>Dirección de la persona que proporcionó el transporte</i>	Did the person who provided transportation function as an assistant to the voter under Chapter 64, Subchapter B in addition to providing transportation to the polling place? <i>¿La persona que proporcionó el transporte actuó como asistente del votante en virtud del Capítulo 64, Subcapítulo B, además de proporcionar transporte al lugar de votación?</i>	
			Yes/Sí	No/No
			Yes/Sí	No/No
			Yes/Sí	No/No
			Yes/Sí	No/No
			Yes/Sí	No/No
			Yes/Sí	No/No
			Yes/Sí	No/No
			Yes/Sí	No/No
			Yes/Sí	No/No
			Yes/Sí	No/No
			Yes/Sí	No/No

Instructions:
A person that provides transportation to 7 or more curbside voters to the polling place during early voting and on election day must complete and sign this form.
If the person that provided transportation also assists the voter, the person must repeat the Oath of Assistance aloud and sign it prior to rendering assistance.
If the person that provided transportation translates for the voter, the person must repeat the Oath of Interpreter aloud and sign it prior to translating.
A person commits a Class A Misdemeanor if the person intentionally fails to complete this form.





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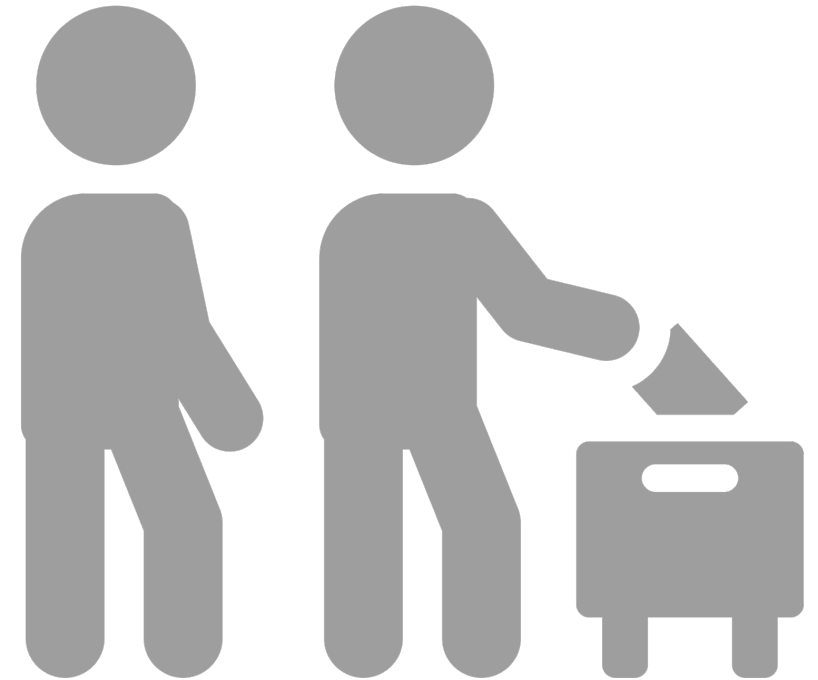


Voter Assistance and Interpreters



Who May Assist a Voter?

- An eligible voter is entitled to receive assistance from a person of his or her choosing, except a voter may not be assisted by the following people:
 - Voter's employer;
 - An agent of the voter's employer; **OR**
 - An officer or agent of a labor union to which the voter belongs.
- If the voter does not select his or her own assistant, then the voter may be assisted by election workers (**one** during early voting and **two** on election day)





What If a Voter Needs an Interpreter?

- Voters who cannot speak English, or who communicate only with sign language, may use an interpreter to help them communicate with election officials
- The voter may select any person to serve as their interpreter except the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an officer or agent of a labor union to which the voter belongs
- An interpreter may also act as an assistant for the voter, if the voter cannot read the languages on the ballot





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Accessible Voting Equipment



Requirements for Accessible Voting Equipment

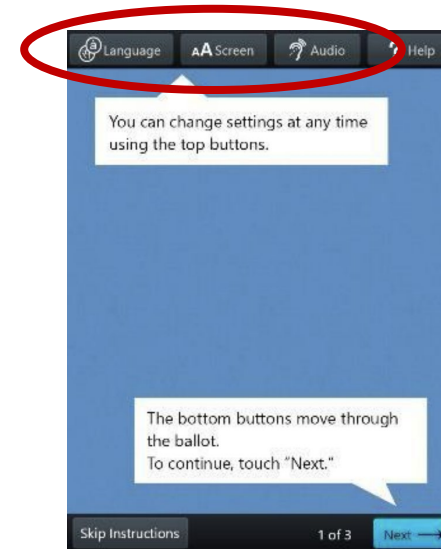
- With few exceptions, every polling place must have at least one voting device that is accessible to voters with disabilities
 - Accessible voting equipment is available to voters in the polling place as well as curbside voters
- This equipment allows voters with a disability to vote directly on the system or assist them in marking a paper ballot
- Voters may use a headphone or other assistive devices to help them vote independently and secretly





Accessibility Features – Visual

- For voters with visual disabilities, electronic voting systems include the following accommodating features:
 - The ability to increase font size;
 - The ability to change to high-contrast colors; **AND**
 - The ability to read the ballot to the voter



Button	Description
Text Size	Allows voter to choose large or small text size.
Contrast	Changes display to white text on black background.
Language	Enables the voter to select a preferred language.
Help	Enables the voter to display the Help screen.
Quit	Enables a poll worker to quit the voting session.
Previous	Returns to the previous screen.
Next	Enters selection and opens the next screen.



Accessibility Features – Tactile Input Switch

- For voters who may have restricted or limited dexterity both certified voting systems have a tactile switch or two-position rocker switch which allows voters to navigate the screen and make their selections.





Accessibility Features – Sip-and-Puff

- For voters who routinely use a sip-and-puff, both certified voting systems are compatible with sip-and-puff tube devices to navigate the screen and make their selections





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Voting by Mail



Eligibility

- Voting by mail in Texas is limited to voters who are:

65
years or older



Sick or
disabled



Expected to
give birth
within 3 weeks
of Election Day

Civily committed under
Chapter 841 of the Texas
Health and Safety Code



Out of the county on
Election Day and during
the period for early voting
by personal appearance

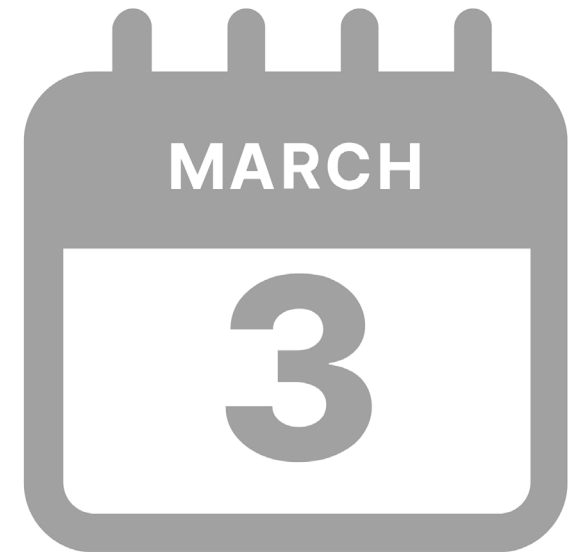


Confined
in jail, but
are otherwise
eligible



Deadline to Submit an Application

- The deadline for a county to receive an Application for a Ballot by Mail (ABBM) is **11 days before election day**
 - Feb. 20, 2026 was the deadline for the Mar. 3, 2026 Primary Election
- ABBMs can be submitted by:
 - In-person delivery;
 - Regular mail;
 - Common or contract carrier;
 - Fax (if a fax machine is available to the early voting clerk); **OR**
 - Email (send a signed, scanned application as an attachment to an email to the early voting clerk)





Application for Ballot by Mail – Assistant and Witness

- An individual may act as an **assistant** and assist an applicant in filling out or mailing an ABBM
 - The assistant must complete the required assistance information on the ABBM
 - An assistant cannot hand deliver an ABBM, only the voter can hand-deliver their own ABBM
- A **witness** can be used if the person is unable to sign a document because of a physical disability or illiteracy
 - A person may only witness *one* annual or single-use ABBM per election, unless an exception applies

TEXAS APPLICATION FOR BALLOT BY MAIL

PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY. THEN, FOLD AND MOISTEN SHUT TO SEAL.

1 **Optional Information:** Providing this information is helpful to the Early Voting Clerk if needed to clarify any information on this application and/or your voted mail ballot.

2 **Where to mail my ballot:** Select one option.
 My residence address
 My mailing address

3 **Reason for applying and ballots requested:** *Primary elections take place in even-numbered years only.
 My reason for voting by mail:
 65 years of age or older
 Disability – I affirm that, "I have a sickness or physical condition that prevents me from appearing at the polling place on Election Day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or incurring my health," as defined in Texas Election Code 82.002(a).
 I would like to vote in a primary election* for the following party and any resulting runoff:
 Democratic Primary Any resulting runoff
 Republican Primary Any resulting runoff
 Do not send me a ballot for a primary election

4 **Applicant, sign here:** I certify that the information given in this application is true, and I understand that giving false information in this application is a crime. The box below requires your original signature, signed in ink. A witness must complete Section 5 if you are unable to sign and you make a mark instead of a signature, or you are unable to sign or make a mark.

5 **Witness and/or assistant, sign here:** For definition of witness and assistant, see the application instructions.
 Witness – Check this box if you witnessed the applicant make a mark or the applicant could not sign in Section 4 and you are signing on his or her behalf. Do not sign for the voter in Section 4. State your relationship to the applicant below and complete this section.
 Assistant – Check this box and complete this section if you her presence or submitted on his or her behalf (by mail, email, or fax).

6 **Failure to complete this section is a Class A Misdemeanor if applicant's signature or mark was witnessed or applicant signature of witness or assistant.**



Deadline to Return Marked Ballot

- The early voting clerk must receive your marked ballot by the following date and time:
 - By 7 p.m. on election day if the carrier envelope is **not postmarked**
 - By 5 p.m. the next business day after election day if the carrier envelope **has a postmark** showing it was mailed by 7 p.m. on election day





Carrier Envelope – Assistant and Witness

- An individual may act as an **assistant** and assist an applicant in filling out or mailing a carrier envelope
 - The assistant must complete the required assistance information on the carrier envelope
 - An assistant cannot hand deliver the carrier envelope for the voter, only the voter can hand-deliver their own carrier envelope and only on election day
- A **witness** can be used if the person is unable to sign a document because of a physical disability or illiteracy
 - A person can serve as a witness on any number of carrier envelopes, as long as they complete the required witness information each time



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How to Report a Problem



What to Do if a Voter Encounters Any Issues at the Polling Place?

- 1 Bring the issue to the attention of an election worker
- 2 Contact the county election official
 - They are often able to resolve the issue quickly
- 3 Contact the Elections Division of the Secretary of State
 - Our office has staff answering the phones from 7 a.m.–7 p.m. each day of early voting and on election day





Available Support



WEBINARS



TRAINING



RESOURCES

elections@sos.texas.gov

800-252-VOTE • 512-463-5650

sos.texas.gov