



Harris County Clerk's Office Elections Department

Fall 2026

outreachEAD@vote.hctx.net

HarrisVotes.com

Agenda

1. Harris County Clerk's Office Overview
2. What's on the Ballot
3. New Maps
4. Ballot by Mail
5. Vote Center Features
6. How to get Involved

What We Do

The Harris County Clerk's Office



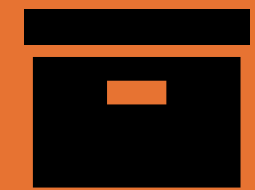
Personal Records

Records personal financial statements, issue marriage licenses, assumed name certificates, vital records, DD-214s, etc.



County Civil Courts

Maintains documents resulting from property, business, and personal civil proceedings.



Elections

Carries out electoral duties as required by federal and state legislation.



Public Records

Provides public access to records filed with the County Clerk's Office.



Probate Courts

Maintains documents resulting from probate and mental health proceedings.



Commissioners Court

Maintains the meeting minutes for Commissioners Court and handles Toll Road Adjudications.



Real Property

Records deeds, liens etc.



Archives

Preserves, protects, and provides access to historical county government records.

Special Note

- Any matters related to voter registration should be directed to the tax accessor collector's office.
- Phone: 713-274-8000
- Email: voters@tax.hctx.net



Voting

Voting is an important part of being an American citizen.

- It allows you to help shape the future of your community.
- It creates a feeling of ownership in the things that happen in systems around you.

We vote for people, initiatives, and policies that impact every part of our daily lives. We see the greatest impact with things that meet us at our front door.

- Road maintenance
- Trash pick up
- School boards



Photo Source: Houston Chronicle

Voting

Is like exercising, you must do it consistently to see the benefits.

- That means voting in every election.

Elected officials prioritize voters

- The people chose them for specific political views.
- If they stray from those views, citizens may vote a new person into that office.

Voting shapes policy for years to come

- Elected officials appoint judges
- Pass laws
- And pass budgets



Photo source: votebeat.org

Types of Elections

Primary

- Every 2 years
- Ballots differ by party
- To determine partisan candidates for the General Election

General

- 6-9 months after Primaries
- Held jointly by the County and State governing authorities

Run-Off

- Tie breaking elections for contests with no clear candidate winning over 50% of the votes

Special Election

- An election called by the Governor to fill an opening

Why Do We Have So Many Elections?

- In Texas, election schedules are created by the Secretary of State.
 - An example of this is General, Primary, and Uniform Elections
- In addition to the SOS, other entities (municipalities, MUDs, etc.) have rules which dictates timelines and dates for elections in their charters.
 - We see this with elections to fill seats vacated by elected officials such as Houston City Council.



Photo source: Houston Chronicle

What's on My Ballot



Photo Source: Houston Chronicle

- The mid-term election is a general election held at the midway point of a sitting President's four-year term. Federal offices that are up for election during the midterms include all 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives, and more than 30 of the 100 seats in the United States Senate.
- Your November ballot will have the winners from March's Primary election on your ballot.

Mid-Term Election Ballot

The mid-term election ballot includes a wide array of seats. Harris County will have one of the longest ballots in the country consisting of races from the Federal, State, and County levels races.

- US Senator
- US Representative
- Governor
- Lt. Governor
- State Judges
- Comptroller
- Commissioner General Land Office
- Railroad Commissioner
- Texas Supreme Court
- Court of Criminal Appeals
- State Board of Education
- State Senator
- State Representatives
- Family District Judges
- County Judge
- District Clerk
- County Clerk
- County Commissioner (2 & 4)
- Justice of the Peace
- County Civil Court at Law No. 5
- MUDs

Quiz Time

Name four types of elections?



Logic and Accuracy Testing

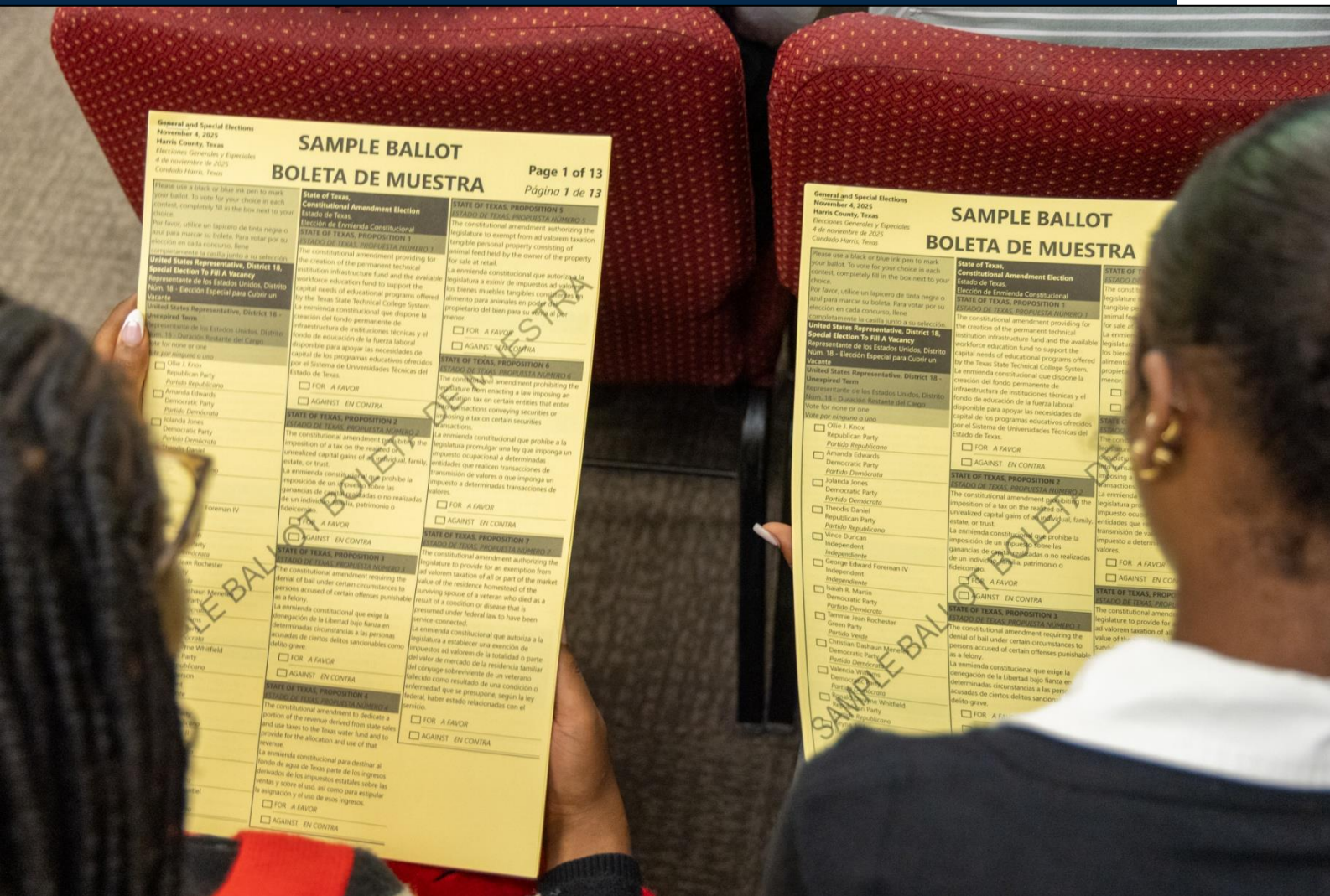
- L&A is a test to ensure that every variation of the ballot works properly and is required by Texas Election code.
- It is a large effort comprised of County Elections staff and poll workers from both parties.
- The test isn't complete until every ballot style passes successfully. This can take several days.
- The sample ballot is released after successful completion of the test.



Sample Ballots

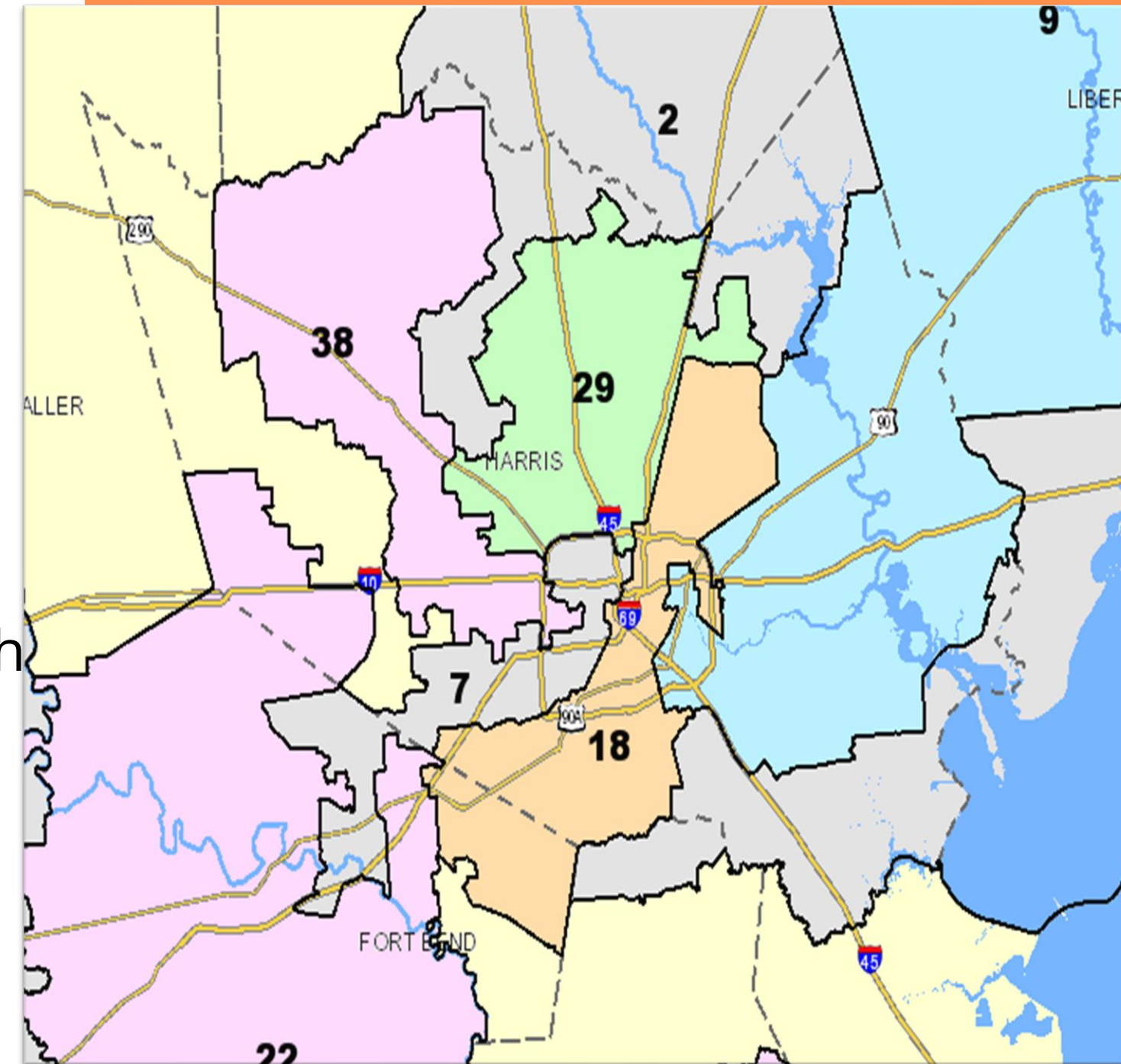
Your ballot is based on where you live.

- Sample ballots are typically available 30 days before an election on HarrisVotes.com
- Go to HarrisVotes.com to access your address-specific Sample Ballot. It's an easy way to see all the contests and candidates you'll be voting on!
- Be sure to review your ballot and learn who the candidates are **BEFORE** you go to the polls.
- Take your Sample Ballot with you and use it when you vote.



New Maps

- During the 89th Texas Legislative Session, legislators enacted new Redistricting Maps.
- These maps changed voting boundaries for many voters in Harris County.
 - As a result, many people are now in different Congressional Districts.
- The new maps went into effect this year starting with the March Primary.
- Check your voter registration certificate to see if your Congressional District has changed.



Ways to Vote!

Office of Harris County Clerk Teneshia Hudspeth

Vote By Mail

Do you qualify to vote by mail?

- 65 years of age or older on Election Day
- Voter is sick or disabled
- Voters who will be outside the county during the voting period
- Voters expecting to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day
- Voters confined in jail but otherwise eligible to vote

If you meet any of the above criteria, you are eligible to apply to vote by mail.



Vote By Mail

How to apply?



Download &
Print
Application
harrisvotes.com



Return signed
application by
deadline



Voters must provide a
TX ID or driver's license
number, Election ID
certificate, or the last 4
of their SSN

Where to return the completed and signed
application?

- Mail via USPS: Harris County Clerk's Office Elections Department - P.O. Box 1148, Houston, TX 77251-1148
- Common or contract carrier: Harris County Clerk's Office Elections Department - 15600 Morales Road, Houston, TX 77032



Photo Source: Houston Chronicle

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED (NOT POSTMARKED) BY THE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT BY THE BALLOT BY MAIL DEADLINE. APPLY AT [HARRISVOTES.COM/VOTEBYMAIL](https://harrisvotes.com/votebymail)

Update to Voting by Mail

- If a voter submits their ballot by mail carrier and it is defective they will receive a notice telling them what must be fixed. They will NOT receive the defective carrier back.
- The correction must be made in person or on the Secretary of State's website.
- If the voter chooses to vote in person without making the correction they must vote using a provisional ballot.
 - The voter can visit Elections Headquarters to receive a notice of cancelled mail ballot form. This form will allow the voter to vote a regular ballot in person.



Photo Source: Houston Public Media

Voting By Mail

Avoid Delays with your VBM Application

1

You MUST provide one or both of the following.
(It is recommended that you provide both to prevent delays.)

A. Texas Driver's License No. / Texas Personal I.D. No. (Issued by the Department of Public Safety) or Election Identification Certificate Number*

B. Last 4 digits of your Social Security Number

* Please note that your Election Identification Certificate Number **IS NOT** your Voter Registration Number.

The number you provide **MUST** match what the office has on file. If you can't remember which number you registered with, we suggest you fill both out.

Check the box at the bottom of this section if you don't have a TX Driver's License/Personal ID or Social Security Number.

Complete your Ballot by Mail application in its **entirety** to avoid delays.

Pro-tip: Add both your ID number and the last four of your social security number to reduce likelihood of rejection.

- Select the annual application option to receive a ballot for each election for which you are eligible.

4. Send me a Ballot for the Following Elections:

☐ Annual Application Send me a ballot for all Elections in this voting year (January – December) Annual Applications only available for voters 65 and older and voters with disabilities. You must select a party if you wish to vote in a primary. Select only one party's primary and its resulting runoff. Primary Election (even numbered years only) ☐ Democratic Primary ☐ Any Resulting Runoff ☐ Republican Primary ☐ Any Resulting Runoff ☐ Do Not Send me a Primary Ballot	OR	Uniform Election Dates ☐ November Election ☐ May Election (not a primary runoff) ☐ Any Resulting Runoff ☐ Other Special Election: _____ (Name or Date of Special Election, if known) Primary Election (even numbered years only) ☐ Democratic Primary ☐ Any Resulting Runoff ☐ Republican Primary ☐ Any Resulting Runoff (Voters who are absent from the county or confined in jail/civilly committed may only apply for one election and its resulting runoff.)
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Avoid Delays With Mail Ballots

Under the Mail Ballot Carrier Envelope Flap

REQUIRED INFORMATION: YOU MUST PROVIDE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS AND IT MUST BE ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION		
Texas Driver's License or Texas Personal Identification Card or Election Identification Certificate Number issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (NOT your Voter Registration VUID #)	OR (O)	If you do not have a Texas Driver's License or Personal Identification Card or a Texas Election Identification Certificate Number, give the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number
_____		XXX - XX - _____
☐ I have not been issued a Texas Driver's License or Texas Personal Identification Card or Texas Election Identification Certificate or Social Security Number		
CONTACT INFORMATION: Phone: _____ Email: _____		

BEFORE SEALING THE ENVELOPE

Be sure to fill out the required ID information outlined in red under the envelope flap.

The number you provide **MUST** match what is on file. IF you can't remember which number you registered with, we suggest you fill both out!

AFTER SEALING THE ENVELOPE

Sign in the red rectangle over the flap. This is how we ensure the ballot was not tampered with before getting to the elections office.

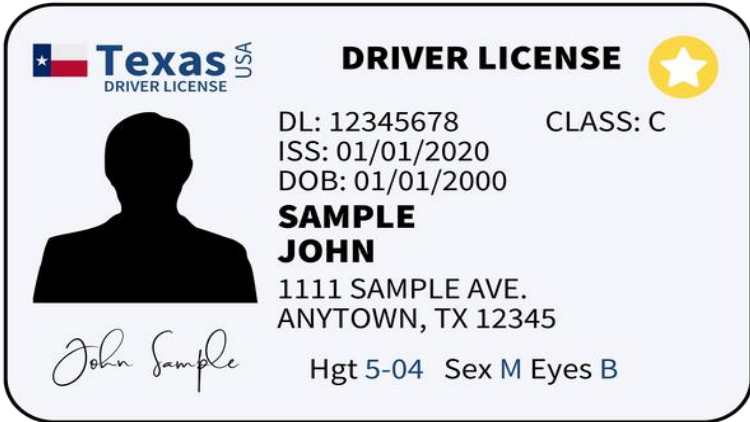
***Pro tip** - Carry your ballot into the post office to have it post marked and avoid potential delays.

Quiz Time

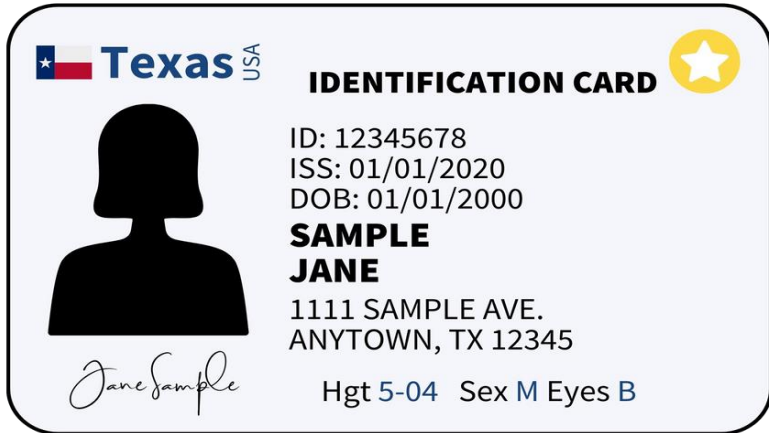
When will sample ballots be available?



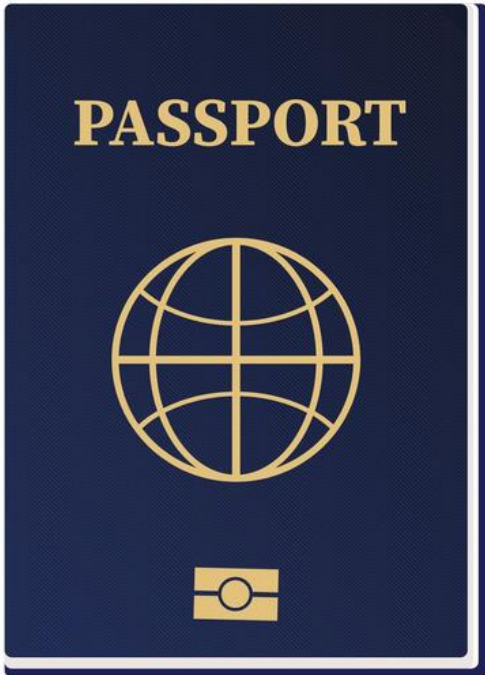
Acceptable Forms of photo ID



TEXAS DRIVER LICENSE



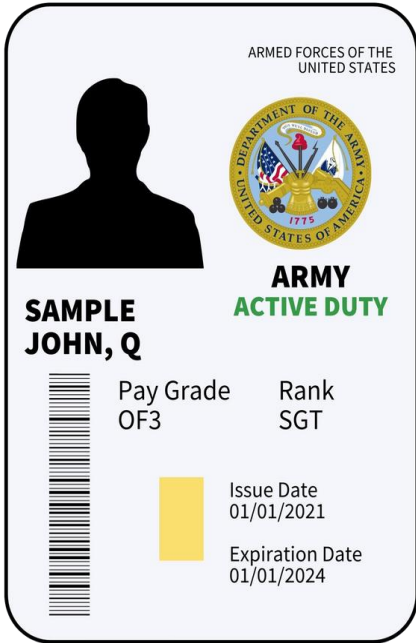
TEXAS PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD



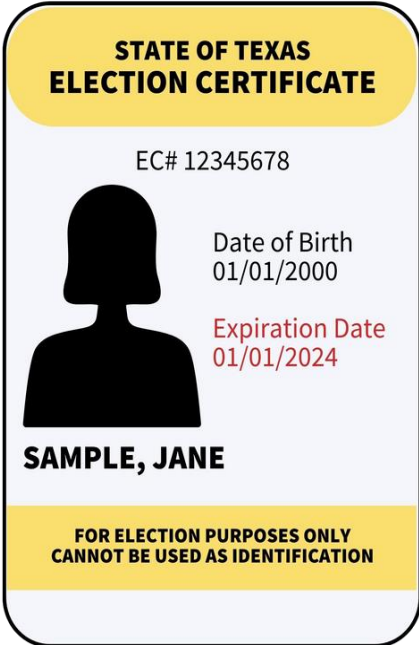
U.S. PASSPORT (BOOK OR CARD)



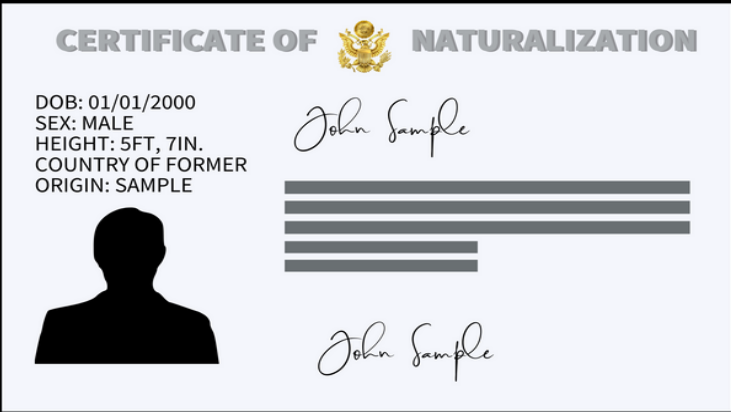
TEXAS HANDGUN LICENSE



U.S. MILITARY ID WITH PHOTO



TEXAS ELECTION ID CERTIFICATE



U.S. CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATE WITH PHOTO

Voting in Person

- Voters physically unable to enter vote centers without assistance or the likelihood of affecting voter's health can vote curbside.
- Every vote center has a curbside option. Press the buzzer and an election worker will assist you.
- A portable voting machine will be brought to you

Curbside Voting



Visit [HarrisVotes.com](https://www.harrisvotes.com) for voting resources

Voting in Person



Accommodations Provided

- ▶ Aids for audial, visual impairments and/or limited mobility
- ▶ Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)
- ▶ Accessible Voting Machines
- ▶ Access Device – Audio Tactile Interface

Voting in Person

Assistance

- You can bring someone to help you at the voting booth. Notify the Presiding Judge and the Oath of Assistance is completed.
- Often, helpers assist voters who:
 - Have difficulty reading the screen;
 - Are comfortable in another language
 - Have a disability

The person chosen to assist them **cannot** be:

- An agent of the voter's employer
- An officer or agent of a labor union to which the voter belongs.



Voting in Person

Voting Order Priority

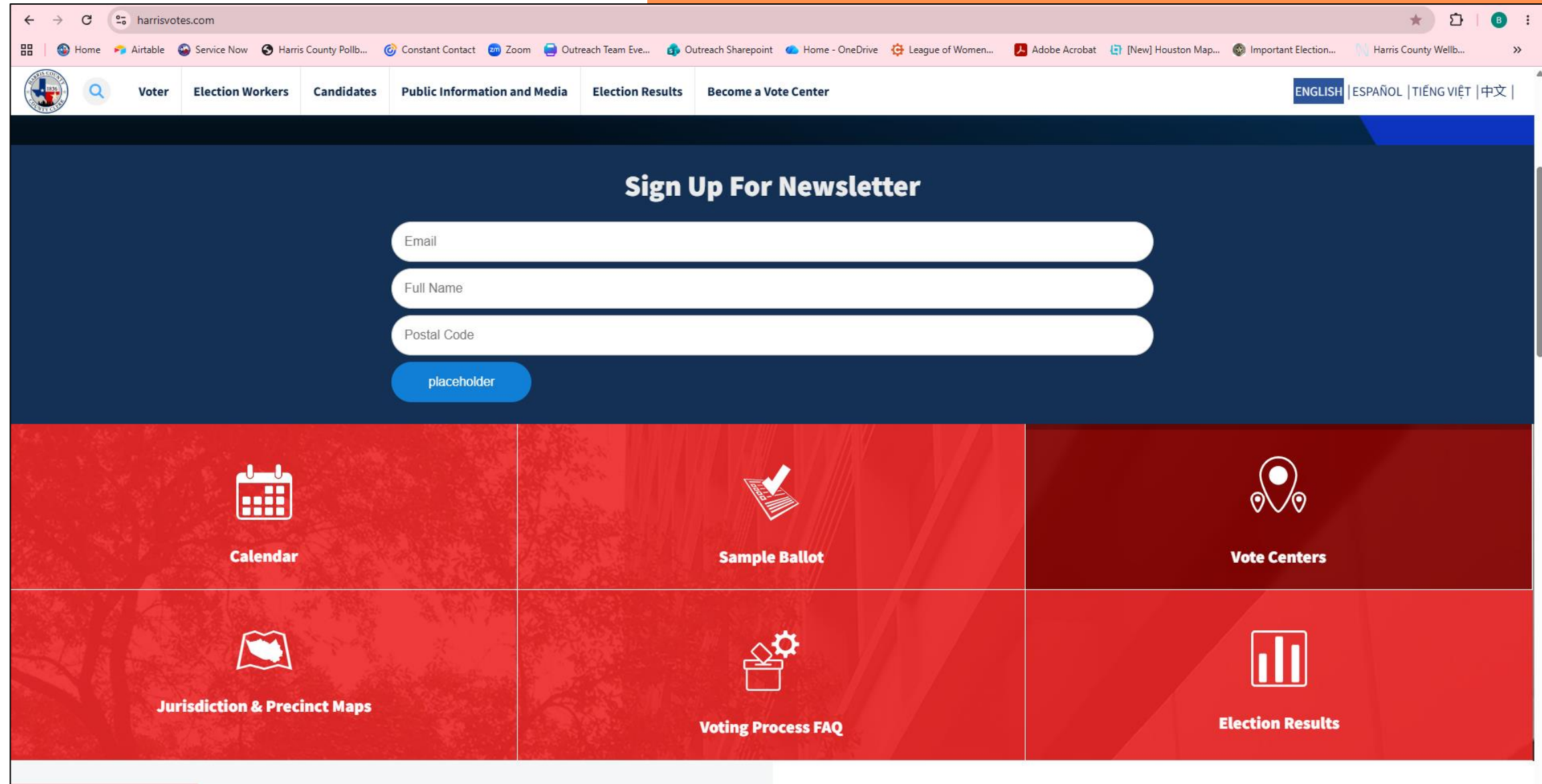
- Voters who are (visibly) pregnant or physically unable to stand to wait in line may be eligible for voting priority.
 - Notify an election worker upon arrival:
 - The election worker will move the voter to the front of the line;
 - Allow you to wait while seated.
 - You will be assigned a vote machine designed to accommodate your needs.



Photo source: The Texas Tribune

Vote Centers

- There will be 71 vote centers open during the early voting period.
- On Election day we will have more than 600.
- Log onto harrisvotes.com to find the vote center closest to you.



The screenshot displays the harrisvotes.com website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Voter, Election Workers, Candidates, Public Information and Media, Election Results, and Become a Vote Center. A language selector on the right offers English, Español, Tiếng Việt, and 中文. Below the navigation bar is a dark blue section titled "Sign Up For Newsletter" containing three input fields for Email, Full Name, and Postal Code, followed by a blue "placeholder" button. The main content area features a red grid of six tiles: "Calendar" (calendar icon), "Sample Ballot" (ballot icon), "Vote Centers" (location pin icon), "Jurisdiction & Precinct Maps" (map icon), "Voting Process FAQ" (ballot box icon), and "Election Results" (bar chart icon).

The Year Ahead

Elections in 2026

Oct. 5

- Last day to register to vote

Oct. 19

- First day of early voting

Oct. 23

- Last day to return BBM application.

Oct. 30

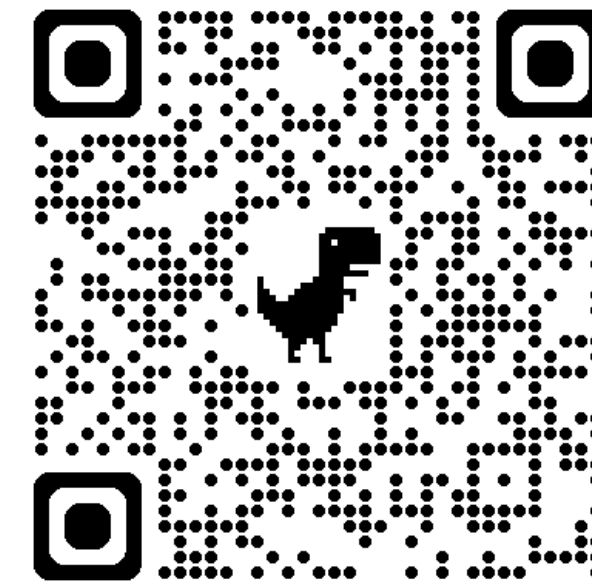
- Last day of early voting

Nov. 3

- Election Day
- Last day to return BBM.

How You Can Help

- Share the information we have shared today.
- Make sure everyone knows their voter registration status.
- Invite us to collaborate with your groups!
- Direct people to our website and social media accounts to get the most accurate Harris County Voter information.
- Participate in your local elections by working at the polls or a regional collection site.



Invite us to your next organizations meeting, school classroom, or event!



Get Involved

Work at a vote center

- Election Judges are nominated by the political parties.
- Our office places all early voting workers at the various vote centers.
- Call 713-755-1617 opt. 1 if you're interested in working early voting.
- On election day, we place the Presiding Judges, and they hire their clerks.



Get Involved

Work at a regional collection site

Serve as an Election Night Support Staff member (ENSS)

- Be a United States Citizen
- Be at least 18 years old and not enrolled in high school.
- Can lift over 30 pounds.
- Can stand for long periods of time.
- Complete a paid training.
- Earn \$17/hr



Get Involved

Work at a regional collection site

Serve as a High School Student Runner

- Be a United States Citizen
- Be at least 16 years old by election day and enrolled in an accredited high school.
- Must have legal guardian's permission to participate.
- Can lift over 30 pounds.
- Can stand for long periods of time.
- Complete a paid training.
- Earn \$17/hr



Quiz Time

What is the last day to return your mail ballot?



Best Practice



View and print your sample ballot to take to the polls on HarrisVotes.com.



Vote anywhere in Harris County. Use HarrisVotes.com to find a vote center close to you.



Bring one of the 7 acceptable forms of photo ID to the polls.

Best Practice



Read your BBM application completely. Provide the four of your SSN AND your DL number



Carry your BBM app/Ballot into the post office to give to the clerk at the counter to mail.

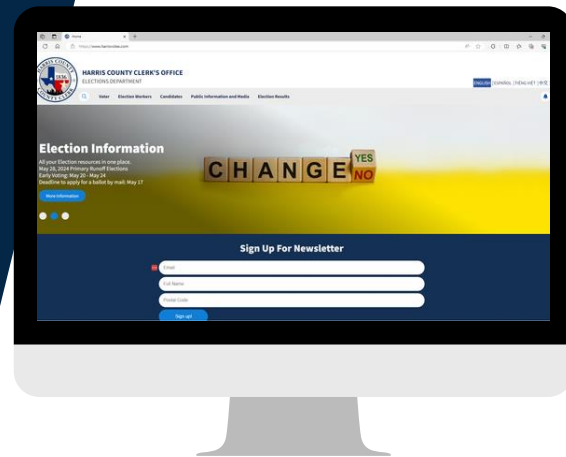


Track your BBM on [Harrisvotes.com](https://harrisvotes.com)



Office of Harris County Clerk
Teneshia Hudspeth

**THANK
YOU!**

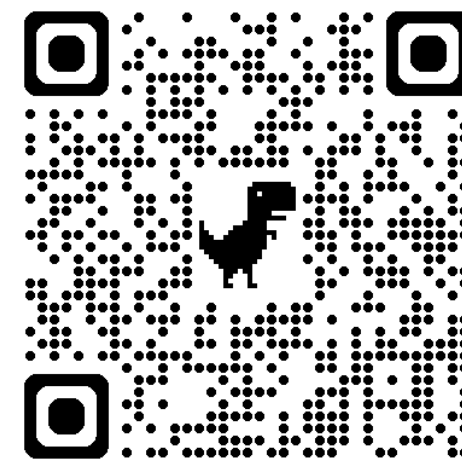


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