

# 2022 Voter Education Guide

Voter Information Relevant to Texas Nonprofits



## Are you registered to vote? Check now: [Am I Registered?](#)

### Important Dates:

#### May 24 Primary Run-Off

- Register to vote by: April 25
- Apply to vote by mail: May 13
  - (Received by, not postmarked)
- Early voting begins: May 16
- Early voting ends: May 20
- Election Day: May 24
- Last day to receive ballot by mail:
  - May 24, 2022 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is not postmarked
  - Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day.

#### November 8 General Election

- Register to vote by: October 11
- Apply by vote by mail by: October 28
  - (Received by, not postmarked)
- Early voting begins: October 24
- Early voting ends: November 4
- Election Day: November 8
- Last day to receive ballot by mail:
  - Nov. 8, 2022 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is not postmarked
  - Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day.

### Where can I find polling locations?

Find polling locations using the [VoteTexas.gov](#) portal. After checking your [Voter Registration Status](#), you will see a list of Upcoming Elections for which you are eligible. Click on the link for each respective election to see your available voting locations. Local **newspapers** will publish voting locations within two days of each early voting cycle.

- Early Voting: In Texas, registered and eligible voters may vote at any early voting location located in their county of residence.
- Election Day: Residents of counties approved for the Countywide Polling Place Program may vote at any voting location located in their county of residence. See if your county is eligible at [VoteTexas.gov - CPPP Locations](#).

### What kind of address is needed in order to vote? How about ID?

**For voters without a residence:** In the space on the registration form for residence address, it's safest to put the street address of an agency where you receive aid. In the space for mailing address, if you have one, put the P.O. Box where you receive your mail.

Texas requires identification to vote. Under Texas law, voters who possess one of the seven acceptable forms of photo ID must present that ID at the polls when voting in person.

Does the voter not have an acceptable form of photo ID? **They still have the opportunity to vote!** Voters who do not possess and cannot reasonably obtain one of the seven approved forms of photo ID may fill out a **Reasonable Impediment Declaration (RID)** at the polls and present an alternative form of ID, such as a utility bill, bank statement, government check, or a voter registration certificate.

See [Vote Texas ID FAQs](#) for a full list of acceptable IDs and alternative types of ID.

### Voting by Mail in Texas: What should I know?

Texas has restrictions on who may vote by mail. As of April 2022, only those who meet the following criteria may apply to vote by mail in Texas:

- 65 years of age or older **on Election Day**
- Sick or disabled
- Expected to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day
- Away from the county of residence on Election Day and during the early voting period
- Confined in jail, but eligible to vote
- Read a more extensive list of requirements at [VoteTexas.Gov Voting by Mail Information](#).

Voting is a right, but voting by mail in Texas requires you take extra care. This advice was put together from personal experience of One Voice Members:

- Mail-in ballots must be **received**, not postmarked, about a week ahead of each election day.
- Applying for the year does not guarantee you will receive a ballot for each election that year. You may need to apply for each one.
- The rules for signatures on the envelope are very specific. Compare with the rules as you sign.
- No one can help you place the ballot in the mailbox or drop box **unless** they fill out a form.
- When in doubt about which identifying number is needed, provide both your social security number and voter identification number. The last four digits of a SSN may be used in place of voter ID.

### Do you suspect voter abuse at the polls? Report it!

Contact Texas Election Protection when you suspect voter abuse: [Texas Voter Protection Hotlines](#)

English Election Protection Hotline: 866-OUR-VOTE  
 Spanish Election Protection Hotline: 888-VE-Y-VOTA  
 Asian Language Election Protection Hotline: 888-API-VOTE  
 Disability Election Protection Hotline: 888-796-VOTE

**Ensure your staff and clients know their rights!**

[Vote Texas: Know Your Rights](#)

## How can I educate my staff on becoming a volunteer deputy registrar?

Anyone eligible and interested in becoming a VDR in Texas can [register now for synchronous Zoom training](#). Upon completion of this Training, you will receive a Certificate to become a Travis County VDR.

If you are not a resident of Travis County and would like to become a VDR in your respective county, please continue this registration because the certificate you receive will allow you to become a VDR in your respective county through **reciprocal certification**.

Residents in Travis, Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Lee or Williamson Counties can participate in asynchronous training by [watching this video](#) and completing an exam.

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## How can I build a culture of voting in my organization?

Prior to each election cycle provide the following information for staff:

- Early voting dates & times
- Information on how to vote by mail
- Early voting locations for all surrounding counties

In order to build a culture of voting in your organization, employees should understand that they are granted time off to vote – and feel actively encouraged to do so. In Texas, employers are not required to tell employees they may be able to take time off to vote - so they may not know the opportunity exists.

To consider:

- Do your employees know that they explicitly receive time off to vote without it affecting their PTO or hourly wage? Is this made clear at staff check-ins?
- Do they receive special time off to vote only on Election Day (required if employee does not have two consecutive non-work hours available while polls are open), or can they use that time to participate in early voting (optional)?
- [Texas State Laws on Voting Rights/Time Off to Vote per Sections 276.001 and 276.004 of the Texas Election Code](#)

**Reminder: Nonprofits have the right to remind their staff they have time off to vote. It is not considered lobbying or advocating.**

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## Voter Assistance: General Overview

### Can we assist clients with language at the booth?

Voters [may use interpreters at the polls](#). An interpreter may be used if the voter and the election official cannot speak the same language. **The interpreter must be a registered voter of the county**, must take the oath of assistance and may interpret for any number of voters.

### Can we assist clients with disabilities at the booth? Can we drive them to the polls?

- **Assisting with Mail-In Ballots:** Persons who assist voters with a Vote by Mail application, Vote by Mail ballot, or in-person ballot must provide their relationship to the voter and address, and for the Vote by Mail ballot and in-person ballot, the assistor must sign an oath and mark that they didn't receive compensation. The helper's name and address must be written next to the voter's signature and they must sign the application.
- **Assisting with Transportation:** Persons who drive 7 or more voters who qualify for curbside voting must sign a form.
- **Assisting with Reading or Marking Ballots:** If the voter is physically unable to mark their ballot, or cannot read the ballot, they are eligible for assistance. They may choose anyone as an assistant **except** their employer or an officer of their union, or an agent of either. The assistant must take an oath of assistance administered by an election official. The assistant may read the ballot to them and mark their ballot. If the voter does not choose their own assistant, two election officials (of different political parties in the General Election) may assist them.

The above forms and oaths include disclosing the relationship, indicate whether compensation was provided and recite an expanded oath, **now under the penalty of perjury**, stating that they did not “pressure or coerce” the voter into choosing them for assistance. Please note: Poll watchers and inspectors can observe assistance.

### Curbside Voting:

In Texas, voters have the right to curbside voting if they cannot physically enter the polling place. **Voters are advised to call the [County Clerk Office](#) or an election official at the polling place when they arrive** and ask that an election officer bring a ballot to the entrance of the polling place or to a car parked at the curbside. After the voter marks the ballot, they will give it to the election officer, who will put it in the ballot box. Or, at the voter's request, a companion may hand the voter a ballot and deposit it for him or her. The companion may be required to sign an oath or form.

**Please Note:** One Voice Members who provide transportation for clients have reported that they have been met with confusion from election officials when requesting curbside voting. Know that voters [have the right to curbside voting](#).

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### This guide was made possible with information from the following resources:

- [Are you registered to vote? \(All Texas Counties\)](#)
- [Are you registered to vote? \(Specific to Travis County\)](#)
- [Counties eligible for the Countywide Polling Place Program](#)
- [County Clerk Offices](#)
- [Election Calendar for Travis County](#)
- [Identification requirements to vote in Texas](#)
- [Know your rights \(ACLU Texas\)](#)
- [Know your rights \(VoteTexas.gov\)](#)
- [Rights to Curbside Voting](#)
- [Rules for Assistance at the Polls](#)
- [Services Available to Voters with Special Needs in Texas](#)
- [Texas State Laws on Voting Rights/Time Off to Vote per Sections 276.001 and 276.004 of the Texas Election Code](#)
- [Volunteer Deputy Registrar Information for Travis & Surrounding Counties](#)
- [Voter Protection Hotlines](#)
- [Voting by Mail in Texas](#)
- [What am I allowed to take with me when I vote?](#)