

Texas

Registration Deadline

Forms must be received or postmarked 30 days before an election.¹

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Database Implementation Status

Texas has almost completed the implementation of its centralized statewide voter registration system (“TEAM”). Most county officials have direct access to a statewide database, and others maintain separate county databases which are uploaded daily to the statewide database. In March 2005, the state engaged IBM / Hart InterCivic to assist with the design and implementation of this system.² The system was not deployed by January 2006, but was scheduled to be deployed by June 2006.³

Entering Voter Registration Information

Who inputs voter registration information? County tax assessor-collectors generally review and enter information from voter registration forms in their jurisdictions into the statewide system.

What happens to voter registration forms submitted at state registration agencies? Forms received by the Secretary of State’s office, the Department of Public Safety (“DPS”), or another voter registration agency are sent within five days to the appropriate county registrar’s office for review and entry.⁴ DPS offices in larger counties may electronically transfer scanned copies of the forms. Other DPS offices will transmit the forms either in person or by mail.⁵

How are most forms submitted? Texas reported that in 2004, 28% of forms were submitted by mail, 12% were submitted in person to election officials, 54% were submitted at the DPS, 4% were submitted to other voter registration agencies, and 2% were submitted by other means.⁶

Voter Registration Form

The relevant portions of the voter registration form are included at the end of this section.

Processing of Forms Without Identifying Numbers

How will the state treat an application with an affirmative indication that the applicant has no valid identifying number? The applicant will be assigned a unique voter registration number; if the applicant is otherwise eligible, she will be considered registered.⁷

How will the state treat an application without an identifying number and without an affirmative indication that the applicant has no such number? If uncorrected (see below), the application will be rejected.

How will the state treat an application listing an identifying number that is either incomplete or illegible? If uncorrected (see below), the application will be rejected.

Matching Against Motor Vehicle and Social Security Records

What fields from the voter registration form will the state seek to match to motor vehicle or Social Security records? Identifying number, last name, former last name (for forms with a driver's license or state ID number), first name (for forms with SSN digits), and date of birth.

How precise is the match standard? Texas requires an exact match.

How much human intervention is involved in determining whether information is matched? The matching process will be fully automated.

Description of matching process: Texas will not attempt to verify applications submitted at the DPS. When information from other forms is entered into the statewide database, either directly by county officials or after a daily upload from the individual county databases, a match will automatically be sought against information collected by the DPS. For forms listing a driver's license or state ID number, the system will attempt to find an exact match of the identifying number, last name, former last name, and date of birth. Information on forms listing SSN digits will be automatically checked against the SSA database through the standard AAMVA process: the DPS will automatically submit the SSN digits, last name, first name, month of birth, and year of birth to the SSA, and the system will return a code indicating whether the record was successfully matched or not.

What are the consequences if the state cannot find a match? If uncorrected (see below), the application will be rejected.⁸

Notice and Opportunity to Resolve Errors

Does the applicant have the opportunity to correct a missing or incomplete identifying number, without submitting a new form? No. The applicant may submit either a new form with correct information or a statement that she has no such number.

Does the applicant have the opportunity to resolve a failed match, without submitting a new form? No. The applicant may submit a new form with a verifiable number.

If information on an otherwise timely application is corrected after the voter registration deadline, is the correction timely? Yes, if the corrections are submitted within ten days after the state mails its notice.⁹

Description of notice and correction process: The county registrar will attempt to notify by mail an applicant whose identifying number is missing, incomplete, illegible, or unverified. The notice will be attached to a new voter registration application. The applicant may attempt to resolve the error by returning the form within ten days of the date the notice was sent. If the form is returned within ten days, the applicant will be considered registered as of the date of the original application, but otherwise, the applicant will be considered registered as of the date that the second registration application was received.¹⁰

Identification Requirements at the Polls

Who must provide identification at the polls? Any voter not in possession of her voter registration certificate, and any first-time voter who registered by mail whose identifying number has not been verified, must provide identification at the polls.¹¹

What forms of identification are accepted?

A state driver's license or ID card, including expired cards; any other photo identification; a birth certificate; U.S. citizenship papers; a U.S. passport; official mail from the government; a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document showing name and address; or any additional identification designated by the Secretary of State.¹²

Forms of ID:

voters without certificate, 1 st -time voter registering by mail without verified number:	current and valid photo ID birth certificate U.S. citizenship papers U.S. passport current utility bill w/ name, address bank statement w/ name, address government check w/ name, address paycheck w/ name, address other gov't document w/ name, address
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What are the consequences of failing to show identification? The voter may vote a provisional ballot, but that ballot will not be counted.¹³ A provisional ballot will be counted only if the voter showed ID at the polls and is determined to have been fully registered to vote in the election.¹⁴

Statutes and Regulations

TEX. ELEC. CODE ANN. tit. 2 generally concerns registration. TEX. ELEC. CODE ANN. § 18.061 directs the Secretary of State to establish and maintain a single statewide voter registration system. 1 TEX. ADMIN. CODE part 4, ch. 81 comprises the applicable regulations.

End Notes

¹ TEX. ELEC. CODE ANN. §§ 13.143.

² electionline.org, *Assorted Rolls: Statewide Voter Registration Databases Under HAVA*, June 2005, available at <http://www.electionline.org/Portals/1/EB11.FINAL1.pdf>, at 22.

³ Ann McGeehan, Director of Elections, Election Advisory No. 2005-10: Achieving HAVA Compliance in 2006, at http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/team/memos_newsletters/2005_11_23_memo.shtml.

⁴ TEX. ELEC. CODE ANN. §§ 20.035, 20.066.

⁵ *See id.* § 20.065.

⁶ Election Assistance Commission, *The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office 2003-2004*, June 30, 2005, tbl. 2, available at http://www.eac.gov/NVR_Spreadsheets/NVRA_table_2.html. Due to rounding, the percentages listed may exceed 100%.

⁷ TEX. ELEC. CODE ANN. § 13.072(a).

⁸ *See* Ann McGeehan, Director of Elections, Election Advisory No. 2005-10: Achieving HAVA Compliance in 2006, at http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/team/memos_newsletters/2005_11_23_memo.shtml.

⁹ TEX. ELEC. CODE ANN. § 13.073(c).

¹⁰ Ann McGeehan, Director of Elections, Election Advisory No. 2005-10: Achieving HAVA Compliance in 2006, at http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/team/memos_newsletters/2005_11_23_memo.shtml.

¹¹ TEX. ELEC. CODE ANN. § 63.008; Ann McGeehan, Director of Elections, Election Advisory No. 2005-10: Achieving HAVA Compliance in 2006, at http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/team/memos_newsletters/2005_11_23_memo.shtml.

¹² TEX. ELEC. CODE ANN. § 63.0101.

¹³ *Id.* § 63.008; 1 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 81.172(c)(2), (i)(3)(C); 81.173(c)(2), (i)(3)(C); 81.174(c)(2), (i)(3)(C).

¹⁴ 1 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 81.172(c)(2), (i)(3)(C); 81.173(c)(2), (i)(3)(C); 81.174(c)(2), (i)(3)(C).

Complete These Questions Before Proceeding

Check one New Change Replacement

Are you a United States Citizen? Yes No

Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day? Yes No

If you checked 'no' in response to either of the above, do not complete this form.

Are you interested in serving as an election worker? Yes No

Continue below to complete application.

Last Name First Name Middle Name (If any) Former Name

Residence Address: Street Address and Apartment Number, City, State, and ZIP Code. If none, describe where you live. (Do not include P.O. Box or Rural Delivery Address)

Mailing Address: Street Address and Apartment Number or P.O. Box, City, State and ZIP Code: If mail cannot be delivered to your residence

Date of Birth: month, day, year Gender (Optional) Male Female

I understand that giving false information to procure a voter registration is perjury, and a crime under state and federal law. Conviction of this crime may result in imprisonment up to 180 days, a fine up to \$2,000, or both.

TX Driver's License No. or Personal I.D. No. (Issued by the Department of Public Safety)

I affirm that I

Check if you do not have a TX Driver's License, or Personal Identification Number

- am a resident of this county;
• have not been finally convicted of a felony or if a felon I have completed all of my punishment including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or I have been pardoned; and
• have not been declared mentally incompetent by final judgment of a court of law.

If no TX Driver's License or Personal Identification, give last 4 digits of your Social Security Number

Check if you do not have a Social Security Number

X Signature of Applicant or Agent and Relationship to Applicant or Printed Name of Applicant if Signed by Witness and Date.

Telephone Number, Include Area Code (Optional)

Qualifications

- You must register to vote in the county in which you reside.
• You must be a citizen of the United States.
• You must be at least 17 years and 10 months old to register, and you must be 18 years of age by election day.
• You must not be finally convicted of a felony, or if you are a felon, you must have completed all of your punishment, including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or you must have received a pardon.

General Information

- Your voter registration will become effective 30 days after it is received or on your 18th birthday, whichever is later.
• If you move to another county, you must re-register in the county of your new residence.
• If you decline to register to vote, the fact that you have declined to register will remain confidential and will be used only for registration purposes. If you do register to vote, the identity of the office (if applicable) at which you submitted a voter registration application will remain confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes.
• You must provide your Texas driver's license or personal identification number. If you do not have a driver's license or personal identification number, then give the last four digits of your social security number or if you do not have any of these identification numbers, then you must indicate by checking the appropriate box on the application side.

Identification Requirement

If you do not have a Texas driver's license or a social security number, you will be required to present identification when you vote in person or enclose a copy of such identification with your ballot if you vote by mail. Instead, you may enclose a copy of one of the following with this voter registration application. Identification includes: a current and valid ID; a copy of a current utility bill; bank statement; government check; paycheck; or other government document that shows your name and address.

Please complete sections by printing legibly. If you have any questions about how to fill out this application, please call your local voter registrar or the Secretary of State's Office toll free at 1-800-252-VOTE(8683), TDD 1-800-735-2989, www.sos.state.tx.us.

Este formulario está disponible en Español. Favor de llamar sin cargo a la oficina del Secretario de Estado al 1-800-252-8683 para conseguir una version en Español.