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Voter Registration

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TX

VOTER REGISTRATION  
IN TEXAS



GEORGE W. STRAKE, JR.  
Secretary of State

### Qualifications For Voting:

1. You must be a citizen of the United States.
2. You must be at least 18 years of age on the day of the election.
3. You must be a resident of the county.
4. You must be registered to vote.

### Persons Not Entitled To Vote:

1. Those convicted of a felony whose full rights of citizenship have not been restored.
2. Those persons found mentally incompetent by a court of law.

### How To Register To Vote:

1. Complete a post card application for voter registration and mail it postage-free or present it in person to the registrar of voters in your county (usually the Tax Assessor-Collector).
2. You may register to vote at any time, but your application must be received by the registrar of voters 30 days before an election in order to vote in that election.
3. You may register to vote if you are at least 17 years and 10 months of age, but you may not vote until you are 18 years of age.

### Penalties, Fees:

1. Any person giving false information to secure voter registration for himself or any other person is guilty of a third degree felony.
2. There is no fee or poll tax for registering to vote.

### Voter Registration Certificate:

1. Soon after the Registrar receives your application for voter registration, you will receive your Voter Registration Certificate.
2. Immediately upon receipt of your certificate, you should examine it closely. If it is correct, sign it and carry it in your wallet. If the information is wrong, make the necessary corrections on the spaces provided and return it to the Registrar. He will issue you a revised certificate.
3. Your Voter Registration Certificate identifies you as a registered voter in your precinct and should be presented at the polling place on the day of the election.
4. You will receive a current color coded certificate every two years as long as you remain at the address shown on your current certificate or notify the registrar of any change thereof.
5. The color for the 1978 - 1979 Voter Registration Certificate is yellow. (The color for the 1980 - 1981 certificate will be white.)

### Lost Or Misplaced Certificate:

1. If you lose or misplace your certificate, notify the Registrar, and he will issue you a duplicate certificate.
2. You may still vote without your certificate at the polling place by signing an Affidavit of Lost or Misplaced Certificate.

### Deputy Volunteer Registrar:

After you have become a registered voter you may wish to become a Deputy Volunteer Registrar by applying with the County Tax Assessor-Collector or Voter Registrar.

## Who Can Vote Absentee?

### Any Qualified Voter Who:

1. Expects to be absent from the county on election day
2. Is sick, physically disabled, or expecting childbirth (doctor's certificate needed)
3. Has religious beliefs which prevent him from going to the polling place on election day
4. Is 65 years of age or older on election day (no doctor's certificate required)
5. Is confined to jail (under certain conditions)
6. Has been appointed to work as a poll watcher or clerk on election day outside his precinct

## How To Vote Absentee:

1. By personal appearance at the Absentee Voting Clerk's office or at any duly designated branch office during designated office hours
2. By mail

## How To Apply For Absentee Ballot By Mail:

1. By writing or calling the Absentee Voting Clerk's office not more than 60 days before the election
2. If application is made by reason of sickness, physical disability, or impending childbirth, a physician's certificate must accompany the application.

## Emergency Absentee Ballot:

If a voter becomes sick or disabled 5 days before election day he may request in writing that the Absentee Clerk send him a ballot by the person who presents the request to the Clerk. The written request must include a voter registration certificate, or a statement that it is lost or misplaced, and a doctor's signed certificate (provision applies to certain elections only).

**FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE:** Call the Secretary of State toll-free at 1-800-252-9602. Bilingual assistance available.