



SERVED YOUR TIME? THEN IT'S YOUR TIME TO VOTE!

# UNLOCK YOUR VOTE! VOICE YOUR OPINION IN TEXAS' 2016 ELECTIONS!

## ARE YOU "OFF PAPER"? YOU CAN REGISTER AND VOTE!

Have you completed your sentence? You have the right to register and vote in Texas if you are not currently in prison, or on felony probation or parole.

**REMEMBER:** To vote, you must be at least 18 years of age on Election Day, a U.S. Citizen, and a resident of the county where you registered to vote, and you must not have been declared mentally disabled by a court.

## IMPORTANT DATES:

Submit your completed voter registration application **at least 30 days** before the election. Upcoming Registration and Election Deadlines:

- ▶ **Last Day to Register to Vote: October 11, 2016**
- ▶ **Early Voting Period: October 24 - November 4, 2016**
- ▶ **Election Day: November 8, 2016**

Confirm your registration status by visiting the Texas Secretary of State "Am I Registered?" page:

<https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do>

## HOW TO REGISTER:

### ONLINE ACCESS:

If you have access to a computer and a printer, visit [www.votetexas.gov](http://www.votetexas.gov).

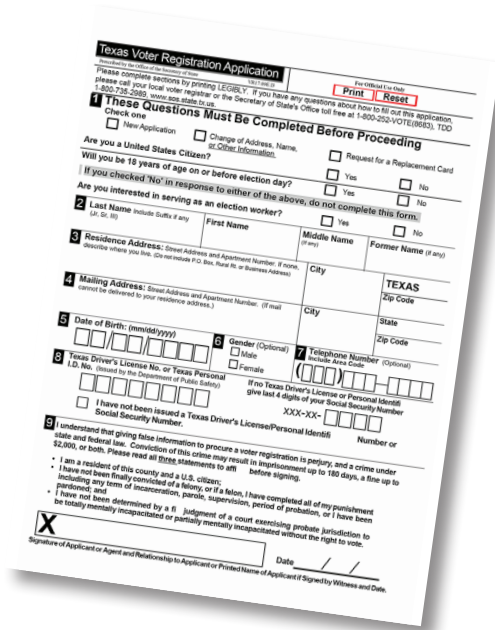
- ✓ **Click "REGISTER TO VOTE"**  
*(the first tab on the blue panel at the top of the page)*
- ✓ **Click "Get your application here."**  
*(the link in the first paragraph under "Register To Vote")*
- ✓ **Click "voter registration application online."**  
*(a blue link under the headline "Get an Informal Online Application")*



The **first step** of the application asks you if you are a United States citizen. **If you are a citizen, click "yes"** and you will move on to the full voter registration application. **Be sure to complete all questions.** Once you have completed all the questions on the online form, **press the SUBMIT button** located towards the bottom of the screen. After you press submit, you will be brought to another webpage to print your application. **Click PRINT** to print your online application.

**MAKE SURE TO SIGN AND DATE** the bottom of the application at the X. Place the application in a stamped envelope and mail back to your county voter registrar. A list of county registrars and their addresses can be found at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/votregduties.shtml>





## PAPER APPLICATION:

No computer? No problem! Registration applications are available at the post office, library, and many stores like HEB.

Just request a registration form, complete the form with a pen, and make sure to write in your city and zip code in the partially-addressed mail-to section for the Registrar of Voters. This form is postage paid, so you won't need a stamp to mail it.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS!

### ✓ I was registered to vote before my conviction. Do I need to re-register?

Yes. If you were registered to vote before you were convicted of a felony, your registration was terminated, and you will need to fill out a new registration form.

### ✓ Are you currently homeless or staying at a shelter? You can still register to vote!

You can often register to vote using a shelter address, like Salvation Army or ARCH (Front Steps). Just remember, if you use their address, your voter certificate will be mailed there. Check with a staff person at your shelter for a registration form and ask to use the shelter address.

### ✓ I sent in my registration application. Now what?

After you mail your registration application, it will be processed, and you should receive your "Voter Registration Certificate" in the mail at the address you wrote on your application within 30 days. Once you receive your certificate, sign it, and make sure to bring it on Election Day.

### ✓ I received a "Response to Notice of Examination" letter in the mail. What should I do?

Sometimes the Secretary of State sends a letter to confirm that you are "off paper" and eligible to vote. If you receive this letter, fill it out, and immediately mail it back to your county voter registrar. A list of county registrars and their addresses can be found at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/votregduties.shtml>

- \_\_\_ I have been convicted of a felony, however:
  - \_\_\_ I have been pardoned.
  - \_\_\_ I have reached the completion of my sentence (including probation or parole).
  - \_\_\_ My case is currently under direct appeal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Voter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Response

After you check the appropriate line above, make sure to sign and date your response. If you signed your name, then you do not need to fill out the bottom half of the form.

## ✓ I didn't receive my Voter Registration Certificate. What should I do?

If you didn't receive your certificate within 45 days, you should call **your local Tax Assessor-Collector or your local Elections Administrator** so that they can find out why the card's mailing may have been delayed. The contact information for each county's voter registration official is available on the **Texas Secretary of State website at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/votregduties.shtml>**. If you do not have access to a computer, you may call the Texas Secretary of State to request the contact information of your county voter registration office **toll-free at 1-800-252-VOTE (8683)**.



## ✓ I'm registered! Now, how do I vote?

**Find Your Polling Place.** Your voter registration certificate or card will have the number of the precinct in which you'll vote on Election Day. (A precinct is a geographic area in your county.) **Check your local newspaper on the Saturday before the election** for the address of the polling place for your precinct. **On Election Day**, arrive there **between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.** to vote.

**If you can't find your polling location, call (512) 854-9473 for help.**

When you enter your polling place, show your voter registration card and a valid I.D. to the election official and, depending on the type of voting machine they use, they'll provide you with a paper ballot or, for an electronic voting machine, a number or ballot activator card that enables you to vote on the machine. If you have questions about using the machine or filling out a ballot, just ask the poll worker for help. They are there to make sure your vote is counted!

## Valid I.D. options include:

- Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS
- United States military identification card containing the person's photograph
- United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- United States passport

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 4 years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place. (Source: <http://www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/need-id/>)



## BEAT THE LINES! VOTE EARLY.

After you are registered to vote, **you have the option of voting early in person**. Voting early is quick and easy. **Call (512) 854-9473** to find an early voting location near you! Make sure to **bring your voter registration certificate and valid I.D.** (see I.D. options at left).

- ▶ **Presidential/General Elections (2016): Election Day is November 8, 2016 with Early Voting from October 24 – November 4, 2016**

## ✓ I cannot obtain one of the seven forms of approved photo ID. Can I still vote?

If you have a reasonable impediment or difficulty obtaining such identification, you may present a supporting form of identification and complete a Reasonable Impediment Declaration. The Reasonable Impediment Declaration form may be found at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/Elections/forms/pol-sub/reasonable-impediment-declaration.pdf>. It must be completed both by the voter and by the election official.

**Supporting forms of ID include:** Valid voter registration certificate, certified birth certificate (must be an original), copy of or original current utility bill, copy of or original bank statement, copy of or original government check, copy of or original paycheck, copy of or original government document with your name and an address (original required if it contains a photograph). **If you have a disability, you may also apply within the county voter registrar for a permanent exemption.**

## ✓ My name is not on the list of registered voters. Can I still vote?

**Yes.** If your name is **not on the list** of registered voters at your polling place, ask to **fill out a Provisional Ballot**.

## ✓ I went to vote, but I forgot my Voter Registration Certification and I.D. Can I still vote?

**Yes.** If you forgot your Voter Registration Certification *and* I.D., ask to **fill out a Provisional Ballot**.

## ✓ I am confined in jail either serving a misdemeanor conviction or awaiting trial. Can I still vote?

**Yes.** If you are in jail awaiting trial or you have a misdemeanor conviction, and you are not on probation or parole, and **you meet all other voting eligibility requirements, you can vote!** The best way to make sure your vote is counted is to **vote early by mail**. If you are already a registered voter, you (or a loved one) may print an application for Ballot by Mail from the **Secretary of State website at [www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/reqabbm.shtml](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/reqabbm.shtml)**.

If you do not have access to a printer, you can visit that same website to **request that an application for Ballot by Mail** be sent to you. If you do not have access to a computer at all, you may write a letter **requesting an application for a Ballot by Mail, and requesting the address of your county's Early Voting Clerk from:**

Elections Division  
Secretary of State  
P.O. Box 12060  
Austin, TX 78711-2060

**Your letter requesting the application for Ballot by Mail and the address for the Early Voting Clerk could be written as follows:**

Dear Elections Division Representative:

I am writing to request an application for Ballot by Mail, and I would like to know the mailing address of my county's Early Voting Clerk so that I can mail my completed application to my local Voting Clerk for processing. My voter registration address is [include address]; however, I am currently confined in jail [or I am outside my county] and request that a Ballot by Mail application and the mailing address of my county Early Voting Clerk be mailed to me at [your name and address].

Sincerely,  
Signature

**Note: You must make separate requests for Ballot by Mail for each election in which you want to vote.**

Your application must be received no earlier than the 60th day and no later than the 7th day before the Election Day. If the 7th day is a weekend or holiday, the deadline is the first preceding business day. **Completed Ballots by Mail must be returned to the County Clerk's office by mail or by contract carrier by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.**

## ✓ If I still have questions about my voter registration or voting process, what can I do?

Visit the Texas Secretary of State online at [www.sos.state.tx.us/elections](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections) or call the Secretary of State **toll-free at 1-800-252-VOTE (8683)**.



Texas Criminal Justice Coalition  
1714 Fortview Road, Suite 104  
Austin, Texas 78704  
(512) 441-8123  
[www.TexasCJC.org](http://www.TexasCJC.org)