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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

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Lubbock - 1001 Main Street, Suite 200, Lubbock, TX 79401-3309
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EL PASO - 300 East Main Drive, Suite 205; El Paso, TX 79901-1357
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ALTERNATIVE VOTING OPTIONS

What Other Ways Can I Vote, Besides Going to the Polling Place on Election Day?

In certain cases, you can vote by mail, you can vote early in person, or you can vote from your car through “curbside voting.”

VOTE-BY-MAIL

Who Is Eligible to Vote-by-Mail?

Anyone who is a registered voter and who:

- ◆ Is going to be away from your county on Election Day and during all of early voting;
- ◆ Has a disability;
- ◆ Is 65 years of age or older on Election Day; or
- ◆ Is confined in jail, but is still eligible to vote.

What is a Disability that Allows You to Vote by Mail?

To vote by mail because of disability, you must have a sickness or physical condition that prevents you from going to the polling place on Election Day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or injuring your health. You do not have to prove your disability.

How Do I Apply to Vote-by-Mail-In Ballot?

- ◆ Send in a Vote-by-Mail application to your county’s early voting clerk before each election at least seven (7) days, and no more than 60 days, before Election Day.
- ◆ Get an official application from the early voting clerk in your county, from the Secretary of State's office, or from Advocacy, Inc. You can also call those offices and have an application mailed to you. You can also request applications and download applications at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/regabbm.shtml>.
- ◆ To get the name and address of the early voting clerk, you can contact the Secretary of State’s office at 1-800-252-8683 or online at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/county.shtml>.

- ◆ You can send in a Vote-by-Mail application by mail or in some cases Fax (if your county voting clerk's office has a Fax machine and if you are submitting your application from outside the county).
- ◆ Also, if you are voting early because you will be gone on Election Day, you can apply in person at the county election official's office, to get a vote-by-mail ballot. You must do this in person, and before the first day of early voting (usually the 17th day before the election).

Can I Have the Ballot Mailed to a Different Address than My Home Address?

Maybe. The general rule is that a ballot must be mailed to the address where you are registered to vote. However, if you say in your application that you are going to be away from your county on Election Day, you can ask that it be mailed to another address. Also, if you are age 65 or older, or have a physical disability, you can have your ballot mailed to a hospital, nursing home, long-term care facility, retirement center, or relative, but you must check the blank on the application form that says which address you are providing.

Can I Ask Someone to Help Me Fill Out the Application?

Yes. If you need help filling out the form or mailing it, ask someone you trust. If someone helps you fill out the application, that person must write their name and address next to your signature on the application. The person helping you must also sign the application and circle that they "assisted" you. There is no limit to how many voters a person can "assist" in completing a mail-in ballot application, unless the voters cannot sign their names. (See below)

What if I Need Help Signing the Application?

If you cannot sign your name, because you can not read or have a disability, just make your mark in the signature area and have anyone you like to sign their own name to attest to your mark. That person is called a "witness." The witness must sign their own signature, print their name, provide their residential address, and circle "witness" on the application. If you cannot make a mark, just have the "witness" print your name in the signature blank and check the box that says you cannot sign your name. An individual can only be a witness on ONE mail-in ballot application unless the voters they are assisting are all related as their parent, spouse, child, sibling or grandparent.

When Do I Apply for a Vote-by-Mail Ballot?

You must submit your application to the early voting clerk at least seven (7) days, and no more than 60 days, before Election Day. If the seventh (7th) day before Election Day is on a weekend, the last day to submit an application is the Friday before that. It is a good idea to send in your application 50 or 60 days before Election Day. That way, you will have plenty of time to get your ballot, and if, for some reason, you don't get your ballot, you will have time to request a replacement ballot. To see important election dates online, go to: www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/index.shtml.

What If My Ballot Doesn't Come?

If you are registered to vote and do not receive a ballot, call your county elections office. They will check that your voter registration is current. If it is, they will mail you a replacement ballot.

What Is the Deadline to Return a Vote-by-mail Ballot?

The early voting clerk must receive your marked ballot by **7 p.m. on Election Day**, unless you are mailing your ballot from outside the United States. If you are out of the county, you must mail it by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day and the early voting clerk must receive it by the fifth day after Election Day.

How Do I Know If My Ballot Is Received?

You may call your county election office and ask if they received your ballot. A record is kept showing each voter whose ballot has been returned.

When Will Election Results Be Known?

Ballot counting will not begin until Election Day

VOTE EARLY IN PERSON

Who Is Eligible to Vote Early in Person?

Any registered voter can vote early in person, for any reason.

When Is the Early Voting Period?

You may vote during the early voting period which begins 17 days before Election Day and ends 4 days before Election Day.

Where Can I Vote Early?

During the early voting period, you can vote at any early voting site that is convenient to you within your county. You don't have to vote in your precinct. To find out where the early voting polling places are in your county, call your county's early voting clerk or the Secretary of State's office at 1.800.252.8683.

CURBSIDE VOTING

How Does Curbside Voting Work?

If you are physically unable to enter the polling place, you can ask that an election officer bring a ballot to your car at the curbside, or to you at the entrance of the polling place. After you mark the ballot, give it to the election officer who will put it in the ballot box. Or, at your request, a companion may hand you a ballot and deposit it for you.

How Will They Know I'm at the Curb?

You can have someone else go inside and alert the poll workers that you need to vote at the curb. If you are going alone, it is a good idea to call your County Election Official ahead of time to let them know that you need to curbside vote, so they can have poll workers ready for you. Just let them know when and where you plan to vote. You can find your County Election Official by calling the Secretary of State's office at 1.800.252.8683, or look online at: www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/county.

Who Is Eligible for Curbside Voting?

Any voter who is physically unable to enter the polling place without personal assistance or likelihood of injuring the voter's health is eligible to vote curbside.

When Can I Use Curbside Voting?

It is available during early voting and on Election Day at every polling place.

Does Curbside Voting Mean that Polling Places Don't have to be Accessible?

No, Texas law requires all early and Election Day polling locations and precinct conventions to be physically accessible to voters with disabilities.

If you need assistance in registering to vote, have questions regarding voting, or feel that any of your voting rights have been violated please contact:

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