tcfv

TEXAS COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

Voting Guide

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> Voting is the foundation stone of political action.
> -Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Voting is an important way to have a voice in policy action - but figuring out when and how to vote can sometimes feel overwhelming or confusing. We created this guide as a resource on voting in Texas with the hope of making the voting process clearer and easier. We want to support you in casting your vote, whether it's your first time voting, or you need a refresher.

In this guide we included relevant links, dates, resources, and information that can help you get ready to vote, with a particular focus on supporting program advocates and survivors to navigate voting. Reach out to us with any questions at policy@tcfv.org!

Getting Ready to Vote

In the next few pages, there is information about the voting process, including resources that help you register to vote, update your registration, and understand how to vote. We've also included important resources on your voting rights, accessibility for voters with disabilities, and voting dates and deadlines.

The Voter Registration deadline is **October 5, 2026** for the November 2026 election.

Register to Vote

- You can register to vote in Texas via a paper or online (still required to mail in) application or visit your local voter registrar. If your name or address has changed, make sure to update them before voting, which you can do here. Otherwise, your vote may not be counted until your information is confirmed.
- Identification requirements: If you are voting in person (early or on election day), you must present one of the seven forms of acceptable forms of ID at the polling place. Be sure to check your ID's expiration date, although you can still vote with an expired photo ID for up to four years past the expiration date. If you do not have one of the acceptable forms of ID, you can fill out a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form and present a different form of ID. Read about identification requirements here.
- Voting Registration Resources:
  - Texas Voter Registration Information
  - Voting FAQ
  - My Voter Portal: At this link you can check your registration status, change your name or address, find your voting precinct, and track a mail-in ballot.

Voter Eligibility

To register to vote in Texas, you must be:

- A US Citizen
- Residing in the county where you're registered (see student requirements in the section below!)
- At least 17 years and 10 months old by Election Day
- Not determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.
- Read the full voter eligibility requirements here.

*Please note that there are times those with a felony may not be able to vote. If you have a felony or are working with a survivor who has one, read more here about voting access.

Voting In Person

In Person Early Voting: Registered voters can vote at any early voting location. Find locations here two days before early voting starts.

Early voting is from Oct. 19-Oct. 30 for the upcoming election.

In Person Election Day Voting: Voters in counties participating in the Countywide Polling Place Program (CWPP) or 'Vote Centers', can vote at any location in their county. If your county does not participate in the CWPP, you can only vote at the voting precinct assigned to you. Find your polling place here.

Student Voters!

You can use your parents' address or your college address (but not both) for registration, whichever is your permanent address. If you're away from your permanent address on Election Day and during early voting you can request a ballot by mail from the county clerk's office. FYI: A college or university student ID ise not an acceptable form of ID for voting. Check out the Texas Tribune Texas Voter Guide for College Students

Election Day is November, 3 2026!

Voting by Mail: You can vote via mail if you are over 65 years of age, have a disability, are in jail but eligible to vote, or are absent from the country during early voting and election day and can provide an out of county address and dates when you can receive out of county mail. An application for a mail-in ballot must be sent to the Early Voting Clerk. Applications must be received no later than 11th day before Election Day. Read more here about voting by mail.

Voting Rights

We all are entitled to certain rights when voting, but voter suppression strategies are a real concern and can restrict voters from rightfully casting their vote. Voter suppression, which disproportionately impacts voters of color and young voters, includes acts and/or attempts to discourage individuals from registering to vote or engaging in voting. Knowing our rights and what actions we can take if those rights are violated are essential in the voting process.

Know your rights in the voting process:

- You can vote past the time of poll closure as long as you are in line and stay in line. If you are still in line when the polls close, stay in line.
- You may ask for another ballot if you need to make changes to your ballot after printing it
- If you are told the machines are not working at your polling place you can request a paper ballot.
- Click the link above to learn more about your voting rights.

The Election Protection Hotline is also available in the following languages:

- Arabic: 1-844-YALLA-US / 1-844-925-5287
- Bengali, Cantonese, Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, or Vietnamese: 1-888-API-VOTE / 1-888-274-8683
- ASL (Video): 301-818-VOTE / 1-301-818-8683

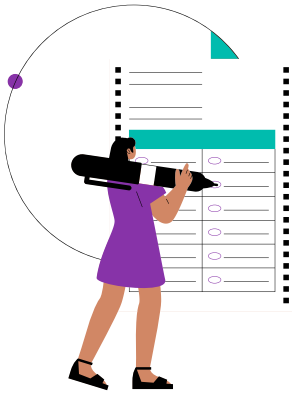
Voters with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities can receive assistance in registering to vote from certain state agencies and all voting systems and polling places must be accessible. Voters may also use interpreters. Read more about rights and services available to voters with disabilities here.

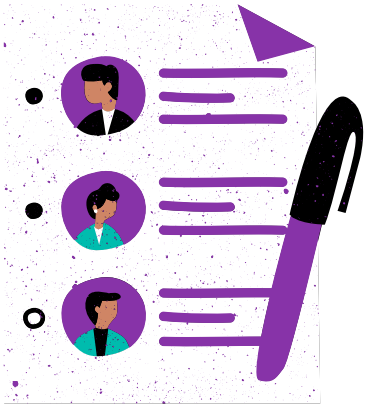
Learn About the Candidates and Issues

Voting can feel difficult if we don't know much about the candidates or other measures on the ballot. Fortunately there are resources that can help you feel more informed. Learn more at the links below about what will appear on the ballot, who represents you, and post-election results.

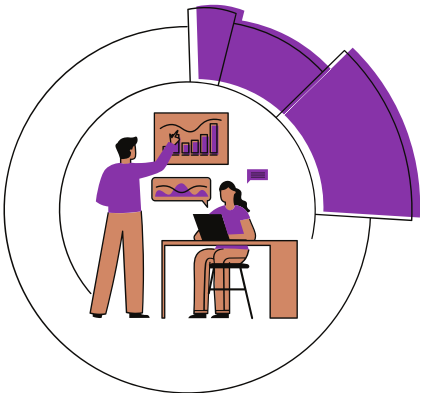
Tools to Learn More!



What's on the Ballot?



Who Represents Me?



Texas Election Results

Additional Voting Resources

- When We All Vote
- Texas Voter Registration Information
- Voting FAQ
- My Voter Portal
- Texas Tribune 2026 Election Ballot
- Common Cause
- NNEDV, Voting, and Survivor Privacy
- Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) enrollment

Don't forget about Judicial elections-- Click here to learn more about judicial candidates!

Important Voting Dates

- **January 1, 2026:** First Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail
- **October 5, 2026:** Last Day to Register to Vote
- **October 19, 2026:** First Day of In-Person Early Voting
- **October 23, 2026:** Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)
- **October 30, 2026:** Last Day of In-Person Early Voting
- **November 3, 2026: ELECTION DAY**
- **November 3, 2026:** Tuesday, November 3, 2026 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is not postmarked, OR Wednesday, November 4, 2026 (next business day after Election Day) at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply).

Visit the Texas Secretary of State website for additional details.

Considerations for Survivors and Domestic Violence Programs

Survivors of intimate partner violence often have unique needs when participating in the voting process and can face barriers in preserving safety, accessibility, and privacy. The information below can assist in addressing those barriers so that survivors can safely cast their vote and share their voice. Individualized safety planning is always recommended.

Privacy & Safety Protections

The Texas Secretary of State (TX SOS) offers information on privacy protections available when voting on their Address Confidentiality page. Texas voters have a right to submit their ballot anonymously. **Victims of certain crimes** and those in the **Address Confidentiality Program (ACP)** are eligible for additional privacy protections when voting.

Confidentiality for Victims of Certain Crimes

The TX SOS website states that victims of family violence, sexual abuse, stalking, and/or trafficking and their children and household members can apply for confidentiality protections so that their "...residence address, social security number, and Texas driver's license number or personal identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety will be confidential as a matter of law, not visible to poll workers on election day, and not releasable in response to a Public Information Act request. The voter's name will appear on public records with an asterisk (***) in place of their address."

- Applicants must submit a Request for Voter Registration Residential Address Confidentiality to the county voter registrar's office, attaching any documentation that proves eligibility.
- Please visit Address Confidentiality for more detailed information on confidentiality while voting for victims of crimes.

Attorney General Address Confidentiality Program

The ACP offers victims of family violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, stalking, and/or child abduction the option for a post office box and mail forwarding services. All mail goes through this substitute post office box to ensure confidentiality to participants in this program.

- According to the TX SOS, voters in the ACP are "...not registered to vote using the county's voter registration system, and no information for that voter will appear on any form but the Confidential Voter Registration Form and Early Voting Ballot Application, which is confidential."
- Importantly, the TX SOS notes that prior voter registrations are kept on record for two years and voters should complete a Request for Voter Registration Residential Address Confidentiality to any county where the voter was registered in past two years to keep information on past voter registrations confidential.
- Please visit the Address Confidentiality for more detailed information on voting while enrolled in the ACP and ACP enrollment to learn more about applying for ACP.

Overview of Confidentiality for Crime Victims & ACP

Type of Confidentiality	Where to file	Where they're registered	Where to vote	What's confidential	Duration
Victims of certain crimes (Address Conf. under Tex. Elec. Code 13.004	County voter registrar	In county they reside	In precinct they reside	Applicant's residence address	Until registration is cancelled or updated
Attorney General Address Confidentiality Program (ACP)	County early voting clerk	They are NEVER registered	Mail only! Through early voting clerk in county they reside	Voter is NOT registered and not subject to public disclosure	3 years or until registrar has notice that person is no longer in ACP

Chart from Texas Secretary of State website

Survivors Who are Homeless or in Emergency Shelter

- In Texas, you must provide a residence address to register to vote or, if the residence has no address, the address at which you receive mail and a concise description of the location of the residence. This could include a shelter, service provider, relative, etc. If the survivor is receiving mail at an address, best practice is to list that as the mailing address as long as that address is safe, and they can still access the mail there.
- If a survivor is currently receiving mail or residing at a domestic violence program shelter/hotel they can use that mailing address. Please use the program's administrative office physical address, not the P.O. Box. You don't need to include the program name. **Survivors should consider the potential risks of this due to voter rolls being subject to public inspection.**
- Read more about voting rights for people who are unhoused in the National Coalition for the Homeless Voting Rights Manual 2024.

What Else Can Domestic Violence Programs Do to Support Survivors in the Voting Process?

- Domestic violence programs can encourage everyone on staff to register to vote and discuss the option for survivors to register, and can make voter registration info easily accessible. Advocates can assist survivors in registering to vote.
- Provide employees and survivors with nonpartisan voting guides and easy access to voting resources. Post signs with important dates as well as voter registration and polling place info. Consider holding a voting information session with survivors and/or staff to offer nonpartisan information on the voting process.

- Provide information about mail-in and absentee ballots and early voting requirements. Such information could be provided at shelters or in the community in the form of flyers
- When safe to do so, provide transportation for survivors to access polling places.
- Engage the community by sharing information about the voting process (via flyers, events, public meetings, etc.) and the importance of voting and policies to your organization's mission and values.

Reach Out to Us!

We want to support you and when applicable, your organization, in the voting process. Contact us if we can offer additional information, tools, or brainstorming sessions to help meet the needs of your community.

Let's make our voices heard this election season!

888.450.TCFV (8238)

POLICY@TCFV.ORG

WWW.TCFV.ORG/PUBLIC-POLICY/

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TEXAS COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

INDIVIDUALLY WE POWER CHANGE.
TOGETHER WE POWER A MOVEMENT.