

# Special Forms of Voting

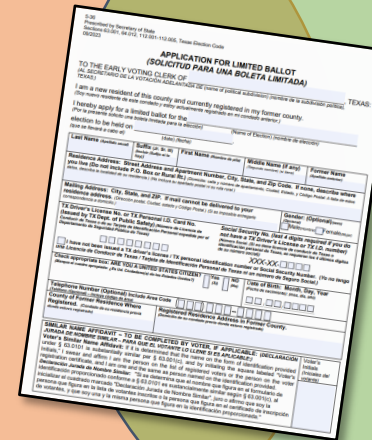
Limited Ballots, Provisional Ballots,  
Presidential Ballots, and More!



# Limited Ballots

Old County

New County



APPLICATION FOR LIMITED BALLOT  
(SOLICITUD PARA UNA BOLETA LIMITADA)

I am a new resident of this county and currently registered in my former county. I hereby apply for a limited ballot for the election to be held on \_\_\_\_\_.

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Residence Address: Street Address and Apartment Number, Suite, and Zip Code. If other, describe where you live (do not include P.O. Box or care packages). \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

County of Current Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Ballot Name Affidavit - TO BE COMPLETED BY VOTER IF APPLICABLE (PRELARGO)  
I am a new resident of this county and currently registered in my former county. I hereby apply for a limited ballot for the election to be held on \_\_\_\_\_.



## Limited Ballots – When are they used?

- Limited ballots are used when a voter has their Texas registration in a county ***other than*** their new county of residence
- Limited ballots are ***only*** an option during ***early voting*** – they **cannot** be used on election day
- **Personal appearance** limited ballots are ***only*** available at the main early voting polling place (Chapters 111 and 112)



## Limited Ballots – Who can use one?

- To vote a limited ballot, a voter must:
  - Be eligible to vote in the county of registration if they still lived there
  - Be registered to vote in the county of former residence at the time the person:
    - Offers to vote in the new county of residence, or
    - Submitted a voter registration application in their new county of residence and
  - Their registration will not be effective in their new county of residence by election day (Sec. 112.002)



## Limited Ballots – Personal Appearance

- A personal appearance limited ballot can ONLY be voted during early voting by personal appearance and ONLY at the main early voting polling place
  - Limited ballots are NOT available on election day
  - Limited ballot are NOT available at branch locations
- Remember, your Notice of Election must clearly designate which location is the main early voting location, so voters know where to go for limited ballots.



# Limited Ballots – Voting in Person

- For step-by-step procedures for processing a voter casting a limited ballot in person, please review our Limited Ballot Voters and District Chart advisory (Coming Soon!)



# Limited Ballots – Voting by Mail

- Limited ballots are available to voters who are voting by mail.
- Voters **must** meet the eligibility requirements to vote by mail
  - Ask the voter to complete:
    - An Application for Limited Ballot; AND
    - An Application for Ballot by Mail (ABBM)



# Limited Ballot Reminders

- The limited ballot application is a voter registration application and will update the voter's registration to your county (assuming they are otherwise eligible).
- Train your early voting workers, even those at the branch locations, on the difference between limited ballots and provisional ballots.
  - One of the biggest complaints we receive from voters is that they go to a polling location and the worker did not inform the voter of their options or where to go to vote a limited ballot.





## Limited Ballot Reminders

- Do NOT send voters back to their old county to vote!
  - There is no such thing as “fail-safe” voting for these voters. The only way they can legally vote is to vote a limited ballot in their new county during early voting.
- Do NOT present a provisional ballot as the only option to these voters
  - They are eligible to vote a regular ballot.\*

\* **Voter might be offering to vote on election day, too late for limited ballot.** It is possible the voter is not showing as registered in the new county, but voter (for example) remembers registering at DPS. In this instance, the voter should be offered an opportunity to vote provisionally.





# Provisional Ballots – HAVA Requirements

- In 2002, the Help America Vote Act required that provisional ballots be offered to:
  1. Any voter that declares that they are a registered and eligible voter of the precinct in which they are appearing; and
  2. Any voter whose eligibility is called into question by an election official, e.g. shown to have voted early by mail.

52 U.S.C. § 21082



## Provisional Ballots – Texas Election Code

- Texas law echoes the federal requirements, but also adds that a voter may vote provisionally if they do not have the required photo identification.

Tex. Elec. Code § 63.011



# Provisional Ballots – When do you use it?

- Provisional ballots can be offered during early voting AND election day.
- Provisional ballots should be offered at ALL early voting polling places (main + branch locations) and ALL election day polling places.
  - **NOTE:** unlike limited ballots, a voter does not have to drive to the main early voting location to vote a provisional ballot.



# Why are provisional ballots important?

A provisional ballot **helps** the voter when...

- The voter went to DPS to obtain/update a license but the registration information was not transmitted to SOS.
- There is an error on the list of registered voters (e.g., city annexed land and did not provide an updated map).
- The voter's registration application is smudged or contains poor handwriting.
- A registration update was timely post-marked but was delivered to the VR after the OLRV was printed.
- A voter registered to vote through a VDR, but the VDR did not turn in the application. (Contact VDR for delivery.)



# Why are provisional ballots important?

- We often hear from voters that provisional ballots “do not matter” or that an election worker said that their provisional ballot “will not count.”
  - **This is not true!** Provisional ballots often end with a voter’s ballot being counted.
- By casting a provisional ballot -- even if it’s not accepted for counting - - the person will become a registered voter.



# Provisional Ballot Procedures

A provisional ballot **must** be offered to...

- 1) A voter who does not provide an acceptable form of identification.
- 2) A voter whose name on their identification is not substantially similar to the name on the OLRV.
- 3) A voter whose identity cannot be verified by the identification presented.
- 4) A voter who has received a disability exemption, but does not have a voter registration certificate indicating such exemption.
- 5) A voter whose name does not appear on the list of registered voters and does not have a registration certificate, but states they are a registered and eligible voter of the precinct.





# Provisional Ballot Procedures

A provisional ballot **must** be offered to... (cont.)

- 6) A voter who has applied for a ballot by mail, but has not yet properly cancelled the mail ballot application.
- 7) A voter who votes during the polling hours that are extended by a state or federal court.
- 8) A voter who is registered to vote but attempting to vote in a precinct other than the one in which the voter is registered.
- 9) A voter who is on the precinct list of registered voters, but whose registered residence address is outside the political subdivision for which the voter is seeking to vote.
- 10) Other \_\_\_\_\_ (with an explanation).



# Provisional Ballot Procedures

- If a voter fits into one of the above categories, the election worker shall inform the voter of their right to cast a provisional ballot.
  - If the voter does not appear on the list of registered voters, the election worker may assist the voter in determining if they are registered in another precinct.
    - Using an e-pollbook or calling Voter Registrar.
- If the voter believes they are registered, the election judge **must** ask if the voter registered, or updated their registration, at DPS.
- If voter went to DPS, the election judge **must** note this and the approximate date that the voter went to DPS on the green Affidavit of Provisional Voter envelope.



# Provisional Ballot Procedures

- If the voter is not appearing on the list of registered voters, the election worker should inform the voter that the ballot will be counted if it is determined they are a registered voter of the precinct.
- If voter is casting a provisional ballot due to lack of an acceptable or supporting ID, the election worker should inform the voter that the ballot will only be counted if the voter appears at the Voter Registrar's office and shows acceptable ID (List A or List B), or executes a temporary affidavit (if applicable) or permanent exemption (if applicable).



# Provisional Ballot – Polling Place Procedures

After notifications...

1. Voter should complete a green Affidavit of Provisional Voter envelope on the front side.
2. Election judge should complete their portion on the reverse side, and **sign it**.
3. Election judge should add voter's name to List of Provisional Voters/Early Voting List of Provisional Voters.
4. Election judge should add name of voter to combination form/poll list, and indicate they are a provisional voter.
5. Voter should sign the combination form/poll list.
6. The election judge should provide a Notice to Provisional Voter to the voter.

For more information on VR review and processing a provisional ballot, please review our [Provisional Ballots: From Start to Finish](#) presentation.



# Presidential Ballots



# Presidential Ballots – When are they used?

- Presidential Ballots are used when a voter has a Texas registration and has **moved to a new state** within 30 days of election day.
- Presidential Ballots are ***only*** an option during ***early voting*** through ***election day***
- Presidential Ballots are used ***only*** at the main EV location (Chapters 111 and 113)



# Presidential Ballots – Who can use one?

Section 113.002 – in order to be eligible to vote a Presidential ballot, it is required that the voter:

- (1) is domiciled in another state;
- (2) was registered to vote in Texas at the time the former resident ceased to be a resident;
- (3) would be eligible for registration to vote in Texas if a resident; AND
- (4) **on presidential election day will not have resided in the state of present domicile for more than 30 days and is not eligible to vote in the presidential election in their new state.**



# Presidential Ballots - Voting by Mail

- An application for a presidential ballot to be voted by mail must be submitted to the early voting clerk serving the **county of the applicant's most recent registration to vote**.
- Voters who request a presidential ballot by mail must complete the presidential application **and** an application for ballot by mail.
- Prepare Presidential Ballot (methods below).
- Give the Presidential Ballot (with appropriate races removed) to the voter for voting.
- Add the voter to the [Restricted Ballot Roster \(PDF\)](#).

Section 113.003

9/5/2024

Texas Secretary of State





# Presidential Ballot – Voting in Person

- **Step 1:** Verify voter's registration status in your county.
- **Step 2:** If voter is eligible for a Presidential Ballot, ask the voter to complete an Application For Presidential Ballot.
- **Step 3:** Give the Presidential Ballot (with appropriate races removed) to the voter for Voting.

Remember, the voter **MAY NOT VOTE** for any other offices, and those races must be marked off the ballot.



## Presidential Ballot – Voting in Person

- **Step 4:** Use ballot by mail materials, mark and seal the ballot, **except carrier certificate need not be executed.**
- EV Clerk Notes on Carrier “Presidential Ballot”.
- Process with other ballots by mail (goes to EVBB).
- **Step 5:** Add the voter to the [Restricted Ballot Roster \(PDF\)](#). **You will not add in-person voters to the combination form.**
- **Notify the voter registrar in your county to cancel the voter.**



## Presidential Ballot Reminders

- Common Misconception: Presidential Ballot means anyone can travel anywhere on election day without needing to be registered at all.  
**This is incorrect.**
- For more information on Presidential Ballots, please review [Election Advisory 2024-24](#) on Presidential Ballots.

### COMPARE:

- “Little move” – within county, return to **old precinct**
- “Medium move” – county to county, limited ballot in **new county**
- “Big move” – state to state (but too late for new state), return to **old state** of Texas for one last vote



# Test Your Knowledge



## Scenario #1a

- Des is a registered voter of Travis County. Des recently moved to McLennan County, but forgot to update her voter registration. Des shows up to vote **during early voting** in McLennan County. Des should be offered which of the following?
  - a) A Limited Ballot
  - b) A Provisional Ballot
  - c) A Presidential Ballot
  - d) None of the above



## Answer to Scenario #1a

- If Des appears at a polling place **during early voting**, she should be directed to the main early voting polling place where she should be offered a **Limited Ballot**.
  - Limited ballots are used when a voter has a Texas registration in a county ***other than*** their new county of residence.
    - Here, Des was registered to vote in Travis county.
  - Limited ballots are only an option during early voting and only at the main early voting polling place.
  - The limited ballot will allow Des to vote on races that her old county and her new county have in common.



## Scenario #1b

- Des is a registered voter of Travis County. Des recently moved to McLennan County, but forgot to update her voter registration. Des shows up to vote **on election day** in McLennan County. Des should be offered which of the following?
  - a) A Limited Ballot
  - b) A Provisional Ballot
  - c) A Presidential Ballot
  - d) None of the above



## Answer to Scenario #1b

- If Des appears at a polling place **on election day**, her only option to vote is to be offered a **Provisional Ballot**.
  - Limited ballots are only an option during early voting and only at the main early voting polling place.
    - Here, Des is presenting to vote on election day. Limited ballots are not available on election day.
  - The provisional ballot allows the county time to check the voter's voter registration status. The county should check with DPS to see if the voter updated their voter registration when they updated their drivers license.
  - The provisional ballot affidavit envelope will register Des in McLennan County for future elections.





## Scenario #2

- Meb recently updated his drivers license at DPS and he checked the box to update his voter registration at the same time. Meb appears at a polling place, but his name does not appear on the list of registered voters. Meb should be offered which of the following?
  - a) A Limited Ballot
  - b) A Provisional Ballot
  - c) A Presidential Ballot
  - d) None of the above



## Answer to Scenario #2

- Meb should be offered a **provisional ballot**.
  - A voter whose name does not appear on the list of registered voters, but states they are a registered and eligible voter of the precinct is eligible to vote a provisional ballot.
  - If the voter went to DPS, the election judge **must** note this and the approximate date that the voter went to DPS on the green Affidavit of Provisional Voter envelope.

## Scenario #3

- Kara was a registered voter in Dallas County. Kara recently moved to Colorado. The day Kara arrived in Colorado the November Presidential election was only 20 days away. Kara shows up to vote during early voting in Dallas County. Kara should be offered which of the following?
  - a) A Limited Ballot
  - b) A Provisional Ballot
  - c) A Presidential Ballot
  - d) None of the above



## Answer to Scenario #3

- If Kara appears at a polling place, she should be directed to the main early voting polling place where she should be offered a **Presidential Ballot**.
  - Presidential ballots are used when a voter has a Texas registration and has moved to a new state within 30 days of election day.
  - Presidential ballots are only available at the main early voting polling place, however they are an option during early voting *through* election day.



	When are they used?	When are they available?	Where are they available?	What can the voter vote on?	Impact on Voter Registration
Limited Ballots	When a voter has a Texas registration in a county other than their <b>new county</b> of residence	Early voting <b>ONLY</b>	Only at the main early voting polling place	Races their old county and new county have in common	Updates voter registration to new county
Provisional Ballots	When there is some issue with the voter that requires further investigation (VR status or ID issue)	Early voting <b>and</b> election day	All early voting and election day locations	The ballot style the voter is presenting to be eligible for	Updates voter registration
Presidential Ballots	When a voter has a Texas registration and has moved to a <b>new state</b> within 30 days of election day.	Early voting <b>through</b> election day	Only at the main early voting polling place	President only	Cancels any existing voter registration





# Emergency Early Voting Ballot Due to Sickness or Disability

- Available to voters who because of a sickness or physical disability, which originated on or after the ABBM deadline, are unable to attend the polls
- Requires a Physician's Certificate
- Voter will use a representative to deliver the application, transport balloting materials, and deliver their marked ballot

[Chap. 102]

5-32  
Prescribed by Secretary of State  
Section 102.002, 102.003 Texas Election Code  
9/2023

**APPLICATION FOR EMERGENCY EARLY VOTING BALLOT DUE TO SICKNESS OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY**  
\*All information is required unless otherwise indicated

Name and Residence Address where registered to vote: \_\_\_\_\_

You MUST provide one of the following numbers and it must be associated with your voter registration record. Providing both numbers is helpful in case one of the numbers is not associated with your voter registration record.

Texas Driver's License Number or Texas Personal Identification Card Number or Texas Election Identification Certificate Number issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. _____	If you do not have a Texas Driver's License, Texas personal Identification Card or an Election Identification Certificate, give the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number XXX-XX-____	<input type="checkbox"/> I have not been issued a Texas Driver's License Number or a Texas Personal Identification Card or an Election Identification Certificate Number or a Social Security Number
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Date of Election	Type of Election	Authority Conducting the Election
Voter Registration VUID # (if known)	County Election Precinct # (if known)	Party Preference (Primary Election Only)

Because of a sickness or physical condition, which originated on or after the day before the last day to submit an Application for a Ballot by Mail for the above election date, I am unable to attend the polls.  
"I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT GIVING FALSE INFORMATION IN THIS APPLICATION IS A CRIME."  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Voter

**IF APPLICANT CANNOT SIGN OR MAKE A MARK, A WITNESS MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION.**  
**For Witness:** Applicant, if unable to sign, shall make a mark in the presence of a witness. If the applicant is unable to make his or her mark, the witness shall check here. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name of Witness \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence Address of Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

**Note to Witness:** In any single election, it is a Class B misdemeanor for any person other than the Early Voting Clerk or a Deputy Early Voting Clerk to sign as a witness to the application for a Ballot by Mail for more than one applicant. However, a person may witness more than one application if the second and subsequent applicants are related to the witness as a parent, spouse, child, grandparent or sibling.

**PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATE**  
This is to certify that I know that \_\_\_\_\_ has a sickness or physical condition that will prevent him or her from appearing at the polling place for an election to be held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or of injuring his or her health and that the sickness or physical condition originated on or after \_\_\_\_\_.

Witness my hand at \_\_\_\_\_, Texas, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

Signature of Physician, Chiropractor or Practitioner \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name of Physician, Chiropractor or Practitioner \_\_\_\_\_  
\*The person signing this certificate must be a duly licensed physician, chiropractor or accredited Christian Science practitioner.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	
Name of Representative:	_____
Residence Address of Representative:	_____
Signature of Representative:	_____
Date of Birth of Representative:	_____



# Emergency Early Voting Ballot Due to Death in the Family

- Available to voters who will be absent from the county on election day because of a death in the family (within the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree of blood or marriage)
- The death must have occurred on or after the day before the last day of the early voting period

[Chap. 103]

5-28  
Prescribed by Secretary of State  
Section 103.002, Texas Election Code  
9/2023

**APPLICATION FOR EMERGENCY EARLY VOTING BALLOT DUE TO DEATH IN THE FAMILY**  
\*All information is required unless otherwise indicated

**Name and Residence Address where registered to vote:**

**You MUST provide one of the following numbers and it must be associated with your voter registration record. Providing both numbers is helpful in case one of the numbers is not associated with your voter registration record.**

Texas Driver's License Number or Texas Personal Identification Card Number or Texas Election Identification Certificate Number issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety.	If you do not have a Texas Driver's License, Texas personal Identification Card or an Election Identification Certificate, give the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number  XXX-XX-____	<input type="checkbox"/> I have not been issued a Texas Driver's License Number or a Texas Personal Identification Number or an Election Identification Certificate Number or a Social Security Number
_____	_____	_____

Date of Election	Type of Election	Authority Conducting the Election
Voter Registration VUID # (if known)	County Election Precinct # (if known)	Party Preference (Primary Election Only)

"I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT GIVING FALSE INFORMATION IN THIS APPLICATION IS A CRIME."

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

**IF APPLICANT CANNOT SIGN OR MAKE A MARK, A WITNESS MUST COMPLETE THIS SECTION.**

**For Witness:** Applicant, if unable to sign, shall make a MARK in the presence of a witness. If the applicant is unable to make his or her mark, the witness shall check here. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Witness	Printed Name of Witness
Residence Address of Witness	Relationship to Applicant

**Note to Witness:** In any single election, it is a Class B misdemeanor for any person other than the Early Voting Clerk or a Deputy Early Voting Clerk to sign as a witness to the application for a Ballot by Mail for more than one applicant. However, a person may witness more than one application if the second and subsequent applicants are related to the witness as a parent, spouse, child, grandparent or sibling.

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby swear or affirm that due to the death of my \_\_\_\_\_,  
(name of voter) (relationship to decedent)  
 which occurred on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_, I will be absent from the county on Election Day.  
(date of death)

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

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

Signature of Officer Administering Oath \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name of Officer Administering Oath \_\_\_\_\_

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
Name of Representative:
Residence Address of Representative:
Signature of Representative:
Date of Birth of Representative:







# Different types of VR Confidentiality

- Alternate Address Program Through DPS
  - Allows qualifying individuals to use an alternate address on their driver's license or ID card in lieu of their actual residential address.
- Confidentiality for Peace Officers and Other Government Personnel (Section 552.1175, Government Code)
  - Allows certain government employees or peace officers to request that their address be kept confidential from an open records request or any postings.
- Confidentiality Affidavit (Section 13.004(c)(4), Election Code)
  - Allows judges and other qualified individuals to have their address made confidential.
- Address Confidentiality (Section 15.0215, Election Code)
- Confidentiality for Victims of Certain Crimes (Section 13.004(c)(5)-(7), Election Code)
  - Allows certain individuals to request that their address be kept confidential from an open records request or any postings.



# Attorney General Address Confidentiality Program

- This program provides a substitute post office box address and mail forwarding service for certain victims of family violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, stalking or child abduction. All mail goes through this substitute post office box to ensure confidentiality for participants in the program.
  - Voters in this program will not appear on the OLRV, therefore they **cannot** vote in person.
  - The early voting clerk shall list the applicant's name on the Confidential Roster of Protected Applicants, and voters will have balloting materials sent to their assigned P.O. Box



# Confidentiality Programs

- For more information on confidentiality programs, who is eligible, what information is made confidential, and what forms need to be filled out please review the following resources:
  - Our voter registration resource page on [Confidentiality Programs](#)
  - [Election Advisory 2023-23](#) – Registering a Voter who is Part of a Confidentiality Program
  - [Election Advisory 2023-13](#) – Changes to the Corrective Action Process for Defects on Application for a Ballot by Mail and Carrier Envelope
    - We included a section on the corrective action process for confidential voters



# Any Questions?

Call: 1-800-252-8683

Email: [elections@sos.texas.gov](mailto:elections@sos.texas.gov)

