

Comparison of Voter Participation in Long Term Care Facilities in the 2004 and 2008 Presidential Elections

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Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
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Summary

The right of a citizen to cast a ballot does not end when they enter a long term care facility. Long term care residents are still members of the community and are still citizens of the United States of America. This report is a summary of observations of voting problems encountered in the November 2008 general election.

An education outreach program provided voting information to facility staff several months prior to the election. Presentations to residents were given to help raise awareness of the election and their right to vote. The outreach program did not make a significant difference in the voter turnout in long term care facilities. The process, however, remained the same. It is problems with the process that will be addressed in this document.

Scope

This comparison was limited to Skilled Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living facilities that were in Harris County, Texas in 2004 and 2008 and reported a census to the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS). The total number of target facilities used for basis of comparison was 52. These were facilities that appear on both November 2004 and November 2008 DADS census reports.

The observations and interpretations are solely those of the author.

Table of Data

Data of 52 target facilities in Harris County, Texas.

Facility number	Census 2004 ⁽¹⁾	Ballots 2004 ⁽²⁾	Census 2008 ⁽¹⁾	Ballots 2008 ⁽²⁾	Registered voters 2008 ⁽³⁾	2008 Poll Votes ⁽²⁾	2008 Early Votes ⁽²⁾	2008 Mail Votes ⁽²⁾
000169	92	8	76	4	27			4
000191	73	7	85	2	12			2
004000	280	79	285	79	163	2		77
004003	98	4	74	8	26			8
004062	49	11	51	8	23	4		4
004077	57	209	56	150	217	11	71	68
004145	45	7	44	3	6			3
004292	47	0	43	1	23		1	
004301	107	0	107	0	33			
004355	87	1	74	2	19	2		
004368	78	0	98	6	23			6
004371	120	15	102	2	11	1		1
004392	123	2	111	5	9			5
004397	117	0	165	3	27	1		2
004446	102	0	99	0	0			
004456	107	23	102	4	30		1	3
004478	79	4	61	1	55		1	
004610	187	0	30	0	39			
004611	172	0	172	6	15			6
004657	91	2	73	7	16			7
004774	152	2	138	7	24			7
004811	115	1	158	6	20		1	5
004823	122	7	124	13	32	1		12
004826	137	1	138	9	17	2	1	6
004850	81	2	79	0	20			
004890	115	13	118	20	37			20
004899	79	0	69	8	11	4	4	
004940	100	0	81	0	15			
004966	92	4	93	4	13		1	3

004967	95	9	104	9	15			9
005005	97	1	94	4	22	4		
005028	71	9	42	5	28			5
005048	98	1	104	0	8			
005056	155	3	152	19	45	3		16
005057	99	2	101	0	31			
005120	114	5	117	6	21	6		
005135	123	8	68	4	22			4
005137	133	1	133	1	4			1
005149	167	6	167	3	12	1	1	1
005174	127	5	124	14	29		1	13
005177	156	7	164	23	80	2		21
005196	117	2	123	8	21		1	7
005208	123	12	113	16	26	11		5
005244	109	0	92	0	4			
005316	109	4	119	3	10			3
005348	133	9	121	10	28	1		9
005367	136	8	143	2	25			2
005383	146	0	135	6	8			6
005400	118		110		50			
100048	114	1	112	4	9			4
101489	75	8	99	4	20	1		3
101633	93	3	111	5	15		1	4
	5812	506	5554	504	1496	57	85	362

	2004	2008
Total ballots cast in Harris County Texas	1,087,461	1,180,401
Total number of facilities reporting a census to DADS	59	65

Voter registration forms from target facilities submitted by Ombudsmen – 150.

Voter registrations successfully processed – 110

Total ballots by mail received – 68,323

Total ballots by mail counted – 64,302

Total ballots by mail rejected – 4,021

Voter count was determined by a match of the voter address and the facility address. Voter count includes both mail in ballots and ballots cast at the poll. Voter count does not include voters that were registered to an address other than the facility.

Summary percentages

Percent increase in total ballots cast in Harris County	9%
Change in total census of target facilities	-4%
Percent of facility census casting a vote in 2004	9%
Percent of facility census casting a vote in 2008	9%
Percent of registered voters casting a ballot in 2004 ⁽⁴⁾	58%
Percent of registered voters casting a ballot in 2008 ⁽⁴⁾	60.3%

(1) Census numbers provided by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services as public information.

(2) Election results provided by Harris County Clerk's Office as public information.

(3) Registration information provided by Harris County Tax Assessor and Collector's office via the online voter registration data base.

(4) Houston Chronicle, November 5, 2008 "Dems baffled by low voter turnout in Harris County" by Alan Bernstein

Observations

Registration

Registration is the first step in casting a ballot and many Long Term Care (LTC) residents don't make it past this first step. In 2008, Volunteer Ombudsmen assisted in registering LTC residents. Of the 163 registrations submitted, 50 were rejected.

Reasons for rejections included:

- Check box indicating citizenship had not been checked.
- Person did not have a driver's license and did not check the box indicating they did not have a driver's license. The last 4 digits of the social security number was written in the appropriate location.
- Signature was not legible
- Printed name was not legible
- The address provided for residency cannot be a commercial address. Some of the facility addresses were tagged as commercial addresses and registrations were denied.
- Neither the facility, nor the appointed guardian would provide last four digits of the social security number to complete the form.
- If resident uses the last four digits of the social security number as identification, the name on the form must match exactly to the official social security record. If there are any discrepancies, the form will be rejected.

If the registration was rejected, a letter is sent to the resident requesting verification of a photo id. Residents do not usually have a photo id with them during their stay. This is because the facility recommends that residents not keep any valuables in their room. The facility is not required to keep copies of any photo ids.

One facility administrator explained that on admission, each resident is asked if they wish to vote and she knew for a fact that no resident in the facility wanted to vote. During an Ombudsman round at the facility, two residents expressed a desire to vote. That facility showed no residents that voted in the 2004 or 2008 election. The facility checked only once during a resident's stay and did not allow for any changes.

During voter registration drives, the first reaction of residents, staff and family members, was usually one of suspicion. They felt that these drives were being pushed by the "other" party to try and change the election. It took several minutes of explanation that the registration drive was not sponsored by a political party or candidate to gain the trust necessary to continue.

At first glance, assisting a person to complete a voter registration form sounds very simple. A Social Worker with a Masters degree assisted 10 residents with registration forms and six were rejected. A post graduate degree does not increase the success rate. As demonstrated by the League of Women Voters, training someone specifically to assist with voter registration does increase the success rate.

Casting a Ballot

At a polling location

All residents were encouraged to vote during the early voting period. Special polling places were open on weekends and extended hours during the week. These locations were staffed with workers that are more knowledgeable in assisting impaired voters. Most residents were comfortable with early voting, but there were a few that preferred voting on the day of the election.

Harris County has several different types of precincts. In smaller towns this is not much of an issue, but in Houston the precincts do not align with one another. There is a County Commissioner precinct, a Judicial precinct and a voting precinct. Early voting is the only time that voters from any precinct can vote at the same location. On election day, voters can only cast their ballots at their registered polling location.

Transportation is a problem for LTC residents. Several options that are available in Harris County were investigated. There was no consistent, reliable means of transportation. There was no consistent policy regarding transportation.

Transportation options available:

- Family member
- Facility Van
- MetroLift
- HandiCab
- County Buses
- Volunteers

Some of the residents were able to get transportation to early voting by a family member. This was considered the best solution, but the least one used. Family members do not always have a vehicle that can transport an impaired person comfortably and safely. Family members may not be trained regarding transfers of a person in and out of a vehicle.

Many people assume that MetroLift will provide transportation and it is free when traveling to a polling location. MetroLift is only available to people who are certified MetroLift users. Certification requires a doctor's letter explaining the disability, completion of the eligibility form, and appearance at the MetroLift office in downtown Houston for an in-person interview. The entire process can take several weeks.

In 2008, "Vote Now Houston" had a program in association with Yellow Cab, to transport people to the polls. Information regarding this program was broadcast during a television news report two days prior to the end of early voting. There were some restrictions regarding eligibility and only the first \$50 was covered. If there were any additional charges, the rider would have to pay out of pocket. Phone calls made to the phone number given were not returned. "Vote Houston Now" received Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds. It would have been helpful to know about this program earlier in the election process.

Harris County has several buses that are used for outings by facilities and senior groups. These buses could not be used to transport residents to the polls because the county commissioner's name was on the side of the bus, and the county thought it might be construed as trying to sway votes. Buses can only be booked one month in advance and facilities must call at a certain time in the morning. All facilities in the precinct compete for the same buses and it is a first come first serve. No facility was able to book a bus to go to the polls.

One facility contacted their local elected state representative and staff members came out with their personal cars and transported residents to the polls.

Facilities would often say that "state regulations" prevented the residents from being transported to the polls. One facility said that each resident must be accompanied by a staff or family member during the trip to the poll and it was too much of a burden on the staff to take residents to the poll. Another facility said that the facility van could only be used for Medicare/Medicaid reimbursable trips and voting was not a reimbursable expense. One facility stated that it was not their policy to let residents leave the facility alone.

Ballot by Mail

Casting a ballot by mail requires that a person first submit an application for a ballot. Applications for ballot by mail must be requested from the county elections office. Only one application can be sent out at a time. A facility cannot request a package of applications for ballot by mail. However, if a facility has a computer, and access to the internet, an application may be downloaded and copied.

There were some questions regarding the payment of postage for the applications for ballot by mail. Should the postage come from the resident's personal funds, or should the facility pay the postage.

When a person submits an application for ballot by mail, they must first have a valid voter registration number. Voter registration forms and applications for ballot by mail cannot be submitted at the same time. If the applicant does not have a valid voter registration number at the time it is processed, the application will be rejected.

After the application is submitted and approved, the ballot is mailed to the address specified in the application. There are also other steps that are taken to verify that the application and the resulting ballot match to the same individual.

The postal service delivers the ballots to the facility address. In a Skilled Nursing Facility, there are no private mailboxes for residents. The mail for the facility and the residents is delivered the same as a standard commercial delivery. The bundle of mail is brought inside the building and placed where ever the postal delivery person has been instructed. An employee of the facility then sorts through the mail and pulls items addressed to the residents. Ballots are usually held by the social worker or activity director of the facility until a time when the residents have time and materials to complete the ballot.

Again there were comments regarding who pays the postage on the return ballot. The Harris County elections department has stated that as long as some postage is on the ballot, it will be delivered to the county. If it is delivered, postage due, the county will pay the remaining postage.

Maintaining privacy during the completion of a ballot for a non-ambulatory resident can be a problem. Residents that are covered by Medicaid or do not have the funds for a private room, must share a room. In a nursing home, the rooms are usually 10 ft by 16 ft. The room space is normally divided by a thin curtain that can be drawn for visual privacy. Each resident's space usually includes the bed, a bedside cabinet, a chair and an over the bed table. When assisting a resident that is bedridden, there is little room to work and the roommate can hear the entire process.

The application for mail in ballot and the ballot itself are much more complex than the voter registration form. The ballot packet contains 6 items in addition to the actual ballot. The items are various sizes and can easily fall on the floor and hard to retrieve for someone in a wheelchair. At this time, there are no statistics regarding the number of applications for mail in ballot that were rejected. The total number of mail in ballots in 2008 was 68,323 and of those, 4,021 were rejected. Statistics were not available to determine how many rejected applications or ballots were submitted from the target facilities.

Conclusions

1. There is no reference to voter registration or casting a ballot in the Licensure and Certification Handbook from Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services. There are no consistent voting policies from facility to facility, or even from election to election.
2. Government agencies require that you to come to them. There is no ability for the government agency to come to you unless you are in violation. From casting a ballot, to getting a state identification card and even to request special transportation, the government agencies require that you come to them. When given a choice, LTC residents that are ambulatory, would prefer to cast their votes at an early voting location. Election officials would like for them to go to an early voting location. Transportation is the major obstacle. Residents and facility staff are not aware of any easy, affordable means of transportation.
3. LTC residents that vote by mail, may not have their votes counted because of errors in the forms required. To submit a voter registration change of address, or request a replacement card, a complete new application is required. If there are any errors, the application is rejected, the request is not processed and the entire cycle starts again. No one at a facility is trained to assist with voter registrations.
4. The premise of the entire process is that everyone has a telephone and that most people have easy access to a computer. Many residents in long term care do not have their own phone. They must use a phone in a common a open area. Some facilities only have one computer, and it is located in the administrator's office.
5. The degree of participation in elections can be a reflection of the administration and direct care staff's knowledge and attitude regarding an election. Many direct care staff are not citizens and others have no interest in elections or the election process. Some administration staff just do not want to be bothered. Some staff member are afraid of being charged with voter fraud.

Recommendations

1. Election officials prefer people go to the polls. It is easier for them to verify the identity and assist someone in a secure, controlled environment. Many LTC residents would prefer to go to the polls. To achieve this requires 1) a consistent policy regarding travel to the polls, and 2) a consistent, safe and reliable method of transportation.

2. Residents usually do not have their social security card, driver's license or state identification card with them. Residents are encouraged to not keep any valuable items in their rooms. The facility is not required to keep these documents for them. Residents sometimes know their social security number, but it is not common for a resident to know exactly how their name appears on their card. The facility should be required to keep copies of the residents driver's license or state id, social security card and voter registration card in a secure area so that the resident may request the information without fear of identify theft. If the resident does not have all of these documents, then the facility should assist the resident in obtaining them.
3. The Department of Public Safety should investigate ways to transition people who become impaired from a driver's license to a state identification card without requiring a trip to a DPS office. The DPS should also develop a method for issuing state identification cards in a mobile setting. These mobile offices could then visit state licensed facilities to issue the identification cards.
4. The county elections department should develop a training program specifically for assisting impaired voters with voting at the polls and with ballots by mail.
5. At least one person at each state licensed facility should be trained to assist residents with registering to vote. At least one person at each state licensed facility should be trained to assist with completing a ballot by mail. Verification of this training should be included as part of the state survey.
6. During the care plan meeting, the issue of voting should be addressed so that the family, facility and physician can work together so the resident can take advantage of transportation opportunities and voter assistance programs.
7. The Texas Secretary of State should send notices regarding upcoming elections to state licensed facilities to remind them of a resident's right to vote and to prepare for upcoming elections.
8. Resident participation in general elections should be included in the state survey
9. Policies regarding transportation, training and other activities relating to resident voting should be written in to the State Licensure Guide.
10. All organizations that receive funding from the Help America Vote Act and/or provide voting related services in Harris County should be listed in

- a common location with a short description of the services they provide and a working phone number.
11. Maintaining a voter's registration status in a long term care facility should be an ongoing effort. Transportation to an early voting location should be available to residents of long term care facilities at no charge and with minimal pre-qualification. The mail in ballot forms and process should be reviewed with improvements to enable those with physical or mental impairments to cast their ballot.
 12. Voter registration forms, Application for Ballot by Mail, and the actual ballot packet should be reviewed with the goal of making them easier to handle, easier to read and remove unnecessary information.
 13. Provide postage paid envelopes for ballots by mail.
 14. Look for ways that technology can be used to assist and support mobile voting or traveling early voting clerks.

Appendices:

- A. Voter registration form
- B. Voter registration rejection letter
- C. Online Application for Ballot by Mail
- D. Contents of Ballot by Mail packet

A. Voter Registration Form

1-800-252-VOTE(8683), TDD 1-800-735-2989,
www.sos.state.tx.us. Prescribed by the Office of the Secretary of State
VR17.06E.p65

Qualifications

- You must register to vote in the county in which you reside.
- You must be a citizen of the United States.
- You must be at least 17 years and 10 months old to register, and you must be 18 years of age by Election Day.
- You must not be finally convicted of a felony, or if you are a felon, you must have completed all of your punishment, including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or you must have received a pardon.

1-800-252-8683 để nhận phiếu này bằng tiếng Việt.

Este formulario para inscribirse para votar también está disponible en Español. Para conseguir la versión en Español favor de llamar sin cargo 1-800-252-8683 a la oficina del Secretario de Estado.

Complete These Questions Before Proceeding

Check one ☐ New ☐ Change ☐ Replacement

Are you a United States Citizen? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Will you be 18 years of age on or before Election Day? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you checked 'no' in response to either of the above, do not complete this form.

Are you interested in serving as an election worker? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- Continue below to complete application.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name (If any)	Former Name

Residence Address: Street Address and Apartment Number, City, State, and ZIP Code. If none, describe where you live. (Do not include P.O. Box or Rural Rt.)

Mailing Address: Street Address and Apartment Number or P.O. Box, City, State and ZIP Code. If mail cannot be delivered to your residence address.

Date of Birth: month, day, year **Gender** (Optional)
☐ Male ☐ Female

TX Driver's License No. or Personal I.D. No.
(Issued by the Department of Public Safety)

☐ Check if you do not have a TX Driver's License, or Personal Identification Number

If no TX Driver's License or Personal Identification, give last 4 digits of your Social Security Number

☐ Check if you do not have a Social Security Number

Telephone Number, Including Area Code
(Optional)

I understand that giving false information to procure a voter registration is perjury, and a crime under state and federal law. Conviction of this crime may result in imprisonment up to 180 days, a fine up to \$2,000, or both.

I affirm that I

- am a resident of this county and U.S. Citizen;
- have not been finally convicted of a felony or if a felon I have completed all of my punishment including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or I have been pardoned; and
- have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

____/____/____
Date

X

Signature of Applicant or Agent and Relationship to Applicant or Printed Name of Applicant if Signed by Witness and Date.

B . Rejection Letter



Paul Bettencourt

Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar

NOTICE OF INCOMPLETE INFORMATION ON VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Dear Applicant,

Notice is hereby given that your application for voter registration has been reviewed and fails to include all information required:

You failed to include your current Texas driver's license number or personal identification number, or if you do not have a Texas license or ID number, the last 4 digits of your Social Security number; or the information you provided could not be verified. As of January 1, 2006 identification information is required on all Voter Registration Applications and must be verified by the Office of the Secretary of State with the Department of Public Safety records.

We are enclosing another application. You must fill out all information on the new application unless the items are indicated as optional. To help expedite the verification process, we respectfully request that you include a copy of your Texas driver's license and/or ID with your revised application.

If your revised application is received within 10 days of this notice, your registration will become effective 30 days from the date we received your original (incomplete) application. If the revised application is received after 10 days of this notice, your registration will become effective 30 days after the postmark on the revised application.

If you have any questions, please contact the Harris County Voter Registration Department at (713) 368-2200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Hammerlein".

George Hammerlein
Director of Voter Registration

HARRISTA

Para ayuda llame al (713)-368-2201 ♦ Cần giúp đỡ bằng tiếng Việt hãy gọi số (713)-368-2201
1001 Preston ♦ Suite 200 ♦ Houston, Texas 77002 ♦ (713) 368-2200 ♦ Fax (713) 368-2309
www.hcvoter.net

C. Online Application for Ballot by Mail

Complete the
application and mail to:

Harris County Clerk
P.O. Box 1525
Houston, TX
77251-1525

APPLICATION FOR BALLOT BY MAIL FROM HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS – PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE
READ INSTRUCTIONS VERY CAREFULLY AND PROVIDE ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION.
(SOLICITUD DE UNA PAPELETA ELECTORAL DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS, TEXAS – USANDO LETRAS DE MOLDE O A MAQUINA. LEA TODAS LAS INSTRUCCIONES AL PIE DE LA LETRA Y PROCURE PROPORCIONAR TODA LA INFORMACION NECESARIA.)

NAME (As registered to vote) (NOMBRE (Como registrado para votar))		YEAR OF BIRTH (OPTIONAL) (AÑO DE NACIMIENTO) (OPCIONAL)
ADDRESS AS REGISTERED TO VOTE (Dirección de inscripción como votante)		TYPE AND DATE OF ELECTION (TIPO Y FECHA DE ELECCIÓN)
NUMBER (Número)	STREET (Calle)	
Apt. (Apartamento)		
CITY (Ciudad)	STATE (Estado)	ZIP (Zona Postal)
MAIL MY BALLOT TO: (If different from above) (The mailing address must be the voter registration mailing address of record or address indicated under REASON FOR VOTING.) (SÍRVASE ENVIAR MI BOLETA A LA SIGUIENTE DIRECCIÓN (si es distinta a la anterior) (Solo si es a un domicilio distinto al indicado arriba, la dirección postal tiene que ser la misma dirección indicada cuando se inscribió como votante o la dirección indicada bajo RAZÓN DE SOLICITAR UNA PAPELETA ELECTORAL.))		<input type="checkbox"/> Check here for ballots for both the main election and runoff if applicable. (Haga un "x" aquí para boletas para la elección principal y elección decisiva.)
		PARTY PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION ONLY (PARTIDO POLÍTICO) (Solo en cuanto a los comicios primarios)
VOTING PRECINCT NUMBER* (NÚMERO DE PRECINCTO DE VOTACIÓN)	VOTER REGISTRATION NUMBER* (NÚMERO DE REGISTRO DE VOTANTE)	TELEPHONE NUMBER* (NÚMERO DE TELÉFONO*)
*Optional (Opcional)		
LANGUAGE PREFERENCE (select type of ballot you wish to receive): <input type="checkbox"/> English/Spanish (Inglés/Español) <input type="checkbox"/> English/Vietnamese (Inglés/Vietnamita) (Preferencia de idioma (seleccione el tipo de boleto que desea recibir))		
YOU MUST CHECK THE REASONS YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A BALLOT BY MAIL. (TIENE QUE INDICAR POR QUÉ ESTA SOLICITANDO UNA PAPELETA ELECTORAL POR ADELANTADA.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. 65 years of age or older. (65 años de edad o más.) <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Disability (Incapacidad) You must indicate the type of address where you are having your ballot mailed, if you are having your ballot mailed to an address other than your address of record. Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> a hospital, <input type="checkbox"/> a nursing home or long-term care facility, <input type="checkbox"/> a retirement center or <input type="checkbox"/> a relative. Indicate the relationship of the relative. SEE INSTRUCTION #3 FOR CLARIFICATION. (Si cualquiera de estas razones aplican a su caso indique cuál de las siguientes excepciones también es cierta. PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN LEA INSTRUCCIONES ESPECIALES. He solicitado que mi papeleta electoral sea enviada a un domicilio distinto al que di cuando me inscribí como votante. He solicitado que se envíe a <input type="checkbox"/> un hospital, <input type="checkbox"/> un centro de enfermería o de cuidados médicos a largo plazo, <input type="checkbox"/> un hogar de jubilados o <input type="checkbox"/> el domicilio de un familiar. Indique el parentesco que tiene con este pariente.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Confinement in jail. (Está encarcelado.) Check one. (Marque una.) My ballot is being mailed to the address of the jail or <input type="checkbox"/> a relative. Indicate relationship of relative. SEE INSTRUCTION #3 FOR CLARIFICATION. (Solidó que mi papeleta sea enviada a la siguiente dirección: <input type="checkbox"/> la cárcel o <input type="checkbox"/> un familiar. Indique el parentesco que tiene con este familiar.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Expected absence from county on election day and during clerk's regular office hours for the remainder of the early voting period. Application must be submitted from outside county if submitted after early voting in person has begun. YOUR BALLOT MUST BE MAILED TO AN ADDRESS OUTSIDE THE COUNTY. (Para aquellos que anticipan estar fuera del condado el día de las elecciones y durante las horas de trabajo de la Oficina de la Secretaría por el resto del periodo. Si el periodo de votación por adelantado ya ha comenzado, esta solicitud tiene que haberse enviado desde fuera del condado. EL DOMICILIO AL CUAL SOLICITA QUE SE LE ENVÍE SU PAPELETA ELECTORAL NO PUEDE ESTAR UBICADO DENTRO DE ESTE CONDADO.) If 4 is checked, give date you can receive mail at the address given. (Si cuanto al no. 4, indique a partir de qué fecha podrá recibir correo en esa dirección.)		
I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THIS APPLICATION IS TRUE, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT GIVING FALSE INFORMATION IN THIS APPLICATION IS A CRIME. ("CERTIFICO QUE LA INFORMACIÓN INDICADA EN ESTA SOLICITUD ES VERDADERA Y ENTIENDO QUE ES UN DELITO DAR INFORMACIÓN FALSA EN ESTA SOLICITUD.")		
SIGN HERE (FIRME AQUÍ)		SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT (FIRMA DEL SOLICITANTE)
FOR WITNESS and/or ASSISTANT (PARA TESTIGO y/o ASISTENTE)		
Applicant, if unable to sign, shall make mark in presence of witness. If applicant is unable to make mark, the witness shall check here <input type="checkbox"/> . (PARA EL TESTIGO: Si el solicitante no puede firmar, debe hacer una marca en presencia del testigo. Si el solicitante no puede hacer una marca, el testigo debe señalar aquí <input type="checkbox"/> .) Failure to complete this information if signature was witnessed or applicant was assisted in completing the application is a Class A misdemeanor. (Es un delito menor Class A omitir esta información si la firma fue atestiguada, o si el solicitante recibió ayuda para llenar esta solicitud.)		
Signature of Witness/Assistant (Firma del Testigo/Asistente)	Print Full Name of Witness/Assistant (Escriba el nombre completo del Testigo/Asistente)	
Residence Address of Witness/Assistant or Title of Witness/Assistant if an Election Official (Dirección de residencia del Testigo/Asistente o puesto del Testigo/Asistente si es un Oficial de la Elección)		
X RELATIONSHIP OF WITNESS/ASSISTANT TO APPLICANT: CHECK ONE: <input type="checkbox"/> parent, <input type="checkbox"/> grandparent, <input type="checkbox"/> spouse, <input type="checkbox"/> child, <input type="checkbox"/> sibling, <input type="checkbox"/> other, <input type="checkbox"/> reside at same address as applicant (X RELACIÓN DEL TESTIGO/ASISTENTE CON EL SOLICITANTE: SEÑALE UNA: <input type="checkbox"/> Padre, <input type="checkbox"/> Abuelo, <input type="checkbox"/> Cónyuge, <input type="checkbox"/> Hijo, <input type="checkbox"/> Hermano, <input type="checkbox"/> Otro, <input type="checkbox"/> reside en la misma dirección que el solicitante)		

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION FOR BALLOT BY MAIL

- 1. Name** – Print name as you are registered to vote.
- 2. Residence Address** – Give full address as shown on your voter registration certificate. If you have moved but have failed to change your voter registration address with the voter registrar, you are entitled to vote as long as your registration has not been canceled and you still live in the political subdivision conducting the election. Indicate your new residence address on the application for ballot by mail. If you are still qualified to vote, the early voting clerk will mail you a ballot together with a statement of residence. You are required to return the statement with your ballot. The residence address on the statement of residence must match the residence address on the application for ballot by mail. If these two addresses do not match, your ballot will not be counted.
- 3. Mailing Address** – Balloting materials must be mailed to the residence or mailing address indicated on your voter registration application. Exceptions include: Voting by reason of 65 years of age or older or disability, the mailing address may be a facility as indicated on the application or person related to you by 2nd degree by affinity or 3rd degree by consanguinity if you are temporarily living at that address. Relatives include parent, child, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, great-grandchild, great-grandparent, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, spouse, spouse's parent, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother's spouse, sister's spouse, spouse's brother, spouse's sister, spouse's grandparent. Voting by reason of confinement in jail, the address to mail your ballot must be either the jail or a relative as stated above. You must check on your application which mailing address you are using on the application. If you do not indicate the type of mailing address your application will be rejected.
- 4. Type and Date of Election** – If you do not indicate type or date of election, you will be sent a ballot only for the next election.
- 5. You may return your application by mail, common or contract carrier or fax** (if fax is available in the clerk's office). If you use common or contract carrier, it must be a business for profit carrier and the primary business of which is transporting or delivering property for compensation. To be eligible to submit an application by fax, you must fax the application from outside the county. Improper delivery will cause the application to be rejected for a ballot.
- 6. SIGN YOUR APPLICATION** – If you cannot sign, you must have a person witness your mark. If a person helped you fill out this application, he or she must complete the box for WITNESS and/or ASSISTED section. In any single election, it is a Class B misdemeanor for any person to sign a ballot application as a witness or assistant for more than one applicant. A person may sign more than one application as a witness or assistant if the second and subsequent applications are related to the witness as parent, spouse, child, sibling, or grandparent.
- 7. Deadline** – Your application must be received by the early voting clerk not earlier than the 60th day and not later than the 7th day before election day. If the 7th day is a weekend or holiday, the deadline is the first preceding business day.

Solicitud de una papeleta electoral postal – Instrucciones

- 1. Nombre** – Usando letras de molde, escriba su nombre completo, tal y como aparece cuando se inscribió como votante.
- 2. Domicilio** – Indique la dirección completa tal como aparece en su certificado de registro de votante. En caso de que habiese cambiado sin informar al Registrador de Votantes de su cambio de dirección para efectos del registro, usted conserva el derecho de votar mientras no se haya cancelado su inscripción de votante y mientras usted siga residiendo en la subdivisión política donde se celebre la elección correspondiente. Indique su nuevo domicilio en la solicitud de boleta postal. Si usted sigue calificando para votar, la Secretaría de Votación Adelantada le enviará una boleta junto con una declaración de residencia. Se le requiere devolver dicha declaración junto con su boleta. El domicilio indicado en la declaración de residencia deberá coincidir con el de la solicitud de boleta postal. Si las dos direcciones no coinciden, no se contará su boleta.
- 3. Dirección donde se le debe enviar la papeleta electoral** – Siempre y cuando no califique bajo una de las excepciones anotadas a continuación, su papeleta electoral tiene que enviarse al domicilio permanente o postal indicado en la solicitud de inscripción como votante. Estas excepciones incluyen: Si el solicitante tiene un mínimo de 65 años de edad o si es minusválido, la dirección puede ser una de las instalaciones indicadas en la solicitud o el hogar de un familiar que tenga un parentesco de por lo menos 2º grado de afinidad o 3º grado de consanguinidad, si se encuentra radicado ahí en forma temporánea. Incluidos entre los parientes calificados están: sus padres, los hijos, los hermanos, los abuelos, los nietos, los bisnietos, los bisabuelos, los tíos, los sobrinos, los cónyuges, los suegros, los yernos o las nueras, los cuñados y los abuelos políticos. Si solicita votar por correo porque está encarcelado, la papeleta tiene que enviarse a la dirección de la cárcel en que se encuentra o a la de uno de los parientes indicados anteriormente. Procure señalar en el lugar indicado en la solicitud de quien es la dirección a la cual solicita que se le envíe la papeleta porque si no lo hace su solicitud será rechazada.
- 4. Tipo y fecha de la elección** – Si no señala el tipo o la fecha de la elección por la cual está solicitando la papeleta electoral, sólo se le enviará la de las próximas elecciones.
- 5. La entrega de esta solicitud sólo se acepta por medio del correo, portador o transportista comercial o fax** (siempre y cuando la oficina de la Secretaría ofrece los servicios de fax). Si decide enviarla por un portador comercial, éste deberá ser de una empresa de fines de lucro cuya razón principal es el transporte y la entrega de documentos y bienes por paga. Si desea enviar la solicitud por fax, dicha transmisión deberá provenir de un lugar ubicado fuera del condado. Toda solicitud que no cumpla con estos requisitos en cuanto a su entrega será rechazada.
- 6. FIRME LA SOLICITUD** – En caso de que no sepa firmar, deberá conseguir un testigo para de fe de su marca. Si alguien le ayudó a completar esta solicitud, anote su nombre en el renglón que aparece sobre el renglón donde Ud. Debe firmar. Firmar como testigo de la marca de un solicitante en más de una solicitud de una papeleta electoral postal para unas elecciones determinadas, es cometer un delito menor de Categoría B siempre y cuando el segundo solicitante y los solicitantes subsiguientes no sean, los padres, cónyuges, hijos, hermanos o abuelos del testigo.
- 7. Fecha límite** – Esta solicitud tiene que estar en manos de la Secretaría de Votación por Adelantada a más tardar 7 días antes de la fecha en que se celebrarán las elecciones y nunca antes de 60 días antes de la misma fecha. Si el séptimo día cae en un fin de semana o día feriado, la fecha límite será el día hábil anterior más próximo.

D. Contents of Ballot by Mail Packet

EL SOBRE DE LA BOLETA

INSTRUCCIONES PARA EL VOTANTE:

1. Marque su boleta, meta la boleta en el sobre marcado "SOBRE DE LA BOLETA", y cierre el sobre de la boleta.
2. Meta el sobre de la boleta en el sobre portador, ciérrelo, firmelo, y envíelo al secretario de votación adelantada por correo o por transporte común o bajo contrato. No está permitido devolver la boleta al secretario de votación adelantada de ninguna otra manera. (Vea las instrucciones en el sobre portador para información adicionales.)
3. El secretario de la votación adelantada deberá recibir el sobre portador con la boleta incluso antes de las 7 de la noche el día de la elección. No es suficiente solamente enviar el sobre para esta fecha. Si esta votación fuera de los Estados Unidos las reglas de contar boletas pueden aplicar a Usted.

INSTRUCCIONES PARA LAS PERSONAS DANDO AYUDA:

1. Un votante puede recibir ayuda solamente si es físicamente incapaz de escribir o ver o no puede leer la boleta.
2. Ayudar a un votante incluye la siguiente conducta por una persona, no el votante, que ocurre durante la presencia de la boleta de votar o sobre de entrega: a) leer la boleta al votante; b) dirigiendo al votante a leer la boleta; c) marcando la boleta del votante; ó d) dirigiendo al votante que marque la boleta.
3. Un votante puede escoger un ayudante con tal de que ese ayudante no sea la persona que lo(a) omplina, o un agente de la persona que lo(a) omplea, o un oficial o agente de la unión de obreros de la cual el votante es socio.
4. Es un delito menor de la Clase A preparar una boleta para un votante que no está autorizado para recibir ayuda, o preparar la boleta para el votante diferente al modo en que dirija el votante, o sugerir por palabra, seña o acción como debiera de votar el votante. Es un delito menor de la Clase A ayudar a un votante que no ha cumplido con las condiciones del #3 mencionado arriba.
5. Un asistente debe firmar el sobre de entrega y incluir el nombre del asistente en letra de molde. Falta de proporcionar esta información es un delito.
6. Si el votante permite a ninguna persona entrar su boleta o entrega las boletas por transporte común o bajo contrato, esa persona debe firmar el sobre de entrega incluyendo su nombre en letra de molde y dirección. Falta de proporcionar esta información es un delito. La persona enviando o entregando la boleta debe hacer lo inmediatamente. Es un delito que una persona colecta y guarde sobre de entrega en otro local, o sea, entregue subsiguientemente al secretario de votación adelantada.
7. No se deberá contar ninguna boleta que fue votada con ayuda de un modo en violación de alguna de las instrucciones mencionadas arriba.

BALLOT ENVELOPE

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER:

1. Mark ballot; place ballot in this envelope marked "BALLOT ENVELOPE" and seal ballot envelope.
2. Place ballot envelope in carrier envelope, seal carrier envelope, sign carrier envelope, and return carrier envelope to the early voting clerk either by mail or common or contract carrier. A ballot may not be returned to the early voting clerk by any other method. (See instructions on carrier envelope and the important information enclosure for additional information.)
3. Be sure to mail your ballot so it will be received by the early voting clerk before 7:00 P.M. on election day. If you are voting from outside the United States, the late counting ballot rules may apply to you.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ASSISTANTS:

1. A voter may be assisted to vote only if the voter is physically unable to write or see, and/or unable to read the ballot.
2. Assisting a voter includes the following conduct by a person other than the voter that occurs while the person is in the presence of the voter's ballot or carrier envelope: (a) reading the ballot to the voter; (b) directing the voter to read the ballot; (c) marking the voter's ballot; or (d) marking the voter to mark the ballot.
3. A voter may choose an assistant as long as that assistant is not the voter's employer or an agent of the voter's employer, or officer or agent of the voter's labor union.
4. It is a Class A misdemeanor: (a) to provide assistance to a voter who is not qualified to receive assistance; (b) to create the ballot for the voter other than as the voter directs or without direction from the voter; (c) to suggest to the voter by word, sign, or gesture, how the voter should vote; or (d) to provide assistance to a person that has not requested assistance or selected the person to assist the voter. It is also a Class A misdemeanor to assist a voter in violation of this above.
5. An assistant must sign the carrier envelope and include the assistant's name and address. Failure to provide this information is a crime.
6. If the voter allows a person to mail his or her ballot or deliver the ballot to a carrier delivery service, that person must sign the carrier envelope and include the carrier's name and address. Failure to provide this information is a crime. The person mailing or delivering the ballot must do so immediately. It is a crime for a person to collect and store carrier envelopes at another location for subsequent delivery to the early voting clerk.
7. Any ballot cast with assistance in violation of any of the above instructions may not be counted.

NOTE: This envelope must be sealed by the voter before it leaves the voter's hand. Seal envelope before signing. Do not sign this envelope unless the ballot has been marked by you or by your dictator. (NOTA: Antes de entregarse el sobre, el votante mismo tiene que haberlo sellado. Antes de firmar el sobre, asegúrese que ya está. Es prohibido firmar sobre o dentro que están que están para completarlo de votación electoral o está se completo siguiendo sus instrucciones.)

LINE: "WITNESS TO VOTER: Complete all and leave spaces. The carrier envelope must be signed by the voter in the appropriate space. If the voter cannot sign, the voter's mark must be witnessed by the witness. The witness must sign in the appropriate space. The carrier envelope may be delivered in sealed or unsealed and must be delivered by mail or by carrier or notary. Only one carrier envelope shall be placed in a carrier envelope. However, more than one carrier envelope may be placed together in another envelope if the carrier envelope is placed in a person registered to vote at the same address.

CALL TO ASSISTANCE: If you assisted the voter in any way with the ballot or witnessed the signature of the voter on the carrier envelope, you must sign the bottom right of the carrier envelope. If you did not assist the voter, you must provide your printed name and witness in the same place.

INSTRUCTIONS PARA EL VOTANTE: Proporcione toda la información solicitada usando los espacios apropiados. Procure firmar el sobre en el espacio apropiado. Si no sabe firmar, busque a alguien que lo ayude a firmar. El testigo debe firmar en el espacio apropiado. El sobre debe ser entregado en un sobre sellado o no sellado, pero debe ser entregado por correo o por un mensajero o notario. Solo se debe colocar un sobre en un sobre sellado. Sin embargo, más de un sobre sellado puede colocarse en un sobre sellado si el sobre sellado es entregado por correo o por un mensajero o notario. Solo se debe colocar un sobre sellado en un sobre sellado. Si usted asistió al votante de alguna manera, debe firmar el sobre en el espacio apropiado. Si no asistió al votante, debe proporcionar su nombre y su dirección en el espacio apropiado.

INSTRUCTIONS PARA EL VOTANTE: Proporcione toda la información solicitada usando los espacios apropiados. Procure firmar el sobre en el espacio apropiado. Si no sabe firmar, busque a alguien que lo ayude a firmar. El testigo debe firmar en el espacio apropiado. El sobre debe ser entregado en un sobre sellado o no sellado, pero debe ser entregado por correo o por un mensajero o notario. Solo se debe colocar un sobre en un sobre sellado. Sin embargo, más de un sobre sellado puede colocarse en un sobre sellado si el sobre sellado es entregado por correo o por un mensajero o notario. Solo se debe colocar un sobre sellado en un sobre sellado. Si usted asistió al votante de alguna manera, debe firmar el sobre en el espacio apropiado. Si no asistió al votante, debe proporcionar su nombre y su dirección en el espacio apropiado.

I certify that the enclosed ballot expresses my wishes independent of any dictator or undue persuader by any person.

Confirmo que la boleta aquí adjunta da a conocer mis deseos y no obedezco las influencias ni influencias indebidas de otras personas.

SIGNATURE OF VOTER (FIRMA DEL VOTANTE)

X Printed name and Signature of Assistant or Witness (Nombre con letra de notario y firma del que ayuda al votante o testigo)

Residence address of assistant or witness (Domicilio del que ayuda al votante o testigo)

OATH OF PERSON ASSISTING VOTER: I swear (or affirm) that I will not suggest by word, sign, or gesture how the voter shall vote. I will confine my assistance to answering the voter's questions, to stating propositions on the ballot, and to naming candidates and, if listed, their political parties; and I will prepare the voter's ballot as the voter directs. JURAMENTO AL QUE SE SOMETE LA PERSONA QUE AYUDA AL VOTANTE: Juro o afirmo que, ni por palabra, señas o acciones, le sugiero el voto como deberá votar. Me limitaré a contestar sus preguntas y a leerle las propuestas que aparecerán en la boleta y los nombres de los candidatos y los partidos políticos a que estos pertenecen; si es que esta información está incluida y valeré la boleta según sus instrucciones.)

Assistant/Witness

If voter cannot sign, voter's mark must be witnessed. If voter cannot make mark, witness must check here. If the voter is unable to read and/or mark the ballot, the assistant must fill out the information below. Failure of witness and/or

Assistant to complete this information is a crime. (Si el votante no sabe firmar, deberá hacer su marca ante un testigo. Si el votante no sabe poner su marca o si el testigo debería marcar aquí, el testigo debe completar la información que está a continuación y no llenar esta información es un delito.)



AFFIX
PROPER
POSTAGE
FUE
FRANQUEO
PROPIO



TO: BEVERLY KAUFMAN
COUNTY CLERK, HARRIS COUNTY
PO BOX 1525
HOUSTON TX 77251-1525

SAMPLE


CARRIER UNDELIV. OPT. FOR EARLY VOTING BALLOT
USPS® OBJECTO: BOLA ENVIÓ DE VOTACIÓN ANTECIPADA
PS-4 (Rev. 9/05)





BY-MAIL BALLOT VOTER INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please use black or blue pen to mark your ballot.
2. To vote, place an X within the blank box to the left of your choice. Make the mark clear and distinct.

 ←EXAMPLE

If more than the allowable number of marks are placed on the ballot for an office or ballot issue, the votes will not be counted for that office or ballot issue.

3. Place the ballot inside the envelope and seal it.
4. Your signature is required on the carrier envelope AFTER sealing.
5. Return the envelope to the designated election official by mail.

**BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED
BY 7:00 PM ON THE DAY OF THE
ELECTION.**

6300-700.21C



INSTRUCCIONES PARA VOTAR SOBRE UNA BOLETA POR CORREO

1. Favor de usar una pluma de tinta negra o azul para marcar su boleta.
2. Para votar, marque con una "X" el cuadro blanco a la izquierda de su preferencia. Favor de hacer su marca clara y distintamente.

 ← EJEMPLO

Si resulta que la boleta se marque con más del número de marcas que se permite para un puesto oficial o para una emisión de boletas, dichos votos no se computarán.

3. Coloque la boleta dentro del sobre y séllelo.
4. Se requiere su firma sobre el sobre portador DESPUES DE sellarlo.
5. Envíe el sobre por correo al designado oficial electoral.

**LAS BOLETAS DEBERAN
RECIBIRSE PARA LAS 7 DE LA
NOCHE EL DIA DE LAS
ELECCIONES**

13-00-701 2/07

The State of Texas

Elections Division
P.O. Box 12060
Austin, Texas 78711-2060
www.sos.state.tx.us



Roger Williams
Secretary of State

Phone: 512-463-5659
Fax: 512-475-2811
TTY: 7-1-1
(800) 252-VOTE (8683)

Dear Voter:

Thank you for choosing to exercise your right to vote. You have chosen to cast your ballot by mail, and I would like to share with you information about the process of voting by mail. When you vote by mail, you may take the following steps to protect your ballot and your vote.

1. **Know your rights as a voter:** You have the right to vote for the candidates of your choice. You have the right to mark your own ballot or to receive assistance with reading or marking your ballot from a person you know and trust. Your vote is secret. You do not have to tell anyone how or for whom you voted. If a person assists you with reading or marking your ballot, it is a crime for that person to reveal how or for whom you voted.
2. **Be careful about assistance:** No one should help you with your ballot, unless you cannot read the language written on the ballot or unless you have a disability that makes you unable to write or to see. If one of these conditions applies to you, we recommend that you ask a family member or trusted friend for assistance with your ballot. The person assisting you must mark your ballot according to your instruction and cannot suggest how you should vote. The assistant must place his or her signature, printed name, and residence address on the carrier envelope.
3. **Mail your own ballot:** If you can't get to the mailbox to mail your own ballot, give your ballot to a family member or trusted friend to mail for you. That person must place his or her signature, printed name, and residence address on the carrier envelope. Do not accept offers from strangers to mail your ballot for you. Texas law prohibits voted ballots from being delivered by common or contract carrier from campaign headquarters.

If you follow these simple guidelines, be assured your vote will count. **If anyone attempts to pressure or intimidate you, we urge you to report this to your county elections office, your district attorney's office, or our office toll-free at 1-800-252-VOTE(8683).**

Early voting in person begins on the 17th day before the election and will continue until the 4th day before election day. You may contact your local elections office for the locations and hours of operation for your early voting places. If you change your mind about voting by mail and would prefer to vote in person, you must take your mail ballot with you and cancel it at the polling place. You may then vote in person, either during the early voting period or on election day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Williams".

Roger Williams

AM\FHW\TD\Dea/Voter.doc

The State of Texas

Elections Division
P.O. Box 12060
Austin, Texas 78711-2060
www.sos.state.tx.us



Roger Williams
Secretary of State

Phone: 512-463-5650
Fax: 512-475-2811
Dial 7-1-1 For Relay Services
(800) 252-VOTE (8683)

Estimado/a votante:

Gracias por su decisión de ejercer su derecho al voto. Ya que optó por depositar su boleta por correo, quiero darle a conocer cierta información sobre la votación por correo. Al votar por correo, hay que dar los siguientes pasos para proteger su boleta y su voto.

1. **Conozca sus derechos de votante:** Usted tiene el derecho de votar por los candidatos que escoja. Tiene también el derecho de marcar su propia boleta o de recibir la ayuda de una persona de su confianza persona en leer o marcar su boleta. Si le ayuda una persona a leer o a marcar su boleta, tal persona cometerá un delito si revela cómo o por quién votó.
2. **Mucho cuidado al aceptar ayuda:** Nadie debe ayudarle con su boleta a no ser que usted no sepa leer el idioma de la boleta o que tenga alguna discapacidad que le impida ver o leer. En caso de que le corresponda alguna de dichas condiciones, le recomendamos recurrir a un familiar o amigo/a de confianza para que le ayude con su boleta. Tal persona deberá marcar la boleta de acuerdo con las indicaciones de usted, y no podrá sugerirle cómo habrá de votar. El/la ayudante deberá poner en el sobre de transmisión su firma, su nombre y apellido en letras de molde y su domicilio.
3. **Envíe su propia boleta:** Si no le es posible llegar a un buzón para depositar su propia boleta, entréguesela a un familiar o amigo/a de confianza para que la envíe por usted. Tal persona deberá poner en el sobre de transmisión su firma, su nombre y apellido en letras de molde y su domicilio. No acepte ofertas hechas por desconocidos de enviar la boleta por usted. La ley de Tejas prohíbe la entrega de boletas ya marcadas para votar por transportistas públicos o contratados provenientes de la oficina central de la campaña.

Si se atiene a estas fáciles indicaciones, usted podrá confiar en que su voto cuente. Le instamos a que denuncie cualquier intento de presionarle o de intimidarle a la oficina electoral de su condado, a la oficina del fiscal de su distrito o a nuestras oficinas, al número gratuito **1-800-252-VOTE(8683)**.

La votación adelantada por comparecencia personal se inicia faltando 17 días para las elecciones y seguirá vigente hasta que falten cuatro días para el día de la elección. Para informarse de los sitios y las horas laborables de votación adelantada, comuníquese con las oficinas electorales de su localidad. Si cambia de parecer en cuanto a votar por correo y prefiere votar personalmente, lleve su boleta postal a cancelar en el local de votación. Después podrá votar personalmente, ya sea durante el período de votación adelantada o en el día de la elección.

Atentamente,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Williams".

Roger Williams

AM-FHW:d:DearVoter.doc

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT RETURNING
YOUR MARKED BALLOT IN THE CARRIER ENVELOPE**

1. A carrier envelope may not be returned in an envelope or package containing another carrier envelope unless the other carrier envelopes are from persons registered to vote at the same address as your voter registration address.
2. You must seal your carrier envelope before signing your name. You must sign your name next to the large "X" on the carrier envelope. If you cannot sign your name, you must have a person witness your mark. If a person (assistant) helps you in marking your ballot or deposits your carrier envelope in the mail or delivers it to a common or contract carrier, that person must sign your carrier envelope and include their printed name and address. Failure of the assistant to provide this information is a crime, and may result in your ballot being rejected.

**SPECIAL RULES RESTRICTING ELIGIBLE
COMMON AND CONTRACT CARRIERS**

1. If you use a common or contract carrier to return your ballot, the carrier must be a bonafide business, for profit carrier, the primary business of which is transporting or delivering property for compensation.
2. Your ballot will not be counted if it is picked up by a common or contract carrier at an office of a political party or candidate, office for a specific-purpose or general purpose political committee involved in the election, or a candidate's house unless the address of the candidate is your address.
3. If you return your carrier envelope by common or contract carrier, your carrier envelope must be accompanied by an individual delivery receipt when delivered to the early voting clerk. The receipt must indicate the name and address of the person who delivered the carrier envelope to the common or contract carrier and the date, hour, and address where the carrier envelope was received by the common or contract carrier.
4. If your ballot is returned by an unauthorized method, it will not be counted.

If you have any questions about returning your carrier envelope, please contact the early voting clerk's office at (713) 755-6965. If you feel that your rights have been violated or abused, you may report these incidents to the Secretary of State toll-free at 1-800-252-VOTE(8683).

Street address: 1001 Preston, 4th floor, Houston, TX 77002
E-mail: jballard@cco.hctx.net

DATOS IMPORTANTES EN CUANTO A LA DEVOLUCIÓN DE SU BOLETA ELECTORAL MARCADA EN EL SOBRE DE ENTREGA

1. Es prohibido colocar el sobre de entrega dentro de otro sobre o paquete que contenga sobres de entrega adicionales a menos que las personas enviándolos estén inscritos a votar y el domicilio indicado en sus inscripciones electorales sea igual al suyo.
2. Antes de firmarlo, es necesario que cierre y selle el sobre de entrega. Firme el sobre en el lugar indicado por la "X" grande en el sobre. Si no sabe cómo firmar su nombre, será necesario que tenga un testigo presente cuando haga su marca. Si alguien le ayudó marcar sus votos en la boleta, también será necesario que esta persona firme el sobre de entrega porque de otra forma su boleta no se incluirá en el conteo final. Falta por parte del asistente de proporcionar esta información es un delito y puede resultaren que su boleta sea rechazada.

REGLAS ESPECIALES EN CUANTO AL USO DE TRANSPORTISTAS O PORTADORES COMERCIALES

1. Si decide contratar un transportista o portador comercial para enviar su boleta electoral, éste deberá ser de una empresa de fines de lucro cuya razón principal es el transporte y la entrega de documentos y bienes por paga.
2. Si dicho transportista fuere a recoger su boleta en: la sede de un partido político, la sede de una campaña electoral, las oficinas de un comité político, ya sea de interés general o específico, que tenga algún interés en estas elecciones o el domicilio de cualquiera de los candidatos, su boleta no se incluirá en el conteo final a menos que el domicilio del candidato es igual al suyo.
3. Si opta enviar su sobre de entrega por portador o transportista comercial al Secretario de Votación Adelantada asegúrese que éste lleve un acuso de recibo individual. El recibo debe indicar el nombre y dirección de la persona que entregó el sobre de entrega al portador o transportista comercial y la fecha, hora, y dirección de donde el portador o transportista comercial recibió el sobre de entrega.
4. Si la entrega de su boleta no cumple con toda la norma, su voto no se incluirá en el conteo final.

Si tiene alguna pregunta en cuanto a cómo devolvernos su sobre de entrega por favor comuníquese con la oficina de la Secretaría de Votación por Adelantado más cercano llamando al (713) 755-6965. Si siente que sus derechos electorales han sido violados o abusados, puede hacer un reporte con la oficina del Secretario del Estado al 1-800-252-8683(VOTR).

Street address: 1001 Preston, 4th floor, Houston, TX 77002
E-mail: jballard@cco.hctx.net

Sample ballot created for training purposes

Official Ballot BOND ELECTION TALLY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT May 12, 2007		Precinct 1
Instruction Text: TO VOTE: Mark the ballot by placing an "X" in the square beside the candidate or proposition of your choice.		
PROPOSITION 1 THE ISSUANCE OF \$100,000 IN BONDS AND THE LEVYING OF THE TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF <input type="checkbox"/> FOR <input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST		
PROPOSITION 2 THE ISSUANCE OF \$50,000 IN BONDS AND THE LEVYING OF THE TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF <input type="checkbox"/> FOR <input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST		