

# Here's how to vote by mail in Texas for the November 2024 election ~ (See Page 6)



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## The Dallas Post Tribune

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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

September 5 - 11, 2024

# And the Award for Most Treasonous Act Goes to...

Written by Stacy M. Brown



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

The award for “Most Treasonous Act” goes to... The “Most Willing to Kill Vice President Mike Pence for President Trump” award goes to... And the moment we’ve all been waiting for—the award for “Best Insurrectionist and Most Violent Assault on a Police Officer”—goes to...

In an event that reads like a parody but was all too real, the so-called “J6 Awards Gala,” meant to honor convicted criminals from the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, has been postponed. Just days before the planned ceremony, organizers from the group Stand in the Gap announced

that the event, originally scheduled for Thursday at Trump National Golf Club Bedminster in New Jersey, would not go ahead as planned.

The awards ceremony was set to pay tribute to 20 MAGA loyalists, many of whom are currently behind bars. These individuals were part of the violent mob that stormed the Capitol and later recorded a song from jail titled “Justice for All.” The evening was described by organizers as an “unforgettable night,” dedicated to honoring those whom they have labeled as heroes in the

Continue Award  
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## Funeral for Dallas police Officer Darron Burks to be held Saturday

A celebration of life will take place at Watermark Community Church to honor the officer killed Thursday in the line of duty

By Lilly Kersh/Dallas Morning News  
Staff Writer

Officer Darron Burks was fatally shot on Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024, in Dallas. (Dallas Police Department)

A celebration of life for Officer Darron Burks will be held at Watermark Community Church at 11 a.m. Saturday, according to his obituary.

There will be two visitations at the church on Lyndon B. Johnson Freeway in North Dallas — one from 7-9 p.m. Friday and a second from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, followed by the ceremony.

“His bravery, dedication, and selflessness were evident in every aspect of his work, and he was a beacon of hope and security for those he served,” his obituary, posted by Restland Funeral Home, reads. “Darron will be deeply missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. His legacy of courage and service will forever be remembered and honored.”

Burks, 46, was shot and killed Thursday night. Corey Cobb-Bey, 30, “executed” Burks within sec-

onds of approaching his patrol vehicle in southeast Oak Cliff, according to police officials. Two officers who responded were shot and wounded.

Hundreds have attended memorials and vigils following Burks’ death. He was a former teacher who had just finished his police training in December.

Burks’ death has shaken a community in grief over a lost brother, leader, and friend. He was a member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity and a graduate of Paul Quinn College.



Office Darron Burks  
Photo Credit: Dallas Police Department.



Photo Credit: The HUB

## Excellence at John J. Pershing Elementary School

By Jenna Carpenter

At John J. Pershing Elementary School, diversity is a superpower.

Over 80% of the student population identifies as Hispanic. And many recently moved to the U.S.

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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## “My Truth”

# What the world needs now...

By Cheryl Smith  
Publisher of I Messenger Media  
Texas Metro News



It could've been the 1980s instead of almost 40 years later. As I watched the Democratic National Committee Convention, I recalled Rev. Jesse Jackson's speech at the 1988 DNC convention when he talked about keeping hope alive. Between the DNC convention speakers and the Sunday night calls with #Win-WithBlackWomen, I do

have hope. The struggle is real, and those in the struggle do get tired.

It was the Honorable Fannie Lou Hamer who said, "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired!" The more things change the more they stay the same. Those were my sentiments before President Joe Biden stepped aside and passed the baton to Vice President Kamala Harris.

But to hear from some of the dynamic speakers and to see love exhibited, along with hearing people talking about a future that was not filled with hate, stupidity, and racism gave me hope.

So the DNC convention was over on

Thursday and my voice was weak from radio interviews, but I felt good. Sunday came along and I said no way am I not getting on the call with those dynamic sisters. It was FOMO time for me and I had a fear of missing out.

I got on the call and I wasn't disappointed. There was so much positivity from these sisters who have been working tirelessly to bring us together. It was a lovefest.

We talked about the anti-blackness messages, the sexist messages, and the offensive racist ones. As organizers said, we have to lead with the truth, share the lie, and then end with the truth; as we deal with all the

misinformation and disinformation out there. If no one says anything folks will believe the hype and take every lie as the truth.

There was talk about that document of almost 1000 pages — Project 2025. We need to know what's going on with that document and Black Women are sharing information. We know that the Vice President/the presidential candidate is going to be assaulted from head to toe, inside and out.

It's important that she knows that she has people supporting her. I know that I will continue to say, "VOTE!"

Continue Truth Page 3

# The HBCU Football Season Is Here And The Fans Are Fired Up And Ready To Go

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

America has a fixation and obsession when it comes to football. It is without much debate that we can say football is in our front mirror all year round.

Each August, our proclamations and predictions turn to football. We cannot wait for our favorite team to take the field. Some of us have more than one favorite team, so we are constantly on edge. We have our football gear ready to wear.

Football at HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) is back for another exciting season. Each of the HBCU conferences has an exciting lineup of games and of course, homecoming games as well.

Attending an HBCU football game means having fun and a good time. It's not only the game itself, but it's the fellowship as well.

When I was an undergraduate student at Johnson C. Smith University, an HBCU located in Charlotte NC, football Saturdays were a big deal. Some of the players were our roommates so that gave us an extra reason to cheer.

Upon reflection, the football team was a part of us. We ate together in the same cafeteria, went to the same chapel services, attended the same lyceum programs and went to the same dances.

The football coaches were also a part of our daily campus life. They were our teachers and our advisers. Wearing the title coach meant being totally invested in the life of the college.

Historical records show that the first HBCU football game was played on December 27, 1892, between Biddle College, now Johnson C. Smith University, and Livingstone College, located in Salisbury, NC. These schools compete today in the CIAA (Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association).

Back in the day, HBCU games were not televised. Today they are. Just ten days ago, Florida A&M University played Norfolk State University on ABC television. There

will be more HBCU games on television over the season.

Beginning on August 31st, HBCU Go Sports will televise games from the SWAC, CIAA, and SIAC every Saturday. For example, on August 31st, Virginia Union University will compete against Kentucky State University in Frankfort KY. Another match-up on September 7th will see Tuskegee University taking on Grambling State University in Grambling LA.

The Allen Media Group says there will be 8 games from the CIAA, 9 games from the SIAC and 14 games from the SWAC. This will include the Southern Heritage Classic, 6 homecoming games and the CIAA Football Championship.

Byron Allen, Founder/Chairman/CEO of HBCU parent company, Allen Media Group says, "As we enter HBCU Go's third football season, we are proud to showcase the very best HBCU match-ups. Now is the time for HBCUs, and HBCU Go is the true destination for coverage of Black college sports and culture."

If you want to see some fantastic college football, check out the

entire HBCU Go lineup. Many of us travel to these games and tailgate with our family and friends. They will have your favorite chicken, ribs, potato salad, mac and cheese. Don't forget the chocolate cake and bread pudding.

I believe it is vitally important that we support this media outlet as much as possible. Never have we had this kind of exposure to Black College sports. The era of Black College sports is growing each year. We are receiving the applause and the acclaim that is long overdue. We have writers who are tuned in to Black College sports. Be sure to read columns by Kyle T. Mosley and Steven Gaither, as you will see their in-depth analysis and interviews. Listen to sports announcers like Charlie Neal who is the first African American to receive the National Football Foundation Chris Schenkel Award. His commentary will make you feel like you are in the stands.

I know you are ready for some football so get ready for some first downs and some touchdowns. HBCU football will bring it all to you.

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# RELIGIOUS/NEWS

## Paul's Discussion to Timothy and Others

I Timothy 6:1-21



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

In this final chapter, Paul will instruct Timothy with regard to various groups, particularly those that would cause problems. I Timothy 6:1-21, may be outlined as follows: I. Paul's Discussion Regarding Various Groups in Ephesus – I Timothy 6:1-5; II. Paul's Discussion to the Wealthy and About Godliness – I Timothy 6:6-21.

### I. Paul's Discussion Regarding Various Groups in Ephesus I Timothy 6:1-5

In verses 1-2 Paul discussed that slaves are to view their masters as worthy of full respect. Such honor or respect should be granted lest God's reputation and the Christian faith be defamed. Christian slaves whose masters are also believers should redouble rather than reduce their service.

In verses 3-5, cited those troublemakers who caused spiritual harm in the church. They were false teachers who did not agree to Paul's teachings; thus, Paul noted this group and dealt with them. Paul stated that this troubling group was proud; they want to be important people in the church. However, they were ignorant, knowing nothing! They are sick, for the word "doting" actually means "dis-

eased, sickly." Having rejected the healthy (sound) doctrine, they have made themselves spiritually sick. Instead of feeding on the truths of God's word, they feed on empty questions and the meaning of words; thus, all of this leads to envies, strife, constant turmoil and not godliness.

### II. Paul's Discussion to the Wealthy and About Godliness I Timothy 6:6-21

In verses 6-8, Paul instructs that godliness does not produce financial gain; however, godliness is gain when accompanied with contentment. The material things, which are so transient, should be utilized to God's glory, but they do not contribute to godliness. Christians are to be satisfied and content with the basic material needs of life.

In verses 9-10, Paul is warning those who will to be rich, that is, those who set their whole attention on wealth. This kind of person is bound to fall into temptation and snares and will eventually sink into destruction. Verse 10 teaches that "love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." Money itself is neutral; the way it is used, and the heart and motive behind it, determines its character. For example, ev-

eryone of the ten commandments can be broken because of money. However, money can be used for the cause of Christ!

In contrast with those of verse 10 who chase after riches, Timothy was to flee and chase after personal virtues with eternal values: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness (v. 11). Timothy was also to "fight the good fight of faith" (v. 12). This fight may be outward or inward, physical, or spiritual. Timothy was to give the most diligent effort to this most worthwhile struggle to further the faith. Timothy was to appropriate the fact that he possessed eternal life. Timothy was to "lay hold on eternal life", in the sense that Timothy would make it clear that he possessed eternal life by the life he lived.

In verses 13-14, Paul addressed Timothy with a most personal and solemn charge (v. 13). Paul stated that Timothy was to "keep this commandment without spot or blame." This commandment referred to the entire body of sound doctrine Paul had been instructing in the letter. By Timothy's godly life and service,

Timothy was urged to preserve this body of truth from stain and reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ (v. 14), (II Timothy 1:10; 4:1,

8: Titus 2:13).

In verses 15-16, Paul instructs Timothy that God will bring about Christ's appearing in His own time. Paul issued a most astounding doxology to the Lord. The expression "who only hath immortality" refers to Jesus Christ who was raised from the dead in a glorified body.

In verses 17-19, Paul instructs those with wealth, telling them how to use their riches for God's glory. They are to be humble, accepting their wealth as a stewardship from God. They should keep their eyes on the giver, and not put their trust in the gifts. Money should be used for good works; it should be shared (communicated); it should be invested in things eternal, laying a good foundation for the time to come.

In verses 20-21, Paul exhorted Timothy to guard the deposit or trust Paul had passed on to him. The body of truth that was to be deposited or guarded by Timothy was under attack in Ephesus. Timothy was to "turn away from godless chatter and opposing ideas and what is falsely called knowledge. Those embracing such erroneous teaching had wandered from the faith.

*"May God Bless!"*

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#### Continued Awards Page 1

aftermath of the insurrection.

Though the event was advertised with Donald Trump listed as an "invited guest," it was reported by The New York Times that the former president was not expected to attend. Instead, Trump's former attorney, Rudy Giuliani, was promoted as a featured guest, along with several right-wing influencers and the families of the imprisoned insurrectionists, referred to by their supporters as "America's Heroes."

The gala wasn't cheap, either. General admission tickets cost \$1,500, while VIP tickets, which offered attendees closer proximity to the controversial gathering, cost \$2,500. The funds raised were intended

to support the January 6 defendants, who continue to face significant legal and financial challenges, according to the event's organizers.

However, the gala's postponement came as a surprise to many. In late August, Fox Business, part of the Fox News family that had amplified the electoral disinformation that fueled the attack, reported that the event was being delayed due to "scheduling conflicts" with invited guest speakers. Despite that report, which claimed Trump might be in attendance, the gala received little attention from major news outlets.

While the fundraiser has been postponed, Stand in the Gap expressed hope that it would occur after November 5—Election Day.

The twice impeached and 34 times convicted felon and former president, who has long expressed support for the individuals convicted in connection with the insurrection, has publicly called for their release, referring to them as "hostages." Prominent MAGA figures such as Georgia Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene have even visited some of these incarcerated individuals, further cementing their status as martyrs within far-right circles.

Meanwhile, Trump's legal troubles continue to escalate. The 78-year-old faces sentencing on September 18 for 34 felony counts related to falsifying business records to conceal an alleged affair with adult film actress Stormy Daniels.

#### Continued Truth Page 1

Is that too much to ask?

I tell you when I think about what we're doing, where we are going, what we need to do, and what the alternative is, the least I can do is help get the vote

out. Shavon Arline Bradley of the National Council of Negro Women was on the call and talked about women of days gone by who fought for a day they knew they would never see.

Then there was the brilliant Donna Brazile

who said we must own this moment. She encouraged us to know our electoral status, especially if we are in battleground states, and we have to know the deadlines for our jurisdiction, so we don't miss out on this important vote.



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### Quinn Minute

# Swimming lesson

By Rix Quinn

I am a certified Baby Boomer, so when I grew up in the 1960s, there were nearly three zillion kids in my neighborhood.

Nearby was a public pool that offered free swimming lessons each summer. Most of us kids begged to attend those lessons, and most of us did.

This was just a medium-sized pool that was not equipped to hold a full neighborhood. Sometimes, there were so many of us that it heated the water...which brings

me to my story.

One day, I was standing in the water near the pool's edge when I saw a small green object. It was a medium-sized frog swimming freestyle around the edges.

But the frog wasn't there for the lessons. It apparently wanted out. What could I do?

I walked over to the frog, cradled it in my hands, and lifted it onto the edge. Since this water contained chemicals, I probably saved that amphibian.

But he sat on the edge for a minute, then jumped back

into the pool. Again, I cradled him to help him escape, but he surprised me.

As you probably know, some frogs secrete a substance that makes them slippery. That frog slid out of my hand and back into the water.

I kept chasing him around the pool, and he kept evading me until – suddenly – he got sucked into the filter.

That's the day I learned that – like that frog – some people don't realize when the water's too deep. And they don't

pay attention to those who offer help.

Then, suddenly, they realize that jumping into hot water constantly can be very draining.

I tried this walking downtown last Saturday. Any time I suddenly felt happy, I started clapping.

This attracted two other clappers with alternative rhythms, a harmonica player, a juggler, and a dog that walked on its back legs.

We open next Thursday night at the civic center.



# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Sept 5	Friday, Sept. 6	Saturday, Sept. 7	Sunday, Sept. 8	Monday, Sept. 9	Tuesday, Sept. 10	Wednesday, Sept. 11
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# Out of evil, make good Let's create permanent honor for Officer Darron Burks

By Norma Adams-Wade  
Texas Metro News Correspondent

*For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, That it will sprout again, And that the tender branch thereof will not cease. ...yet ...it will bud, and... bring forth boughs like a plant.  
Job 14:7, 9 KJV*

The “premeditated execution” -- as Dallas police chief Eddie Garcia termed it -- is one of the one million times when your soul asks... “Why?!” If you are a pragmatist who does not believe in evil, this travesty surely has to make you reconsider. By now -- out of the tsunami of media coverage -- you surely know that Dallas police officer Darron Lee Burks, 46, was fatally shot on Aug. 29 while taking a break between assignments, sitting in his marked patrol car, in the parking lot of the nonprofit For Oak Cliff.

The building on Ledbetter Drive previously was the longtime location of Moorland Branch YMCA before the Y moved to its current location on Hampton Road in Oak Cliff. The on-duty death of any police officer is prime-time news. However, Burks’ demise has an added quality be-



In high school sports uniform.



As a teenage in Sunday dress with another youth.



With his Omega Psi Phi frat bros.

cause of how the community has almost lionized him for his admirable character and public service. The 17-year former math teacher at Texas

Can Academies in Dallas was a graduate of Lake Highland H. S. in Richardson and Paul Quinn College in southeast Dallas who stood out as a moral role

model, sports figure, and leader in areas including being president of his Omega Psi Phi fraternity chapter. He was a member of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship and served in the parking ministry. Two other officers dispatched to aid him also were injured. One, Sr. Cpl. Jamie Farmer has been released from the hospital.

The other, Cpl. Karissa David, at the last report still was in critical but stable condition and is expected to recover. The suspect, Corey CobbBey, 30, was fatally shot by police after he led them on a 30-minute car chase, stopped the car in Lewisville, then approached the officers pointing a long gun at them before police fired fatal shots at him, police reports state.

Officials on different levels of government are investigating Officer Burks’ death which so

far still is seen as a senseless murder of a good man by an apparently misguided stranger. No evidence has turned up that the two men knew each other. An avalanche of praise for Officer Burks’ good character and public service continues days after his death and likely will continue through his funeral service on Saturday, September 7.

And by the time you read this report, many more details likely will have surfaced. I was just thinking.... the impressive, positive feedback about Officer Burks further prompts the question of why such a meritorious humanitarian would be cut down in such a pointless way. Again, “Why?!” It’s an answer too beyond our human pay grade to figure that one out. But, ... let’s resolve to help his life have meaning.

Let’s help influence others to live with tan-

gible, meaningful purpose as was his goal -- cut short too soon. So, how to make that goal happen for the sake of this martyr? And yes, Burks has become a martyr who died because he chose to serve others through upholding law enforcement to keep the community safe. Those who knew him say he felt his choice was a calling, and, yes, that calling led to his untimely demise.

It seems clear that his decision deserves honor. Our question is how to best fulfill that honor. See suggestions in the attached two sidebars. The first attachment suggests tangible ways to give meaning to Officer Burks’ sacrifice. The second chronicles various people made about his stellar life. I request that you store this report in an important place and use it to help you recall Burks’ impact and perhaps to guide your own.

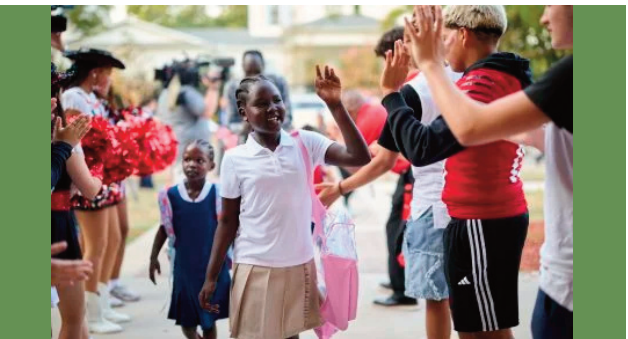


Photo Credit: The HUB

### Continued School Page 1

uplifting and celebrating their diversity can be a challenge, but teachers and administrators say it is their calling.

“We stay here — and in the profession — because we have a passion for it,” said Maria Fernandez, a fourth-grade teacher. “It’s vocational. We could be in any other place, but we stay.”

A little over 10% of the student population is Black, and 1.2% is Indigenous. Almost 4% identify as White.

The teachers at Pershing are just as diverse as their students.

Not only do educators represent different cultures, they also came to

Pershing in different ways. Some are new teachers. Others are veterans, with over 24 years of experience. A handful are former lawyers, who pursued their passion for education as a second career.

The school’s diversity, combined with the commitment to building relationships with students and their families, are key to establishing a lasting legacy of excellence.

“Everybody is pursuing academic excellence first. But we don’t want to forget the base of that excellence is on authentic relationships with the students — authentic and diverse,” Fernandez said.

Students at Pershing consistently receive high

marks on STAAR tests. At least 30% reached the Master’s Level, meaning they are expected to succeed in the next grade or course with little or no academic intervention. Additionally, students scored high in the Meets and Exceptional categories, coming in at least 62% and 91% respectively.

These results are due in part to the various teaching styles students have the opportunity to learn from.

“We are really diverse — the way that we teach, the way that we are,” Fernandez said.

For example, she noticed students lacked confidence in vocabulary and interest in reading when they returned to school after the COVID-19 pandemic. So, to make it interesting, Fernandez incorporated drama into reading lessons by using puppets and having her students put on shows for the younger kids. The students now look forward to being in fourth grade so they can play with

puppets, she said.

Rafael Gonzalez, a fourth-grade teacher, brought in a class pet that not only offers positive reinforcement for good behavior, but also teaches students responsibility.

“It’s a random system that decides who gets to take care of the pet,” he said. “Sometimes, it’s whoever scored the highest on tests. But that’s not fair to do all the time. So another week, it’s who showed the most citizenship skills. I sometimes think they learn better with the pet in the classroom.”

At Pershing, the kids are more than students. They are people, and teachers make a point to develop relationships with each and every person who walks through their door.

As a result, student surveys revealed a 91% overall satisfaction rating, with students feeling safe and valuing their educational experience. And when students feel valued, safe, and enjoy learning, they are

empowered to take education seriously.

“When you’re building relationships with the students, that’s what makes them feel safe and valued,” said Brooke Rivera, third-grade teacher. “They see the teacher cares more than just about them getting Master’s on the test.”

While Pershing follows district safety protocols, Lourdes Morales-Figueroa, principal of Pershing, says a culture of safety is so much more than having systems in place.

“Safety is a feeling of love, respect and value. But it’s also the place that a student can go here and know nothing’s going to happen to them, especially when you have newcomers that have been traveling through the jungle for three or four months,” she said.

Integral to the continued culture of excellence is buy-in from parents.

“A parent’s presence is essential. By our-

selves, we cannot do it,” Morales-Figueroa said. “Their input, efforts and involvement is key.”

Parents do their best to make it to conferences. And when the school hosts events, parents fill the hallways, Gonzalez said.

“We need to welcome everyone in the school, and parents are included in that,” he said.

Rivera agreed.

“Parents want to come here. They feel seen. We know their names and their circumstances,” she said.

Her advice for teachers as they strive for their own model of excellence in their schools is to keep the joy in teaching.

“The teachers here have their own personality and are great at bringing that to their students. When I come to work, I enjoy it,” she said. “Teaching can be hard sometimes, but really find what about it brings you joy, and embrace that.”



## 2024 Texas Elections

# Here's how to vote by mail in Texas for the November 2024 election

*The deadline to apply for a mail-in ballot is Oct. 25. The deadline for mail-in ballots to be returned or postmarked is Nov. 5 unless it is from an overseas voter.*

By Mikayla Higgins, Texas Tribune

The Nov. 5 election is quickly approaching, and Texans will have the opportunity to vote for several federal, state and local officials, including president.

The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit and nonpartisan news organization, is dedicated to helping Texans navigate the intricacies that may come with voting by mail or voting as a student or as a Texan with disabilities. This year, we've created a series of guides in addition to our comprehensive voter guide; this is our guide for voting by mail.

To vote by mail, Texans need to meet specific eligibility requirements. Mail-in voting can also be challenging due to various identification requirements and potential delays. Here's an overview of how to apply for and submit your mail-in ballot before the Oct. 25 deadline and how to handle any issues in the process.

## Key dates

- Election Day: Nov. 5, 2024
- Last day to register to vote: Oct. 7, 2024
- First day of early voting by personal appearance: Oct. 21, Last day of early voting by personal appearance: Nov. 1, 2024
- Last day to apply for ballot by mail: Oct. 25, 2024
- Last day to for a county to receive a mailed ballot: Nov. 5, 2024 (Election Day) or Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024 if postmarked (see more details explanation below in the section on deadlines).

## Who can register to vote by mail?

Texans who meet one of the following requirements can request to vote by mail:

- You will be 65 years or older by Election Day.
- You cite a sickness or disability that prevents you from voting in person without needing personal assistance or without the likelihood of injuring your health.
- You will not be in your county for the entire election period, including early voting.
- You are expected to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day.
- You are confined in jail but otherwise eligible (i.e., not convicted of a felony).

Note that the Texas Election Code's definition of disability is broader than other federal definitions. It's up to the voter to decide whether they have an illness or physical condition that prevents them from voting in person without assistance, and election officials don't have the authority to question a voter's reasoning.

College students registered at a residence in Texas, such as a parent's home, but studying out of state can apply for absentee ballots, but they must request a mail-in ballot ahead of every election for which they will be absent from the state. Students from other states who are studying in Texas can also choose to register to vote in Texas using their dorm or Texas address.

If you are voting absentee, such as from out of state or overseas, and want to see what will appear on your ballot, you can get a sample ballot from your county. In most cases, sample ballots can be found on your county's election website, and you can request your ballot on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website.

## What identification do I need to vote by mail?

To vote by mail, you must provide one of the following numbers on your ballot by mail application and your mail ballot carrier envelope.

- A driver's license number
- A Texas personal identification

number

- Texas election ID certificate number (issued by DPS; different from the number found on your voter registration certificate)
- The last four digits of your Social Security number

Voters who don't have any of those can also check a box indicating they have not been issued qualifying identification. The requirement for voters to provide an ID number was added by the Texas Legislature in 2021, and some voters have since had their ballots or applications rejected because they didn't provide an ID number or the number they provided did not match the one the state had for the voter. The League of Women Voters of Texas told The Texas Tribune that it's best to note your preferred identification and the last four digits of your social security number on the application to ensure ease of application processing.

If you need help, you can ask someone you trust to help you fill out or mail the form. The person who assists you must write their name and address next to your signature and sign the application.

## How do you apply for mail-in voting?

To request an application to vote by mail, call your local or county office holding the election or fill out this form on the Texas Secretary of State's website. You can also download the English or Spanish language application. You can submit the application by mail, fax or email to your Early Voting Clerk. If you email or fax your application, you must also send the original hard copy of your application to the Early Voting Clerk. The clerk must receive the hard copy no later than the fourth business day after the application deadline if you email or fax it.

If you are voting early due to an expected absence, you may apply by mail or in person before the early voting period for that election begins; this year, the early voting period for the general election starts Oct. 21.

If you are voting by mail because you are disabled or 65 or older, you may use a single application to request ballots for all county elections in the calendar year. To do so, mark "Annual Application" on your application for a ballot by mail when selecting the election for which you are applying.

Early Voting Clerks in each county are responsible for obtaining your Application for a Ballot by Mail (ABBM) and your mail-in ballot. Remember to address your application to the Early Voting Clerk and ensure your signature is on the outside of the ballot. Applications mailed to an address other than the early voting clerk may be rejected. You can send your application as early as 60 days before the election, and it is best to do it as soon as possible. Vote-by-mail ballots are sent out between 30 and 45 days before an election or seven days after the county election office receives an application.

## How do I request a ballot from overseas?

U.S. citizens living abroad, including military and non-military voters, can request to vote by mail by submitting a regular state Application for Ballot by Mail (ABBM) or the Federal Voting Assistance Program by submitting a Federal Postcard Application (FPCA). Texas has no preference for which application you use, but the ABBM requires a voter to be previously registered to vote and there may be mailing delays from overseas. The Travis County Elections Office says FPCA voters are prioritized to ensure timely delivery due to their unique circumstances, potentially resulting in fewer delays than ABBM processing.

For the FPCA process, you'll have to fill out the FPCA application online,

print it and mail it. The FPCA acts as both a registration and absentee ballot request form, so voters not previously registered can submit it by the FPCA ballot request deadline of Oct. 25 to receive a ballot for federal offices. The law requires absentee ballots to be sent to voters at least 45 days before a federal election.

Registration deadlines impact the type of ballot an FPCA voter will receive. Anyone who selects "return is uncertain" on the ballot request will automatically receive a ballot with federal races only if they reside in a jurisdiction with a federal race.

Voters who submit an FPCA and are already registered or register between 20-30 days before Election Day will receive the full ballot. If an FPCA voter registers 11-19 days before Election Day, they receive a federal ballot only.

Your FPCA ballot can be tracked on the Texas Secretary of State's website.

## What deadlines should I be aware of?

The deadline to apply for a mail-in ballot is Oct. 25, and the application must be received by that date — not just postmarked by that date.

The deadline for mail-in ballots to be returned to a county is Election Day, Nov. 5. If a ballot is postmarked by 7 p.m. locally that day, it'll be counted if the county receives it by 5 p.m. on Nov. 6.

Absentee ballots can also be delivered to the county elections office in person with a valid ID while polls are open on Election Day.

Completed ballots from military or overseas voters are generally accepted and counted if they're received by Nov. 12 and are postmarked by the 7 p.m. deadline on Election Day. (Read more here about the different ballot request and return process for military and overseas voters.)

## Can I track my ballot?

The Texas Secretary of State has a Ballot by Mail Tracker available online. If you are worried about your ballot or have issues with the tracker, you can call your county election official to inquire. If you don't receive your ballot in time or run into issues, there may be other options for you to vote in person through a provisional ballot, curbside voting or an emergency ballot. Read more about these options below.

## What should I do when my mail-in ballot arrives?

When your ballot arrives, fill it out with a black or blue pen. Fill out the ovals completely — do not mark them with Xs, checks, or circles. Place your ballot in the ballot envelope and seal it. Place the ballot envelope in the carrier envelope, then fill out the carrier envelope with the following information:

- Your Texas driver's license or personal identification number and the last four digits of your Social Security number.
- Your phone number and/or email address in case there's an issue with your ballot.
- Seal the carrier envelope in both places, then sign over the flap.
- If an assistant helps you complete the ballot, they must fill out the required information in the space provided on the carrier envelope.
- If you cannot sign, your witness must fill out the required information in the space provided on the carrier envelope.

Return your ballot as soon as possible. Remember, your ballot must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day. You can return it using one of the following:

- Mail your ballot to the U.S. Postal Service. You can also return it using FedEx, UPS, or DHL.
- Hand deliver your ballot in per-

son to your county's Early Voting Clerk's office on Election Day while the polls are open. You must show a photo ID or another acceptable form of identification.

## What kind of postage do I need to return my mail-in ballot?

It depends on where you live. Postage for mail-in ballots will vary by county because the style and size of the ballot could be different from county to county — and some counties may pay postage for you. Local elections offices should have the specifics once ballots are finalized. That said, if you don't have enough postage, your ballot should not be returned to you. Instead, the Postal Service is supposed to deliver the ballot and bill the county for insufficient or missing postage. If mailing by the U.S. postal service, ensure you have enough stamps.

## Can you vote in person if you requested a mailed ballot?

The short answer is yes if you are in Texas and the county where you're registered to vote. The process will be more streamlined if you bring your mail-in ballot to your polling place so you can surrender it before casting your vote. You can still cast a provisional ballot if you don't have it or never received it. Your vote will be counted once the county determines it never received your mail-in ballot. So if you decide to vote in person, bring your ballot and photo ID.

Voters looking to vote by mail because of a sickness or disability may also qualify to vote through curbside voting or an emergency ballot.

To request an emergency ballot, you must designate a representative to submit an application in person on your behalf and have a certified doctor's note. Your county's Early Voting Clerk must receive the application before 5 p.m. on Election Day, and your ballot must be returned by the same designated representative before 7 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.

## How to address issues with your mail-in voting application or ballot

Texas allows voters to correct their mail-in ballots if the ballots are at risk of being rejected for a technical error, including missing information or signatures. This also applies to issues with applications to vote by mail. County officials are responsible for alerting voters if there is a defect with their application or ballot carrier envelope and how to fix it.

If your mail-in ballot is rejected, you have a six-day window after the election to fix the issue. This year, that deadline is Nov. 12. If there is an issue with your mail-in ballot application, it must be corrected by the application deadline of Oct. 25.

You may correct certain application defects online through the state's ballot tracker or address issues with your application or ballot carrier envelope by visiting your Early Voting Clerk's office.

## Here are additional resources:

- The application to vote by mail from the Texas Secretary of State's website, including a PDF of the application and a Spanish version
- Election dates from the Texas Secretary of State
- Information about military and overseas voting
- Information about ID Requirements for voting by mail
- Additional voting my mail instructions from the state
- Information from the League of Women Voters Texas

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