



VOTER RIGHTS & EDUCATION GUIDE

ELECTION DAY: November 7, 2017

POLLS OPEN: 7am to 7pm

This Voters Guide is intended for the sole purpose of educating the community. The goal is to encourage informed and active engagement in government. CAIR-Austin is a non-partisan organization and does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

WHAT IS CAIR?

CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

La misión de CAIR es mejorar la comprensión del Islam, fomentar el diálogo, proteger las libertades civiles, capacitar a los musulmanes estadounidenses, y construir coaliciones que promuevan la justicia y la comprensión mutua.

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Amendment 15(1)

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Amendment 19(1)

The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of age.

Amendment 19(1)

AM I ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

You are eligible to register to vote if:

- You are a U.S Citizen;
- You are a resident of a Texas County;
- You are at least 17 years and 10 months old;
- You are not a convicted felon, or, if convicted, you were pardoned or your sentence was fully discharged, including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, or probation; and
- You were not declared by a court to be either totally or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote

AM I REGISTERED?

In order to verify if you are already registered to vote visit the Texas Secretary of State's website:

Am I Registered?

<https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do>

This website, along with www.VoteTexas.gov allows you to find out the following:

- Voter Registration Status
- Poll Location
- Early Voting Location
- Registration Information
- Key Election Dates

Note: You must register to vote at least 30 days before the election date.

HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

- In person at the voter registration office in your county, or
- Fill out an application that can be mailed (or faxed with follow-up by mail) or returned in person to the voter registrar in your county of residence.
- Application forms are available at libraries, government offices and high schools.
- The application is also available online at www.VoteTexas.gov. You are not registered by online application until you have filled it out, printed it, and mailed it to your local County Voter Registrar.

After you apply, a voter registration certificate will be mailed to you within 30 days. This certificate includes your precinct for voting on Election Day as well as your congressional, state legislative, county, and local districts.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING ON ELECTION DAY?

The following forms of identification are acceptable under Texas Law:

- Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS
- United States military identification card containing the person's photograph
- United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- United States passport

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 4 years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place.

Voters who DO NOT possess an acceptable form of photo identification and cannot obtain one of the forms of acceptable photo identification due to a reasonable impediment, may present a supporting form of identification and execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration, noting the reasonable impediment to obtaining an acceptable form of photo identification, and stating that the voter is the same person on the presented supporting form of identification.

Here is a list of the supporting forms of ID that can be presented if the voter does not possess one of the forms of acceptable photo ID and cannot obtain one due to a reasonable impediment:

- Valid voter registration certificate
- Certified birth certificate (must be an original)
- Copy of or original current utility bill
- Copy of or original bank statement
- Copy of or original government check
- Copy of or original paycheck
- Copy of or original government document with your name and an address (original required if it contains a photograph)

WHERE DO I VOTE?

On Election day, you must vote at the voting precinct assigned to you unless your area is participating in countywide vote centers. Your residence is located in a specific "precinct" or area within the county where you will vote on Election Day. In some cases, precincts may be combined to accommodate joint local elections.

Check your local newspaper on the Saturday before the election for the address of the polling place for your precinct and, on election day, arrive there between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. to cast your ballot.

Your precinct is listed on your registration card, or you may find out where to vote by calling or going online at www.VoteTexas.gov.

WHAT HAPPENS ON ELECTION DAY?

- 1) When you arrive at the polling place, you will be asked for one of seven acceptable forms of Photo Identification (See Above: What Do I need to Bring on Election Day?)
- 2) Depending on the type of election, Texas voters are provided one of the following:
 - a. A paper ballot on which you select your choices and which is counted by hand
 - b. A paper ballot on which you select your choice by darkening an oval, completing an arrow or making a marking with the aid of a voting machine
 - c. A paper with a numerical access code (or in some counties a ballot activator card). In the voting booth, enter the code or card and follow the on-screen instructions.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Secretary of State
www.sos.state.tx.us

Republican Party
www.texasgop.org

Democratic Party
www.txdemocrats.org

Libertarian Party
www.lptexas.org

Green Party
www.txgreens.org

www.VOTE411.org
www.VoteTexas.gov

League of Women Voters (Texas) www.lwvtexas.org **League of Women Voters** www.lwv.org
League of Women Voters Guides lwvaustin.org/voter-guide/

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS A VOTER

As a registered voter in Texas, you have the right to:

- A ballot with written instructions on how to cast a ballot.
- Inspect a sample ballot with written instructions
- Ask for a demonstration of the voting machine
- **BRING WRITTEN MATERIALS LIKE THIS VOTERS GUIDE INTO THE VOTING BOOTH TO ASSIST YOU IN CASTING YOUR BALLOT.**
- Ask the polling place official for instructions on how to cast a ballot (but not suggestions on how to vote).
- **CAST YOUR VOTE IN SECRET AND FREE FROM INTIMIDATION.**
- Receive up to two more ballots if you make a mistake while marking the ballot.
- **BRING AN INTERPRETER TO ASSIST YOU AS YOU QUALIFY TO VOTE IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.**
- Help to cast your ballot if you cannot write, see the ballot, or understand the language in which it is written.
- **VOTE IF YOU ARE IN LINE BY THE TIME THE POLLS CLOSE.**

- Report a possible voting rights abuse to the Secretary of State (1.800.252.8683) or to your local election official.
- Cast a provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the list of registered voters.
- File an administrative complaint with the Secretary of State concerning violations of federal and state voting procedures.

REPORT POSSIBLE VOTER INTIMIDATION OR DISCRIMINATION TO CAIR-AUSTIN AT:
WWW.CAIRAUSTIN.ORG

IF YOU REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE CONTACT CAIR-AUSTIN AT:
(512) 640-9421

WHY SHOULD I VOTE?

Voting is one of our basic civic duties. It is an important exercise of our rights that should not be taken for granted. Voting provides American citizens the opportunity to voice their opinions on important issues and officials that affect their lives and the lives of their fellow Americans.

Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd President of the United States

Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it

Thomas Paine, Political Philosopher



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