Get Informed About Voting!

√ Step 1: Register to Vote

Step 2: Get Informed About Voting

Resources:

County Election Websites: These are websites where people can check their voter registration status, print a sample ballot and find polling locations, dates and times. The printed sample ballot can be filled out at home after a voter has completed their research on the candidates, and can be taken into the voting booth to help remember their choices.

- Grimes County: [http://www.co.grimes.tx.us/page/Elections](http://www.co.grimes.tx.us/page/Elections)
- Harris County: [https://harrisvotes.com/](https://harrisvotes.com/)
- Montgomery County: [www.montgomeryvotes.org](http://www.montgomeryvotes.org)
- Waller County: [http://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/Front%20Page](http://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/Front%20Page)

Websites w/ Non-Partisan Information on Elections: These are websites that provided voter guide information that is not in favor of any particular candidate.

- Houston Chronicle: [https://houstonchronicle.com](https://houstonchronicle.com)
- League of Women Voters: [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)
- Texas Tribune: [https://www.texastribune.org](https://www.texastribune.org)

Political Party Websites: These are sites for specific political parties. If you are interested in which candidates are endorsed by each party, these websites can be particularly helpful. Also, if you are interested in party platforms, you can find that information here.

- Republican Party of Texas: [https://www.texasgop.org/](https://www.texasgop.org/)
- Tea Party (no Texas specific website): [https://www.teaparty.org/](https://www.teaparty.org/)
- Texas Democrats: [https://votes.txdemocrats.org](https://votes.txdemocrats.org)

1. Register* and vote in EVERY election, March primaries (and runoffs) are particularly important in Montgomery County because for most local partisan offices the primary IS THE ELECTION, several cities elect City Councils in May...

2. Download YOUR sample ballot*, not the overall general county ballot but YOUR SAMPLE BALLOT for the races you are eligible to vote in.

3. Do your homework – make up your OWN mind, there is a lot of misinformation out there and biased handouts at polling locations. Read election summaries published in local papers, go to candidate forums, talk to people you know and trust...

4. Complete YOUR sample ballot and take it with you into the voting booth, in Texas you may do this; it is YOUR ELECTION GUIDE not somebody else’s, and you are able to vote in less time.

5. Vote a COMPLETE ballot, under voting (not voting in every race/ballot item on your ballot) is a major issue in Montgomery County. Races are sometimes won or lost by MARGINS LESS THAN THE NUMBER OF UNDER VOTES – like the 2016 Woodlands Township Board and 2017 Shenandoah City Council elections.

6. Encourage your network to vote, do your part to increase voter turnout. Important local races and bond issues are often decided by LOW SINGLE DIGIT TURNOUT PERCENTAGES – a small number of voters sometimes decide races that impact everyone.
Step 3: Vote

By Mail
- Texas voters may only vote by mail if they:
  - Will be away from their county on Election Day & during early voting;
  - Are sick or disabled;
  - Are 65+ years old on Election Day; or
  - Are confined in jail but eligible to vote.
- Application for a Ballot by Mail: https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/reqabbm.shtml
- Application Deadline: Received no later than 7 p.m. February 21, 2020
- Ballot Deadline: Received no later than 7 p.m. March 3, 2020
- NOTE: If you decide to vote in person after you receive your ballot by mail, you must bring your ballot with you to your polling place, or else they won’t let you vote in person.

Early In-person
- February 18th 2020 – February 28th 2020

Election Day
- March 3, 2020 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- NOTE: If you are in line by the closing time then you will be allowed to vote.

As a registered voter in Texas, you have the right to:
- A ballot w/ written instructions on how to cast a ballot.
- Cast your vote in secret and free from intimidation.
- Bring an interpreter to assist you as you qualify to vote if you do not understand the English language.
- Report a possible voting rights abuse to the Secretary of State (1.800.252.8683) or to your local election official.
- File an administrative complaint with the Secretary of State concerning violations of federal and state voting procedures.
- Cast a provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the list of registered voters.
  - Cast a provisional ballot (a) if you do not possess one of the seven (7) acceptable forms of photo identification, which, if you are under 70, is not expired for more than four years, and you can reasonably obtain one of these forms of identification or (b) if you possess, but did not bring to the polling place, one of the seven forms of acceptable photo identification, which, if you are under 70, is not expired for more than four years, or (c) if you do not possess one of the seven forms of acceptable photo identification, which, if you are under 70, is not expired for more than four years, you could otherwise not reasonably obtain one, but you did not bring a supporting form of identification to the polling place, and (2) the right to present one of the acceptable forms of photo identification, which, if you are under 70, is not expired for more than four years, or, if you do not possess and cannot reasonably obtain an acceptable form of photo identification, the right to execute a reasonable impediment declaration and present one of the supporting forms of identification, to the county voter registrar’s office, within six (6) calendar days after election day, or, if applicable, qualify for a temporary (natural disaster or religious objection to being photographed) or permanent (disability) exemption, within six (6) calendar days of election day, at the county voter registrar’s office.
- Ask the polling place official for instructions on how to cast a ballot (but not suggestions on how to vote).
- Receive up to two more ballots if you make a mistake while marking the ballot.
- Help to cast your ballot if you cannot write, see the ballot, or understand the language in which it is written.
- Vote once at any early voting location during the early voting period within the territory conducting the election.