

# The State of Texas



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## Secretary of State

Dear Voter:

Thank you for choosing to participate in this election by 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. 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. Before your ballot is counted, the signature on your mail-in ballot application will be compared with the signature on your carrier envelope to verify that both signatures were executed by the same person, unless signed by a witness.
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 name, address, and signature on the carrier envelope.
3. **Mail your own ballot:** If you can't mail your own ballot, give your ballot to a family member or trusted friend to mail for you. Do not accept offers from strangers to mail your ballot.
4. **Don't wait until the last minute:** It takes time for the Post Office to deliver your ballot. Unless an exception applies, a ballot postmarked by Election Day (Tuesday, November 2, 2021) must be received by the early voting clerk no later than **5:00 pm on Wednesday, November 3, 2021**. If there is no postmark, the early voting clerk must receive these ballots by **7:00 pm on Election Day**.

**Exceptions:** Ballots sent by **non-military and any military voters** casting ballots from **outside of the United States**, who submitted a regular state application for a ballot by mail (not a Federal Post Card Application) **AND** whose ballots are postmarked by 7:00 pm on Election Day must be received by the early voting clerk no later than **Monday, November 8, 2021**. Ballots submitted by military voters and their dependents who submitted a Federal Post Card Application must be received by the early voting clerk no later than **Monday, November 8, 2021**; **no postmark** is necessary on this category of ballots.

**NOTE:** You may have received ballots and balloting materials from more than one political subdivision. If so, please be very sure to check the name of the election on the top of the ballot before you seal it in the ballot secrecy envelope, and match it to the name of the election that appears on the bottom, right side of the back of the carrier envelope, to make sure that you are returning each ballot in the correct carrier envelope for that ballot. This will ensure that each ballot is delivered to the proper early voting clerk. **DO NOT** put more than one ballot in the carrier envelope.

**If anyone attempts to pressure or intimidate you, we urge you to report this to your county election office, your district attorney, or our office at 1-800-252-VOTE (8683).**

Early voting in person begins October 18, 2021 and continues through October 29, 2021. Election Day is November 2, 2021. You may contact your county election office for the locations and hours of operation for your early voting sites. 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.