



Bruce Elfant, Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar

News Release

Communications Division

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VOTER REGISTRAR GEARS UP TO REVIEW PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

Austin, TX – Today, District Judge Lora Livingston granted an order to extend voting hours until 9 p.m. Pursuant to Texas election laws, ballots cast by individuals who arrive at the polling place after 7 p.m. will be voted as a provisional ballot. In anticipation of what could be an unprecedented number of provisional ballots, the office of the Voter Registrar is gearing up to review and make a final recommendation to the Ballot Board regarding whether or not the voter is qualified.

Travis County Voter Registrar Bruce Elfant said, “We are committed to processing provisional ballots quickly, accurately and well within the time requirements specified by the Texas Election Code. Trained staff across multiple departments will be dedicated to complete this huge task.”

For information about the role of the Voter Registrar in the provisional voting process, see the enclosed fact sheet.



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The Role of the Voter Registrar in Provisional Voting

The Voter Registration Division of the Travis County Tax Office adheres to clearly defined, standard procedures to process and maintain voter records. The procedures are based on state and federal laws. The following describes the process of reviewing provisional affidavits.

- 1) A provisional ballot is used when someone is not listed on the voter roll or does not present the legally acceptable identification, and the voter indicates that they meet all qualifications for voting.
- 2) Provisional ballots are sent to the Voter Registrar to examine, determine the voter's registration status and to make a final recommendation whether or not the voter is qualified to vote.
- 3) The voter registrar has up to three days to make a final recommendation and complete each provisional ballot affidavit unless the provisional ballot was cast by a person who did not provide a legally acceptable identification.
- 4) The Voter Registrar has up to seven days to make a final recommendation and complete the provisional ballot affidavit if the ballot was cast by a person who did not provide a legally acceptable identification. The voter has six days to cure their ballot and to do so, must appear in person at the Voter Registrar's office with legally acceptable identification.
- 5) The provisional ballot affidavit serves as a voter registration application. The voter registrar enters the voter information into the registration database using the Election Date as the effective date of registration.
- 6) As provisional ballots are examined and a final recommendation made, the Voter Registrar forwards all documents daily to the County Clerk Elections Division who in turn, convenes the Early Voting Ballot Board.
- 7) The Early Voting Ballot Board convenes to review each affidavit and approve or reject each provisional ballot. Not later than the 10th day after the local canvass, the Early Voting Ballot Board presiding judge shall deliver written notice regarding whether the provisional ballot was counted and if not counted, the reason the ballot was not counted.

The **Travis County Tax Office** is responsible for collecting over \$2.7 billion in local property taxes for 111 jurisdictions, registering and titling over 800,000 vehicles, registering over 600,000 voters, supporting elections for 201 entities and collecting \$4 million in court fines and fees for the JP and County Courts at Law. The Tax Office operates five locations in Travis County.