



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

News Release

Communications Division

5501 Airport Blvd • 4705 Heflin Ln • 15822 Foothill Farms Loop • 4011 McKinney Falls Pkwy • 8656 Hwy 71

Media Inquiries: Tiffany Seward | (512) 854-9706 | tiffany.seward@traviscountytexas.gov

Public Inquiries: Travis County Tax Office | (512) 854-9473 | tax_office@traviscountytexas.gov | www.traviscountytax.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Travis County plans to break voter registration record, asking community to register voters in September

AUSTIN – Travis County is about to reach an all-time high for voter registration and is asking the community to help meet its target by participating in voter registration activities in September as part of Voter Registration Month.

The county needs to register some 15,000 voters in September to reach its yearlong goal of registering 90 percent of the county's eligible voters, a record. Currently, the county has almost 700,000 registered voters but needs to reach 715,495 to meet its goal.

Bruce Elfant, the Travis County voter registrar and tax assessor-collector, began the Great Travis County Voter Registration Challenge last September and at the time needed to add 100,000 people to the county's voter registration roll. "With our current success and the community's help this September, it is possible we can register more than 90 percent of the county's eligible voters," Elfant said.

Elfant is hoping that a record number of voter registrations will lead to a record-breaking voter turnout for the Nov. 8 Presidential Election. Texas is a dismal 49th in voter turnout among the nation's 50 states.

"Texas prides itself in being bigger at everything, but it is small when it comes to casting ballots to elect our leaders and deciding about ballot initiatives, such as bonds that tax homeowners and changes in laws," Elfant said.

Elfant is asking businesses, schools, houses of worship and nonprofits to actively participate in Voter Registration Month. The tax office also is offering to train groups of 10 or more to become Volunteer Deputy Registrars, the state qualification needed to register voters. So far

this election cycle, Elfant and the tax office's Voter Registration Division have trained more than 3,000 Volunteer Deputy Registrars.

"We are also asking clergy and worship leaders, heads of nonprofit organizations, teachers and professors, business leaders, and others to speak out about the importance and responsibility of every citizen to register and vote," Elfant said.

Each week in September is designated for a particular group to register voters.

- Sept. 4-10, Community Week: Voter registration outreach by nonprofits, community centers and senior housing, and personal outreach among families, friends and neighbors.
- Sept. 11-17, Houses of Worship Week: Voter registration drives at churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and meeting houses before and after services and pastors, imams, rabbis and worship leaders deliver messages of civic responsibility to register and vote.
- Sept. 18-24, Civic Week: Voter registration drives at corporations, small businesses, food banks, public and private libraries, shelters and government offices.
- Sept. 25-30, Education Week: Voter registration drives and teacher presentations on responsibility to register and vote at public and private universities, colleges, vocational and trade schools, and high schools.

Any group needing assistance for a voter registration drive can email the tax office at TaxOffice@TravisCountyTX.gov.

Voter registration is nonpartisan. You do not declare a political party when you register in Texas and no one registering voters is permitted to ask your political affiliation. Oct. 11 is the voter registration cutoff for the Presidential Election.