



VOTE SMART

Jefferson County

Voting can be a confusing and intimidating experience for anyone, especially if you have never voted before. The Jefferson County Clerk and the Election Department hope that the information listed below will give a brief insight to how being a registered voter in Jefferson County, Texas works. For more information regarding the below information, contact any or all of the following three offices:

**Jefferson County
Elections Department**
7965 Viterbo Rd.
Beaumont, TX 77705
(409) 722-0346 (Phone)
(409) 721-6236 (Fax)
www.co.jefferson.tx.us/cclerk/election/electioninfo.htm

**Jefferson County
Voter Registration**
P.O. Box 2112
Beaumont, Texas 77704-2112
(409) 835-VOTE (8683) (Phone)
(409) 835-8589 (Fax)
www.co.jefferson.tx.us/voter/voter.htm

**Texas Secretary of State
Elections Division**
P.O. Box 12060
Austin, TX 78711-2060
(800) 252-8683 (Phone)
(512) 475-2811 (Fax)
www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/index.shtml

When are elections in Texas held?

- **Primary Elections** - 1st Tuesday in March in even-numbered years. You vote in either the Democratic or Republican Primary and you would vote for federal, state, and county officers.
- **Run-Off Elections** - 2nd Tuesday in April following the primary election in even-numbered years. You can only vote in one primary, and if you vote in that primary, you are entitled to vote in that party's runoff election. If you don't vote in either primary, you can still vote in the Primary Runoff election for whichever party you choose.
- **General Election** - 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November in even-numbered years. You would vote on federal, state, and county officers in this type of an election.
- **Constitutional Amendment Elections** - held on the General Election date in odd-numbered years.
- **Political Subdivision Elections** - There are two uniform election dates for political subdivision elections. They are:
 - 2nd Saturday in May;
 - and 1st Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

Who can vote in Texas?

- Any United States citizen residing in Texas who is:
- At least 18 years old on Election Day
 - Not a convicted felon (unless sentence, probation and/or parole are completed)
 - Not declared mentally incompetent by a court of law

How do I register to vote?

You may obtain an application from the Voter Registrar's office, the County Clerk's office, the Secretary of State's Office, libraries, many post offices, high schools, and on the website listed above. Read the instructions on the form, fill it out and mail it, postage-free, to the Voter Registrar, or hand deliver it to the Voter Registrar.

What is a voter registration certificate?

A voter registration certificate is proof that you are, in fact, a registered voter. Check your certificate to be sure all information is correct. When you go to the polls to vote, present your certificate as proof of registration.

Where do I vote?

Polling places are listed in local newspapers and on the County Clerk's website in the weeks before the election. Call the Voter Registrar, County Clerk, or political subdivision conducting the election to find your polling location.

What is Early Voting?

Early voting is a way to cast your ballot before Election Day either in person or by mail.

- **In person** - Contact the Jefferson County Elections Department for early voting dates, hours, and places.
- **By mail** - If you will be: (1) out of the county during early voting and on Election Day; (2) age 65 or older; (3) sick or disabled; or (4) confined to jail, call the clerk in charge of the particular election and ask him/her to send you an application for a ballot by mail. Or, you may request one from the Secretary of State's Office.

What are DREs and Optical Scan Paper Ballots?

A **Direct Recording Electronic Voting System (DRE)** is the voting machine that the voter votes on directly without a physical ballot. In Jefferson County we use the ES&S iVotronic, a touch-screen DRE.

An **Optical Scan Paper Ballot** is a physical paper ballot that is counted by an infrared or light sensitive reader. The scanner is located at the Central Counting Station in Mid-County.

Paper or plastic?

During Early Voting voters are encouraged to vote using DREs only, while on Election Day voters have the option of voting Optical Scan Paper Ballot or DRE.

What is the most important thing I need to know before I enter my polling location?

The most important piece of advice that the Jefferson County Clerk and Elections Department can give you before you cast your ballot is...

IF YOU NEED HELP ASK!!!

The poll workers are well-trained election officials and if they cannot answer your question, they can get in touch with someone who can.