

Early Voting – A Benefit for Seniors

A record number of voters will be going to the polls on Election Day, November 4, 2008. This is good for our country, but can present a problem for seniors or the disabled. With the possibility of long waits, eligible citizens are encouraged to consider voting early in person or by mail.

Any registered voter in Texas who is over 65 years of age, or who is disabled, may vote early in person or by mail. Call your County Clerk or County Elections Administrator, or the Secretary of State, for an Application to Vote by Mail, to check your voter registration information, to request information, or to report your application or ballot has not arrived in a timely manner. When you request documents, ask when they should arrive and mark your calendar; then call if the document has not arrived when expected. Remember: follow-up is your responsibility. You may request an application to vote by mail (especially if you will be away) from September 5th through October 28th for the November 4th election, but you may check your voter registration information any time to confirm it is current and correct. You may vote early in person from October 20th - October 31st in most counties.

The most common error when completing a vote by mail application is using an invalid mailing address. The general rule is that the ballot must be mailed to the same address where you are registered to vote. However, if you are 65 or older or have a physical disability, you may have your ballot sent to a hospital, nursing home, long-term care facility, retirement center, or relative, but you must check the blank on the form indicating which address you are providing.

The Secretary of State's Web site (www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/earlyvoting.shtml) should address most questions. The Secretary of State may be reached by mail at Elections Division, P.O. Box 12060, Austin, Texas 78711-2060, or toll-free at 1-800-252-8683.

Early Voting by Mail-

You may vote early by mail if you are:

- going to be away from your county on Election Day and during early voting;
- sick or disabled;
- 65 years of age or older on Election Day; or
- confined in jail, but eligible to vote.

You may obtain an application to vote by mail from the early voting clerk in your county or from the Secretary of State's Web site. If you are voting early by mail, you must send your completed application by regular mail or FAX. Early voting clerk's addresses and FAX numbers are available from the Secretary of State. Send your application as soon as possible. This will give you plenty of time to receive your ballot, mark it and mail it back to the early voting clerk or resolve any problems. The earliest date you may send your application is September 5th.

The early voting clerk must receive your completed ballot by 7 p.m. on **Election Day, November 4, 2008**. If you are mailing your ballot from outside the United States, the early voting clerk must receive your ballot by the fifth day after Election Day. (You must mail it no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day.)

If you need additional information or would like to request a *Voters Guide*, feel free to contact the League of Women Voters in your area. The League is a nonpartisan

**organization of volunteers that neither opposes nor endorses candidates or political parties,
but encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government.**

LWV-Texas	512-472-1100	www.lwvtexas.org
Amarillo	806-372-5438	
Arlington	817-472-5982	www.lvwarlington-tx.org
Austin Area	512-451-6710	www.lwvaustin.org
Bay Area	281-474-3154	
Brazos County	979-693-2303	
Comal Area	830-620-0080	
Corpus Christi Area	361-880-6501	www.lwv-cc.org
Dallas	214-688-4125	www.lwvdallas.org
Denton	940-387-1016	www.lwvdenton.org
El Paso	915-740-7826	lwvpe@lwvpe.org
Gainesville	940-665-2006	
Galveston Area	409-763-5385	
Houston	713-784-2923	www.lwvhouston.org
Irving	972-255-1881	
Kerrville Area	830-367-6072	
Lubbock County	806-744-0023	www.lwvlubbock.org
Marshall/Harrison County	903-938-5504	
Midland	432-682-1848	
Montgomery County	281-298-8089	
Plano/Collin County	972-491-6107	www.lwvcollin.org
Richardson	972-470-0584	www.lwvrichardson.org
San Antonio Area	210-657-2206	www.lwvsa.org
San Marcos Area	512-396-0961	cbelver@austin.rr.com
Sherman/Grayson County	903-815-1787	
Tarrant County	817-348-8683	www.lwvtarrantcounty.org
Tyler/Smith County	903-597-9111	www.lwvt Tyler.org
Victoria		lwvvic@550access.com
Waco Area		all439@sbcglobal.net
Wichita Falls	940-767-0129	

National LWV web-site for election information www.vote411.org