**Vote and Be Counted**

We all know that it our civic duty to vote, but voting can slip to the bottom of the list in our busy lives, especially in the year of Covid-19 when some voting dates changed. Therefore, the HAC-NAPNAP Board is providing the revised voting dates and resources to make informed voting easier.

**Primary Runoff – July 14, 2020 and Early Voting June 29 – July 10**

March 3rd was the primary election when voters in each political party select their candidates to face-off in November’s state and federal election. However, hotly contested seats often require a runoff to select the party’s candidate. This Runoff Election would ordinarily have occurred in May but, due to the Covid-19 shutdown, Governor Abbott delayed the Runoff Election date to July 14th.

Your voting options in runoffs are limited. If you voted in the Primary Election. You must stick with the same political party. For example, if you voted in the Republican Primary, you must vote in the Republican Party’s runoff. However, if you failed to vote in the Primary Election, you may vote in either party’s runoff: Democratic or Republican.

The Runoff Election is your opportunity to select the candidate for your party who most closely aligns with your political views. Please vote early, by mail, or on July 14th.

**General Election – November 3, 2020 and Early Voting October 19 – October 30**

In 2020, the General Election includes the Presidential election and one Texas Senate seat. This year, local elections have also moved to November 3rd.

**Voter Basics**

 **Registering to Vote**

You must be registered 30 days prior to voting in an election. If you are new to Texas, complete a voter registration application and mail it at least 30 days before the election date. If you moved within Texas, and now live in a different county, you need to register in the new county. If you moved within the same county, update your registration online through the votetexas.gov website, or through your Voter Registrar’s website (See Resources for more details and Houston area registrars).

 **Voting by Mail**

If you will be out of the county during early voting and on Election Day, voting by mail is an option, but the voter must apply to receive a mail-in ballot. Other voters eligible to vote by mail include those 65 and over, and sick or disabled persons. There are deadlines to apply for a mail-in ballot and for the completed ballot to be received by the early voting clerk in your county. A FAQ at <https://www.votetexas.gov/faq/index.html> explains the process with specific deadline dates.

**Resources**

*Votetexas.gov* provides general information to Texas voters. It contains all the basic information you need and the “Register to Vote” tab explains acceptable methods to register in a new county or change addresses in the same county.

“Am I Registered?” is a feature of votetexas.gov. It allows you to find your voter registration information, including the county and precinct in which you are currently registered. You also may change your address. Access *Am I Registered* at <https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do>

In Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston and Harris counties, the registrar is the county clerk. In Fort Bend, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller Counties the Voter Registrar is a designated Elections Administrator. The best source of information for each Houston area county’s election (including registration, polling places, elections calendar, and sample ballots) is listed here.

Brazoria - <https://www.brazoriacountyclerk.net/>

Chambers - <https://www.co.chambers.tx.us/page/elections>

Fort Bend - <https://www.fortbendcountytx.gov/government/departments/county-services/elections-voter-registration>

Galveston - <https://www.galvestonvotes.org/>

Harris - <https://www.harrisvotes.com/>

Liberty - <https://www.co.liberty.tx.us/page/liberty.Elections>

Montgomery - <https://elections.mctx.org/>

Waller - <https://www.co.waller.tx.us/page/Front%20Page>

The League of Women Voters (LWV) may be accessed at<https://my.lwv.org/texas>. A LWV Candidate Guide specific to your location may be accessed at <https://www.vote411.org/>. The LWV “Vote by Mail” webpage (<https://my.lwv.org/texas/vote-mail>) is also helpful for those applying to vote by mail, including a video on the process.

**Be an Informed Voter**

 **Previewing a Sample Ballot**

You must know your precinct number in order to obtain an accurate sample ballot. Your precinct number is on the voter registration card. You can also find your precinct number if you look at your own voter registration information via the “Am I Registered” page on the votetexas.gov website.

 **Candidate Information**

In addition to all those candidate fliers you receive by mail, most candidates have a website. Obviously such information is not unbiased,but they will help you know their positions. If the candidate you are researching responded to the League of Women Voters’ questionnaire, the information in the LWV Candidate Guide offers additional insight.