

Early Voting by Mail (ABBM and FPCA)



Resources

- **Elections Forms Index**

<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/pol-sub/index.shtml#photo-id>

- **Conducting Your Elections Page**

<https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/laws/local-laws.shtml>

- **Texas Election Code**

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/>



TOPICS COVERED

1. Eligibility to Vote by Mail
2. Methods of Submitting an ABBM
3. Reviewing ABBMs
4. Accepting and Rejecting ABBMs



ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE BY MAIL



Eligibility to Vote by Mail

- **A qualified voter may vote by mail if the voter:**
 - Will be 65 or older on Election Day (Annual or Regular ABBM)
 - Has a Disability (Annual or Regular ABBM)
 - Is Expecting to Give Birth Within Three Weeks Before or After Election Day (Regular ABBM) **(New Law)**
 - Is Civilly Committed Under Chapter 841, Health and Safety Code (Regular ABBM) **(New Law)**
 - Expects to be Absent from County during Early Voting and on Election Day (Regular ABBM)
 - Is Confined in Jail (Regular ABBM)
 - Is in the Attorney General Address Confidentiality Program (Regular ABBM)
 - Is Military or Dependent of Military & Outside of Home Texas County (FPCA)
 - Is Temporarily Living Outside the United States (FPCA)
 - Is Living Outside the United States and the Voter has Indicated their Intent to Return is Uncertain (FPCA)
 - Is a member of the National Guard or Dependent (FPCA) **(New Law)**

Chapters 82 and 101, Texas Election Code



Annual ABBM

- Certain voters may submit a single Annual ABBM and receive ballots for all elections held by all entities in which the voter is eligible to vote in that calendar year.
- **Eligible Voters:**
 - **ONLY** for Voters 65+ or with Disability
 - Applicant must **indicate** they want the ABBM to be an Annual ABBM (not automatic) OR applicant does not specify the election for which a ballot is requested
 - Voters applying for reason of absence from county do not qualify for Annual ABBM.
- Submitted to the early voting clerk of **ANY** political subdivision, not just to the county early voting clerk. Sec. 86.0015.



Annual ABBM

A qualified voter is eligible for early voting by mail if the voter has a sickness or physical condition that prevents the voter from appearing at the polling place on election day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or of injuring the voter's health.

Section 82.002(a)(1), Texas Election Code



Eligibility to Vote by Mail

NEW LAW: House Bill 3920 (2021)

- A qualified voter may vote by mail if the voter is expecting to give birth within three weeks before or after election day. However, voters in this category are not eligible to submit an Annual ABBM.

Section 82.002(a)(2), Texas Election Code



Eligibility to Vote by Mail

NEW LAW: House Bill 3107 (2021)

- Created a new category of eligibility for voting by mail for voters who have been civilly committed under Chapter 841 of the Health and Safety Code.

Section 82.008, Texas Election Code



Eligibility to Vote by Mail

NEW LAW: House Bill 3107 (2021)

- Expanded FPCA eligibility to a member of the Texas National Guard or the National Guard of another state or a member of the reserves serving on active duty, and includes their spouse or dependents.

Section 101.001, Texas Election Code



Eligibility to Vote by Mail

NEW LAW: House Bill 3920 (2021)

- The following do not constitute sufficient cause to entitle a voter to vote by mail under the disability category:
 - (1) a lack of transportation;
 - (2) a sickness that does not prevent the voter from appearing at the polling place on election day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or of injuring the voter's health; or
 - (3) a requirement to appear at the voter's place of employment on election day.

Section 82.002(b), Texas Election Code



Type	Who Can Use?	Application Delivery	Filing Period	Expiration Date	Ballots Received
Regular ABBM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65+ on Eday Disability Expected to Give Birth Within Three Weeks Before or After Eday Absent from County Confined in Jail Civilly Committed under Chapter 841, Health and Safety Code Address Confidentiality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In person by voter not later than the 11th day before Eday Regular Mail Common or Contract Carrier Fax Email (signed, scanned attachment) 	January 1 of calendar year through 11 th day before election day for which ballot is requested.	Good for one election only (plus runoff if requested). Expires after the election for which ballot was requested. OR Voter cancels ABBM.	Ballot(s) for election(s) held by early voting clerk to whom application submitted (and runoff ballot, if requested).
Annual ABBM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65+ on Eday Disability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as Regular ABBM 	January 1 of calendar year*+ *On or before 11 th day before Eday, to receive ballot for that election +Up to 60 days before election held in January or February.	December 31 OR Until: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voter cancels ABBM Registration cancelled Voter registers in a new county 	All ballots for all elections held by all political subdivisions in the year in which submitted.+
FPCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Military Voter Outside Home Texas County (or Dependent) National Guard (or Dependent) U.S. Citizen Overseas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In person by voter not later than the 11th day before Eday Regular Mail Common or Contract Carrier Fax Email (signed, scanned attachment) 	January 1 of calendar year*+ *If registered, on or before 11 th day before Eday, to receive ballot for that election. If not registered but eligible to register, not later than 20 th day before Eday. +Up to 60 days before election held in January or February.	Same as Annual ABBM	All ballots for all elections held by the county, city, or school district, in the year in which submitted (unless eligible for federal ballot only).+

METHODS OF SUBMITTING AN ABBM OR FPCA



Unlawful Solicitation and Distribution of an Application to Vote by Mail

NEW LAW: Senate Bill 1 (2021)

A public official or election official commits an offense if the official, while acting in an official capacity, knowingly:

1. Solicits the submission of an application to vote by mail from a person who did not request an application;
2. Distributes an ABBM to a person who did not request the application unless the distribution is expressly authorized by another provision of the Texas Election Code;
3. Authorizes or approves the expenditure of public funds to facilitate third-party distribution of an ABBM to a person who did not request the application; or
4. Completes any portion of an ABBM and distributes the application to an applicant.

Section 276.016, Texas Election Code



Methods of Submitting an ABBM or FPCA

- **There are different ways for a voter to submit an ABBM or FPCA:**
 - In person by voter not later than the 11th day before Election Day (unless that day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal state or national holiday, in which case the last day is the first preceding regular business day) **(New Law)**
 - By regular mail
 - By common or contract carrier
 - By email
 - By facsimile

Sections 84.007 and 84.008, Texas Election Code



Methods of Submitting an ABBM or FPCA

NEW LAW: House Bill 3107 (2021)

- Effective September 1, 2021, voters may now personally deliver their ABBM or FPCA to the early voting clerk not later than the close of regular business in the early voting clerk's office or 12 noon, whichever is later, on the 11th day before election day (unless that day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal state or national holiday, in which case the last day is the first preceding regular business day.)
- For the May uniform election date, this deadline is Tuesday, April 25, 2023.
- **However, see the slide on the next page regarding voters voting by mail due to absence from the county of residence.**

Sections 84.007, 84.008, and 101.052, Texas Election Code



Methods of Submitting an ABBM or FPCA

For voters voting by mail due to absence from the county of residence:

- If a voter's early voting ballot application is submitted on or after the first day of the period for early voting by personal appearance, the voter is ineligible for early voting by mail unless the voter is absent from the county when the application is submitted.
- This means that once early voting in person has started, the voter may no longer deliver their ABBM or FPCA in person to the early voting clerk. This is due to the fact that the voter must be absent from the county when the application is submitted.

Sections 82.001 and 101.002, Texas Election Code



Methods of Submitting an ABBM

- On request of the applicant, an application for a ballot to be voted by mail on the ground of confinement in jail may be submitted to the early voting clerk, at the discretion of the authority in charge of the jail, by personal delivery by the jail authority or by a designated subordinate of the authority.

Section 84.009, Texas Election Code



Methods of Submitting an ABBM or FPCA

- If an ABBM is faxed or emailed or if an FPCA is faxed, then the applicant **must** submit the ORIGINAL application BY MAIL to the early voting clerk so that the early voting clerk **receives the original no later than the 4th business day after receiving the emailed or faxed ABBM or faxed FPCA.**
- If the early voting clerk does not receive the original ABBM or FPCA by that deadline, then the emailed or faxed ABBM or faxed FPCA will be considered incomplete, and the early voting clerk may **NOT** send the applicant a ballot. The early voting clerk should retain a copy of the FPCA for their own records, but should send the FPCA submitted by the voter to the voter registrar for registration purposes.

Section 84.007, Texas Election Code



Methods of Submitting an ABBM

For information on how a voter may submit a request to vote by mail if he/she participates in the Attorney General Address Confidentiality Program, please see our advisory here:

No. 2020-28 - Registering a Voter who is part of a Confidentiality Program



ABBM Ballot Tracker

NEW LAW: House Bill 1382 (2021)

- Requires the Secretary of State to provide an online tool on the Secretary of State's website that enables a person who has submitted an Application for a Ballot by Mail to track the location and status of the person's application and ballot. The tracking tool must require the voter to provide certain personally identifiable information in order for the voter to obtain information related to their ballot.
- The ballot by mail tracker must be updated with each of the following events to provide information on:
 - When an application to vote by mail has been received by the early voting clerk;
 - When the mail ballot application has been accepted or rejected by the early voting clerk;
 - When the official ballot has been placed in the mail by the early voting clerk;
 - When the person's marked ballot is received by the early voting clerk; and
 - Whether the early voting ballot board has accepted or rejected the ballot.
 - For each carrier envelope containing a mail ballot, the ballot by mail tracker must assign or record a serially numbered and sequentially issued barcode or tracking number unique to each envelope.

NOTE: The mail ballot tracker is only available for elections in which the county election officer is the early voting clerk.

Section 86.015, Texas Election Code



Methods of Submitting an ABBM

Voters may use either:

- An SOS official (formal) application (Sec. 84.011); or
- An informal application (Sec. 84.002)



NEW Formal Application – Prescribed by SOS

Application for a Ballot by Mail	
<p>If someone helps you complete this form or mails, emails or faxes this form for you, that person must complete the Witness/Assistant Box 6 below. If you email or fax this form to the Early Voting Clerk, you must also send the original hardcopy to the Early Voting Clerk. If you are faxing or emailing this form on or near the deadline to apply for a Ballot by Mail, you must send the original hardcopy so that the Clerk receives it no later than the fourth business day after the day the Clerk received your email or fax. Original signatures are required on both the fax or email image and the physical hard copy. Electronic signatures are not permitted. THE HARDCOPY OF THIS APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EARLY VOTING CLERK AND MEET ALL LEGALLY REQUIRED DEADLINES. Please read the instructions on the back of this form completely. If you have any questions, please call the Early Voting Clerk in your county of registration or the office of the Texas Secretary of State at 1-800-252-8683 or log on to www.sos.texas.gov for a list of County Early Voting Clerks and their email and physical addresses.</p>	
<p>1. Voter Information: Please print all information clearly and legibly</p>	<p>YOU MUST PROVIDE ONE of the following numbers</p>
<p>Name: _____ <small>Last, First, Middle Suffix (Jr, Sr)</small></p> <p>Residence Address as shown on your Voter Registration Certificate</p> <p>Address: _____ <small>Street Apt. # (if any) City State Zip Code</small></p> <p>Optional Information: Providing this information is helpful to the Early Voting Clerk, but not required.</p> <p>Date of Birth: ____/____/____ VUID #: _____ Pct #: _____</p> <p>Email: _____ Tel. #: _____</p>	<p>Texas Driver's License, Texas Personal Identification Number or Election Identification Certificate Number issued by the Department of Public Safety (NOT your voter registration VUID#)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>If you do not have a Texas Driver's License, Texas Personal Identification Number or a Texas Election Identification Certificate Number, give the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number</p> <p>XXX-XX-____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have not been issued a Texas Driver's License/Texas Personal Identification Number/Texas Election Identification Certificate or Social Security Number</p>
<p>2. Mail my Ballot to:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My Residence Address (as listed on my Voter Registration Certificate)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Address - You may use the Other Address line only if the other address fits one of the categories below.</p> <p>Address _____ Apt. # (if any) _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____</p> <p>My Other Address is: (Check one)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The mailing address listed on my Voter Registration Certificate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Address Outside the County (voters absent from the county)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hospital, Nursing Home, Long-Term Care Facility, Retirement or Assisted Living Center or a Relative _____ (Indicate Relationship)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Address of the Jail/Civil Commitment Facility or a Relative _____ (Indicate Relationship)</p>	
<p>3. Reason For Voting by Mail:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 65 Years of Age or Older</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Disability (as defined in Texas Election Code 82.002(a), see instruction on reverse) By checking this box, "I affirm that I have a sickness or physical condition that prevents me from appearing at the polling place on Election Day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or of injuring my health."</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Expected to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Expected Absence from the County (You may apply for a ballot for one election and its resulting runoff, if your dates of absence from the county include both elections)</p> <p>Date you can begin to receive mail at your out of county address: ____/____/____ Date of return to residence address: ____/____/____</p>	



Contents of Application

NEW LAW: House Bill 3920 (2021)

- An application for a ballot to be voted by mail on the ground of disability must require the applicant to affirmatively indicate the following: “I have a sickness or physical condition that prevents me from appearing at the polling place on election day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or injuring my health.”
- This statement must be affirmatively indicated by the voter on their application to vote by mail.
- **Note:** This statement is not required from a voter who is expecting to give birth within three weeks before or after election day.

Sections 82.002 and 84.002, Texas Election Code



Contents of Application

ABBM's that are prepared and distributed by campaigns must include the information required under Section 84.002 of the Election Code, including the statement that must be affirmatively indicated by the voter on their ABBM if voting by mail on the ground of disability.



Contents of Application

NEW LAW: House Bill 3107 (2021)

For an application for a ballot to be voted by mail on the ground of involuntary civil commitment, the application must include the address of the facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Civil Commitment Office or of a person related to the applicant within the third degree of consanguinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code.

Section 84.002, Texas Election Code



Contents of Application

NEW LAW: Senate Bill 1 (2021)

An application for ballot by mail (ABBM) must be submitted in writing and signed by the applicant using ink on paper. An electronic signature or photocopied signature is not permitted.

Section 84.001, Texas Election Code



Contents of Application

NEW LAW: Senate Bill 1 (2021)

- An ABBM **MUST** contain: (1) the number of the applicant's driver's license, election identification certificate (EIC), or personal identification card issued by the DPS; (2) the last four digits of the applicant's social security number, if the applicant has not been issued a DPS number described above; or (3) a statement that the applicant has not been issued a number described by (1) or (2).
- An applicant may use the number of an expired driver's license, EIC, or personal identification card to fulfill this requirement if the license or identification is otherwise valid.

Section 84.002, Texas Election Code



Informal Application

- In writing (i.e., not verbal)
- Signed by applicant or witness
- Contain Applicant's Name
- State Registered Residence Address
- Contain Address to which ballot to be mailed
- State Grounds for voting by mail
- Indicate which election the application is for
- DL No., Election ID Cert. No., or Personal ID Card No.



Reviewing ABBMs



Best Practices When Reviewing ABBMs

- The EV Clerk should review the following items on an ABBM:
 - Timeliness
 - Proper Delivery (mail, common/contract carrier, fax, in person by voter, email)
 - Correct Clerk (if not, forward)
 - **Registration Status**
 - **Residence and Mailing Address**
 - Additional Considerations
 - Outside county, disability, 65 or older
 - Ensure ALL required information was provided
- Recommend date-stamping the application on the date it is received by the EV Clerk



Best Practices When Reviewing ABBMs

Because Section 84.002 of the Election Code now requires the applicant to provide their driver's license number, election identification certificate number, or personal identification card number issued by the Department of Public Safety on the ABBM, the early voting clerk will work directly with the voter registrar of their county to confirm the voter's registration information and status.



Best Practices When Reviewing ABBMs

Per Section 1.011 of the Election Code, the application may be signed by a witness if the voter cannot sign the application due to physical disability or illiteracy.

- If the voter cannot sign his/her name, the voter must affix his/her mark to the ABBM, to which the witness must attest.
- If the voter cannot make the mark, the witness must state that fact on the application.
- The witness **MUST** affix the witness's own signature to the application and state the witness's own name, in printed form. The witness must also state his/her residence address unless the witness is an election officer, in which case the witness must state the witness's official title.



Best Practices When Reviewing ABBMs

A voter also may be assisted with completing and submitting an ABBM.

- There is no requirement in the Election Code that applicants must be eligible for assistance under Section 64.031 of the Election Code in order to be assisted in completing an ABBM.
- However, the best practice is that the applicant only be assisted if the applicant requests assistance.



Best Practices When Reviewing ABBMs

Mistakes with respect to completing the assistance portion on an ABBM do not cause rejection of the application. However, a person who in the presence of the applicant otherwise assists an applicant in completing an early voting ballot application commits a Class A misdemeanor offense if the person knowingly fails to comply with Section 1.011(d) of the Code in the same manner as a witness.

Section 84.003, Texas Election Code



ACCEPTING AND REJECTING ABBMS



Accepting and Rejecting ABBMs

NEW LAW: Senate Bill 1 (2021)

If the information required by Section 84.002(a)(1-a) of the Election Code included on the ABBM does not identify the same voter identified on the applicant's voter registration application, the clerk shall reject the application per Section 86.001(f) of the Code.

- If an ABBM is rejected under Section 86.001(f) of the Code, the clerk shall provide notice of the rejection. The notice must include information regarding the ability to correct or add the required information through the online ballot by mail tracker described in Section 86.015(c).
- If the applicant corrects the ABBM online and that application subsequently identifies the same voter identified on the applicant's voter registration application, the clerk shall provide a ballot to the voter. (Sec. 86.001(f-2)).



Rejecting an ABBM

- Mail/otherwise deliver “Notice of Rejected Application for Ballot By Mail” (Form 6-2)
 - Include a new ABBM if original received on or before **18th** day before election day. (Sec. 86.008)
 - Tuesday, April 18, 2023, for May 6, 2023 election
- Keep rejected application in file & attach copy of rejection notice



Deadline to Mail Ballots

- **For all Other Voters (not Military or Overseas):**
 - EV Clerk must mail the balloting materials not later than the 7th day after the later of:
 - the date the EV Clerk has accepted a voter’s application for a ballot by mail; OR
 - the date the ballots become available for mailing.
 - However, if the 7th day falls earlier than the 37th day before election day, the voter’s mail ballot must be mailed no later than the 30th day before election day. (Sec. 86.004(a)).
 - This means that for every application that comes in before the 37th day before election day, the balloting materials must be mailed by the 30th day before election day. Any application that comes in after the 37th day before election day will follow the 7-day timeline in Sec. 86.004.
 - Ballots should continue to be mailed on a rolling basis as ABBMs come in and are processed.



Carrier Envelope

NEW LAW: Senate Bill 1 (2021)

The carrier envelope sent to the voter must include a space that is hidden from view when the envelope is sealed for the voter to enter:

- (1) the number of the voter's driver's license, election identification certificate, or personal identification card issued by the DPS;
- (2) the last four digits of the voter's social security number, if the voter has not been issued a DPS number described above; or
- (3) a statement that the voter has not been issued a number described by (1) or (2) above. (Sec. 86.002(g)).

A voter may use the number of an expired driver's license, EIC, or personal identification card to fulfill this requirement if the license or identification is otherwise valid. (Sec. 86.002(h)).



NEW Carrier Envelope

WARNING: (1) Knowingly possessing another person's ballot or Carrier Envelope may be a crime unless you provide your signature, printed name and address (2) A person commits an offense if the person compensates another person or receives compensation for depositing a Carrier Envelope in the mail as part of a scheme in which the person is compensated based on the number of Carrier Envelopes deposited. For additional information on offenses related to Carrier Envelopes, please see the "Information About Returning Your Carrier Envelope," included with the materials sent to you with your ballot.

ADVERTENCIA: (1) El acto de poseer conscientemente la boleta o el sobre de envío de otra persona puede ser un delito a menos de que usted proporcione su firma, nombre en letra de molde, y su dirección. (2) Una persona comete un delito si recompensa o recibe compensación a cambio de depositar el sobre de envío en el correo como parte de un plan en el cual la persona es recompensada en base al número de sobres de envío depositados. Para obtener información adicional sobre los delitos relacionados con los sobres de envío, por favor vea la "Información Sobre La Devolución Del Sobre de Envío," incluido con los materiales enviados a usted con su boleta.

6-15
Prescribed by Secretary of State Section
86.013, Texas Election Code
07/2022

Place
Stamp
Here



CARRIER ENVELOPE FOR EARLY VOTING BALLOT
(SOBRE DE ENVÍO PARA LA BOLETA DE VOTACIÓN ADELANTADA)

(Early Voting Clerk
should preprint return address or affix address label)




Envelope Open – Inside Flap

<p>REQUIRED INFORMATION: YOU MUST PROVIDE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS AND IT MUST BE ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION RECORD INFORMACIÓN REQUERIDA: DEBE PROPORCIONAR UNO DE LOS SIGUIENTES NÚMEROS Y DEBE ESTAR ASOCIADO CON SU REGISTRO DE VOTANTE</p>		
<p>Texas Driver's License or Texas Personal Identification Card or Election Identification Certificate Number issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (NOT your Voter Registration VUID#) (Número de Licencia de Conducir de Texas o Número de Tarjeta de Identificación Personal de Texas o Certificado de Identificación Electoral expedida por el Departamento de Seguridad Pública de Texas) (NO ES el número de su Registro Electoral VUID#)</p>	<p>If you do not have a Texas Driver's License or Personal Identification Card or a Texas Election Identification Certificate Number, give the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number (Si no tiene una Licencia de Conducir de Texas o una Tarjeta de Identificación Personal de Texas o Certificado de Identificación Electoral de Texas, proporcione los 4 últimos dígitos de su número de Seguro Social)</p> <p>XXX - XX - _____</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> I have not been issued a Texas Driver's License or Texas Personal Identification Card or Texas Election Identification Certificate or a Social Security Number (No se me ha expedido una Licencia de Conducir de Texas o Tarjeta de Identificación Personal de Texas o un Certificado de Identificación Electoral de Texas ni un número de Seguro Social.)</p>
<p>CONTACT INFORMATION (INFORMACIÓN DE CONTACTO): Phone (Teléfono): _____ Email (Correo Electrónico): _____</p>		
<p>SEAL ENVELOPE AND SIGN OVER SEALED FLAP (SELLE EL SOBRE Y FIRME SOBRE LA SOLAPA SELLADA) </p>		
<p>Oath of Person Assisting Voter: "I swear (or affirm) under penalty of perjury that the voter I am assisting represented to me they are eligible to receive assistance; I will not suggest, by word, sign, or gesture, how the voter should vote; I will prepare the voter's ballot as the voter directs; I did not pressure or coerce the voter into choosing me to provide assistance; I am not the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an officer or agent of a labor union to which the voter belongs; I will not communicate information about how the voter has voted to another person; and I understand that if assistance is provided to a voter who is not eligible for assistance, the voter's ballot may not be counted." Juramento de la Persona Asistiendo al Votante: "Yo juro (o afirmo) bajo pena de perjurio que el votante al que estoy asistiendo me representó que es elegible para recibir asistencia; no sugeriré, con palabra, señal, o gesto, como debe votar el votante; prepararé la boleta del votante según lo indique el votante; no presioné ni coaccioné al votante para que me eligiera como asistente; no soy el empleador del votante, un agente del empleador del votante, o un oficial o agente de un sindicato al cual el votante pertenece; no comunicaré información sobre cómo el votante ha votado a otra persona; y entiendo que si se proporciona asistencia a un votante que no es elegible para recibir asistencia, la boleta del votante podría no ser contada."</p>		
<p>If you are an assistant, provide information below: (Si usted es un asistente o testigo, marque la casilla correcta y proporcione su información):</p> <p>Did you receive compensation or other benefit from a candidate, campaign or political committee in exchange for providing assistance? Circle one: Yes No ¿Recibió compensación u otro beneficio de un candidato, campaña o comité político a cambio de brindar asistencia? Marque con un Círculo: Sí No</p> <p>Printed Name (Nombre en letra de molde) _____ Signature (Firma) _____</p> <p>Relationship to Voter (Relación al votante) _____ Street Address (Domicilio residencial) _____</p>		
<p>SIGNATURE OR MARK OF VOTER (FIRMA O MARCA DEL VOTANTE)</p> <p>X _____</p> <p>Completed by Early Voting Clerk (Completado por el Secretario de Votación Adelantada):</p> <p>Name of Election (Nombre de Elección): _____</p> <p>Name of Voter (Nombre del votante): _____</p> <p>Date of Election (Fecha de Elección): ____ / ____ / ____</p> <p>Instructions to Witness: You are serving as a witness for _____ (name of voter). You must complete the section below if you witness the mark of the voter, or if the voter cannot make a mark. If the voter cannot make a mark, check here <input type="checkbox"/>.</p> <p>(Instrucciones al Testigo: Usted está sirviendo como testigo para _____ (nombre del votante). Debe completar la sección a continuación si es testigo de la marca del votante, o si el votante no puede hacer una marca. Si el votante no puede hacer una marca, marque aquí <input type="checkbox"/>.</p> <p>Signature (Firma) _____ Printed Name (Nombre en letra de molde) _____</p> <p>Street Address (Domicilio residencial) _____</p>		

- Voter must add their personal identification information to the Carrier Envelope



NEW Carrier Envelope

<p>Instructions to the Voter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This envelope must be sealed and signed by the voter before it leaves the voter's hands. Do not sign this envelope unless the ballot has been marked by you or at your direction. (Instrucciones al Votante: Este sobre debe ser sellado y firmado por el votante antes de que salga de sus manos. No firme este sobre a menos de que la boleta haya sido llenada por usted o bajo su dirección.) This Carrier Envelope may not be used to return more than one voter's ballot. (Este sobre de envío no debe ser utilizado para entregar la boleta de más de un solo votante.) For instructions on the methods and deadlines to deliver this Carrier Envelope, see the "Information About Returning Your Carrier Envelope," included with the materials sent to you with your ballot. (Para obtener instrucciones sobre los métodos y plazos para entregar este sobre de envío, vea la "Información Sobre La Devolución de su Sobre de Envío," incluido con los materiales enviados a usted con su boleta.) 	
<p>Instructions to Assistant (if applicable):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A voter may only be assisted with reading or marking the ballot if the voter has a physical disability that renders the voter unable to write or see, or has an inability to read the language in which the ballot is written. If you are assisting the voter, you must read the oath and complete the section below, before assisting the voter. (Instrucciones al Asistente (si es aplicable): Un votante sólo puede recibir ayuda para leer o marcar la boleta si el votante tiene una discapacidad física la cual le impide escribir o ver, o si no tiene la habilidad de leer el idioma en el cual la boleta está escrita. Si usted asiste al votante, debe leer el juramento y completar la siguiente sección abajo, antes de asistir al votante.) <p>Instructions to Person Depositing Carrier Envelope in Mail or to Common or Contract Carrier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are assisting a voter by depositing the Carrier Envelope in the mail or with a common or contract carrier, you must complete the assistant section below. (Instrucciones para la Persona Que Deposita el Sobre de Envío en el Correo o al Transportista Común o Contratado: Si asiste a un votante depositando el sobre de envío en el correo o con un transportista común o contratado, debe completar la sección de asistente que aparece a continuación.) <p>I certify that the enclosed ballot expresses my wishes independent of any dictation or undue persuasion by any person. (Certifico que la boleta adjunta expresa mis deseos independientemente de ningún dictado o persuasión indebida por parte de cualquier persona.)</p>	
<p>SEAL ENVELOPE AND SIGN OVER SEALED FLAP (SELLE EL SOBRE Y FIRME SOBRE LA SOLAPA SELLADA)</p> 	
<p>Oath of Person Assisting Vote: "I swear (or affirm) under penalty of perjury that the voter I am assisting represented to me they are eligible to receive assistance; I will not suggest, by word, sign, or gesture, how the voter should vote; I will prepare the voter's ballot as the voter directs; I did not pressure or coerce the voter into choosing me to provide assistance; I am not the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an officer or agent of a labor union to which the voter belongs; I will not communicate information about how the voter has voted to another person; and I understand that if assistance is provided to a voter who is not eligible for assistance, the voter's ballot may not be counted." Juramento de la Persona Asistiendo al Votante: "Yo juro (o afirmo) bajo pena de perjurio que el votante al que estoy asistiendo me representó que es elegible para recibir asistencia; no sugeriré, con palabra, señal, o gesto, como debe votar el votante; prepararé la boleta del votante según lo indique el votante; no presioné ni coaccioné al votante para que me eligiera como asistente; no soy el empleador del votante, un agente del empleador del votante, o un oficial o agente de un sindicato al cual el votante pertenece; no comunicaré información sobre cómo el votante ha votado a otra persona; y entiendo que si se proporciona asistencia a un votante que no es elegible para recibir asistencia, la boleta del votante podría no ser contada."</p>	
<p>Completed by Early Voting Clerk (Completado por el Secretario de Votación Adelantada):</p> <p>Name of Election (Nombre de Elección): _____</p> <p>Name of Voter (Nombre del votante): _____</p> <p>Date of Election (Fecha de Elección): ____/____/____</p>	
<p>Instructions to Witness: You are serving as a witness for _____ (name of voter). You must complete the section below if you witness the mark of the voter, or if the voter cannot make a mark. If the voter cannot make a mark, check here <input type="checkbox"/>. (Instrucciones al Testigo: Usted está sirviendo como testigo para _____ (nombre del votante). Debe completar la sección a continuación si es testigo de la marca del votante, o si el votante no puede hacer una marca. Si el votante no puede hacer una marca, marque aquí <input type="checkbox"/>.)</p> <p>Signature (Firma) _____ Printed Name (Nombre en letra de molde) _____</p> <p>Street Address (Domicilio residencial) _____</p>	
<p>If you are an assistant, provide information below: (Si usted es un asistente proporcione la siguiente información):</p> <p>Did you receive compensation or other benefit from a candidate, campaign or political committee in exchange for providing assistance? Circle one: Yes No ¿Recibí compensación u otro beneficio de un candidato, campaña o comité político a cambio de brindar asistencia? Marque con un Círculo: Sí No</p> <p>Printed Name (Nombre en letra de molde) _____ Signature (Firma) _____</p> <p>Relationship to Voter (Relación al votante) _____ Street Address (Domicilio residencial) _____</p>	



Carrier Envelope

NEW LAW: Senate Bill 1 (2021)

- No record associating an individual voter with a ballot may be created. (Sec. 86.002(i)).
- Due to the changes made to the carrier envelope and mail ballot forms required under Senate Bill 1, the early voting clerk CANNOT use old stock. Please make note of this when ordering your balloting materials.
- The online ballot by mail tracker must allow the voter to add or correct identification information required under Section 84.002(a)(1-a) or 86.002(g). (Sec. 86.015(c)).



Opportunity to Correct Defect: Signature Verification Committee

NEW LAW: Senate Bill 1 (2021)

Section 87.0271 of the Code provides a procedure by which a voter can correct certain defects in their carrier envelope containing their voted ballot. Not later than the second business day after a signature verification committee discovers the defect and before the committee decides whether to accept or reject a timely delivered ballot under Section 87.027, the committee shall:

- (1) determine if it would be possible for the voter to correct the defect and return the carrier envelope before the time the polls are required to close on election day; and
- (2) return the carrier envelope to the voter by mail, if the committee determines that it would be possible for the voter to correct the defect and return the carrier envelope before the time the polls are required to close on election day. (Sec. 87.0271(a), (b)).



Opportunity to Correct Defect: Early Voting Ballot Board

NEW LAW: Senate Bill 1 (2021)

Section 87.0411 of the Code provides a procedure by which a voter can correct certain defects in their carrier envelope containing their voted ballot. Not later than the second business day after an early voting ballot board discovers the defect and before the board decides whether to accept or reject a timely delivered ballot under Section 87.041, the board shall:

- (1) determine if it would be possible for the voter to correct the defect and return the carrier envelope before the time the polls are required to close on election day; and
- (2) return the carrier envelope to the voter by mail, if the board determines that it would be possible for the voter to correct the defect and return the carrier envelope before the time the polls are required to close on election day. (Sec. 87.0411(a), (b)).



Notice to the Texas Attorney General

The EV clerk shall, not later than the 30th day after election day, deliver notice to the Attorney General of cancellation requests received, including certified copies of cancellation requests, applications, and carrier envelopes, if available. (Section 84.037(b), Election Code)

If you have not already created an account with the Attorney General's office to provide the required information, go to <https://oagtx.force.com/mbsr>, acknowledge the information screen, then:

Click the "Sign Up" link near the login prompt and create an account as head election official;

Wait for your account to be validated/confirmed (this is a manual verification process);

Once you are confirmed and logged in, follow the on-screen prompts to report data and upload documents.



ABBM Transparency and Public Information

- A copy of an ABBM, including the Annual ABBM, is not available for public inspection (except to the voter whose application it is) until the first business day after the election day of the **EARLIEST** occurring election (rather than latest) for which the application is submitted. (Sec. 86.014(a)).
 - So it's available after the first election, rather than the last.
 - Originals of any ABBMs and carrier envelopes are not available for public inspection until those materials are delivered to the custodian after the election. (Sec. 86.014(b)).
- **Early Voting Rosters**
 - Information on the early voting roster for a person to whom a ballot has been mailed is not available until the 1st business day after election day. (Sec. 87.121(f)).
 - Except to a voter seeking to verify the accuracy of his or her own ballot by mail. (Sec. 87.121(f)).
 - The name of a voter who voted by mail is available no later than the day following the day the early voting clerk receives the ballot. (Sec. 87.121(h)).



Questions?

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