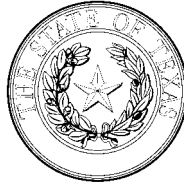


# The State of Texas



Elections Division  
P.O. Box 12060  
Austin, Texas 78711-2060  
www.sos.state.tx.us

Phone: 512-463-5650  
Fax: 512-475-2811  
Dial 7-1-1 For Relay Services  
(800) 252-VOTE (8683)

Carlos H. Cascos  
Secretary of State

Dear Voter:

Thank you for choosing to exercise your right to vote. You have chosen to cast your ballot by mail, and I would like to share with you information about the process of voting by mail.

In recent years, certain campaigns have tried to identify and influence voters casting a ballot from home. When you vote by mail, you may take the following steps to protect your ballot and your vote.

1. **Know your rights as a voter:** You have the right to vote for the candidates of your choice. You have the right to mark your own ballot or to receive assistance with reading or marking your ballot from a person you know and trust. Your vote is secret. If a person assists you with reading or marking your ballot, it is a crime for that person to reveal how or for whom you voted.
2. **Be careful about assistance:** No one should help you with your ballot, unless you cannot read the language written on the ballot or unless you have a disability that makes you unable to write or to see. If one of these conditions applies to you, we recommend that you ask a family member or trusted friend for assistance with your ballot. The person assisting you must mark your ballot according to your instruction and cannot suggest how you should vote. The assistant must place his or her name, address, and signature on the carrier envelope.
3. **Mail your own ballot:** If you can't mail your own ballot, give your ballot to a family member or trusted friend to mail for you. Do not accept offers from strangers to mail your ballot for you. Texas law prohibits voted ballots from being delivered by common or contract carrier from campaign headquarters. The ballot must be received by the early voting clerk by 7:00 pm on Election Day (or the 5<sup>th</sup> day after election day if the ballot is coming from overseas).

**NOTE:** You may have received ballots and balloting materials from more than one political subdivision. If so, please be very sure to check the name of the election on the top of the ballot before you seal it in the ballot secrecy envelope, and match it to the name of the election that appears on the bottom, right side of the back of the carrier envelope, to make sure that you are returning each ballot in the correct carrier envelope for that ballot. This will ensure that each ballot is delivered to the proper early voting clerk. A ballot that is returned to the wrong early voting clerk cannot be counted.

If you follow these simple guidelines, be assured your vote will count. **If anyone attempts to pressure or intimidate you, we urge you to report this to your county elections office, your district attorney's office, or our office toll-free at 1-800-252-VOTE(8683).**

Early voting in person begins October 19, 2015 and will continue through October 30, 2015, and Election Day is November 3, 2015. You may contact your county elections office for the locations and hours of operation for your early voting sites. If you change your mind about voting by mail and would prefer to vote in person, you must take your mail ballot with you and cancel it at the polling place. You may then vote in person, either during the early voting period or on Election Day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cascos" followed by a horizontal line.

Carlos H. Cascos  
Secretary of State