

The State of Texas



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Hope Andrade
Secretary of State

MEMORANDUM

TO: County Judges, County Clerks, and Elections Administrators of Bell, Bowie, Galveston, Harris, Jefferson, Kleberg, Val Verde, and Wichita Counties

FROM: Ann McGeehan, Director of Elections

DATE: October 1, 2008

RE: Pilot Program for Emailing Ballots to FPCA Voters under Senate Bill 90

As you know, our country and our state are headed into an historic election season. For the November 4, 2008 election, we expect record-breaking voter registration and voter turnout. We know that you are already engrossed in election preparation, and thank you for the vital role you play in this process.

We also realize that some of you are dealing with emergency recovery following Hurricane Ike. We do not wish for this request to inconvenience you in any way as you work to serve your communities during this time.

In recent months, our office has distributed information to county election officials about the email pilot program for military voters during this upcoming election. The program was created by Senate Bill 90 during the 80th Regular Legislative Session in 2007. SB 90 was codified into the Texas Election Code, Section 101.0071. In short, Section 101.0071 requires the Secretary of State to implement a pilot program to evaluate the use of email to send ballots and balloting materials to military voters overseas. Ensuring that our military voters overseas have their voting rights safeguarded is one of our utmost priorities. And this memo is a follow up to prior calls or memoranda distributed by this Office in connection with the pilot program.

To that end, we ask you again to participate in this pilot program. As a county with a military installation, we seek your leadership on this initiative. The feedback we obtain from this pilot program will be presented by the Office of the Secretary of State to the Legislature during the 81st Regular Session in 2009. Your feedback and constructive criticism will provide the Legislature with the opportunity to evaluate email use in voting as Texas moves forward.

We have extended the registration deadline until October 3, 2008 to provide the greatest benefit to the military voters of Texas. We have also included our initial memo discussing the pilot program, dated July 1, 2008, which provides a detailed overview of the program procedures. Please contact the Elections Division at 800-252-2216 if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

AM:HB:sf