

Updates from the SOS



Texas Secretary of State ELECTIONS DIVISION

Legislation & Executive Order



Legislation

- Key Bills to Review
 - SB 1540
 - SB 2217
 - SB 985
 - SB 506
 - HB 3909
 - HB 521

- SB 2964
- SB 2166
- SB 827
- SB 901
- SB 2753



Executive Order

- Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections
 - Issued on March 25, 2025
- An executive order is a directive to federal agencies to take certain actions. These actions include:
 - Amending the National Voter Registration Form and FPCA
 - Providing free access to federal databases that help verify eligibility
 - Enforcing Ballot by Mail Deadlines for Federal Elections
 - Directing the EAC to issue guidance and modify voting system standards to address voting systems that use ballots were votes are contained within a barcode.



Ballot on Demand Systems

- Can be used to allow voters to use voter-marked ballots as a primary method of voting in conjunction with accessible ballot marking devices
 - If ballot on demand is used for voters in the polling place, it would also be used for curbside voting, with the accessible BMDs available to voters who need them
- Countywide polling place program allows for the use of ballot on demand systems in conjunction with precinct scanners at the polling place
- No formal certification program for ballot on demand systems
 - However, our office reviews these systems in cooperation with vendors and/or as part of certification of pollbook peripheral devices. Vendors would also be required to register with the SOS as a Ballot Print Vendor



ELECTIONS DIVISION





TEAM: A New Beginning

- Development began on the new iteration of the TEAM system in late 2023.
- The process has included intensive requirements gathering based on state and federal law.
- The technical development has been focused on:
 - Ensuring the highest level of **information security** through the implementation of the industry security protocols, system management and security monitoring.
 - Integrating new technologies to provide more efficient and effective system functionality to protect the accuracy and integrity of system data.
 - Deploying a more robust environment to meet county user needs.



TEAM: A New Beginning

- Data conversion has been an detailed and ongoing process and will continue until the new system is deployed for state use.
- Our office has been accessing the initial environment to extensively test the development efforts in terms of functionality and legal procedural requirements.
- Training materials are being created and finalized in preparation for the transition from the current system to the new system.
- Implementation plans for the deployment of the new system and technical support for county users have been carefully developed with the county users in mind.



TEAM: Phased Implementation Approach

- The "Go-Live" date for system deployment is anticipated for July 11, 2025.
- The various modules within the system will be rolled out in phases to allow for:
 - A prioritization or focused implementation plan based on voter registration and election management needs;
 - More in-depth user training one area at a time;
 - Identification and troubleshooting of any transitional issues;
 - Ensuring the integrity of county data; and
 - Development and implementation of any legislative system changes that are need following the legislative session.



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TEAM: Timeline

Voter Management List Maintenance Voter Correspondence Election

Management

Office Management

Jury Management

Reporting Webpages My Voter Portal Funds Management Final Reporting Capabilities

9 Final System Enhancements & Integrations



TEAM: How to Prepare

- Keep doing what you are doing!
- Detailed instructions related to the implementation of the new system will be provided.
- Be on the lookout for webinar invitations related to the new TEAM rollout from our office.
- Join in on the upcoming training opportunities!
- Call us with questions!



TEAM: Training Opportunities

- Our training plan is aimed to meet you all where you are and provide the type of training you prefer.
- We will be traveling in July to host in-person training across the state.
- We will also be providing webinars of the same trainings at multiple times.
- Detailed TEAM manuals, quick reference guides and additional resources will be provided to all county users.



Option 1

Lubbock County

Date: July 14-15, 2025 Time: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. & 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Where: Lubbock County Elections Dept. 1308 Crickets Ave Lubbock, TX 79401 Reserve by June 20, 2025 Capacity: 130

Option 4

Henderson County

Date: July 21-22, 2025 Time: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. & 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Where: Athens High School 708 East College Street Athens, TX 75751 Reserve by June 25, 2025 Capacity: 200

Option 2

Hays County

Date: July 14-15, 2025 Time: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. & 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Where: Hays County Elections Office 120 Stagecoach Trail San Marcos, TX 78666 Reserve by June 20, 2025 Capacity: 100

Option 5

Harris County

Date: July 22-23, 2025 Time: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. & 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Where: Steve Radack Community Center Large Auditorium 18650 Clay Road Houston, TX 77084 Reserve by June 25, 2025 Capacity: 150

Option 6

Duval County

Date: July 23-24, 2025 Time: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. & 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Where: Duval County Courthouse 400 East Gravis, Basement Level San Diego, Texas 78384 Reserve by June 25, 2025 Capacity: 40

Option 3

Tom Green County

Date: July 16-17, 2025 Time: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. & 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Where: Judge Edd B. Keyes Building 113 W Beauregard Ave San Angelo, TX 76903 Reserve by June 20, 2025 Capacity: 50



TEAM: Technical Support Plan

- We will have a large team in-office for customer support and answering all incoming calls.
- Your team representative will be setting up a TEAMS channel so you have direct access to their assistance during the initial transition.
- We will utilize all available mediums, including TEAMS, to provide real time support, screen demonstrations, and address any identified issues.



TEAM: Ongoing Training & Support

- The TEAM team will conduct additional webinar trainings as each new module is released.
- All training materials will be available to you prior to those releases.
- The TEAM team will be hosting a dedicated training and demonstration room throughout the summer conference in Austin to answer any remaining questions and to provide additional one-on-one support and training.
- Your TEAM representative will partner with you throughout this journey to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.
- We are always here to help!



2025 HAVA Election Security Sub-Grants



Funding Allocations

 Combination of Formula Grants Based on Voter Registration Data and Discretionary Amounts Depending on Total Submission Amount

# of Registered Voters	Assured Amt
1 - 10,000	\$32,500
10,001 - 100,000	\$42,500
100,001 - 1,000,000	\$52,000
>1,000,000	\$82,000

• Funds must be matched at 20%



Funding Priorities

- Comply with Sec. 129.003. PAPER AUDIT TRAIL REQUIRED Limited to those counties not currently in compliance
- Replacement of electronic pollbooks used in the 2024 November General Election that have been decertified after December 1, 2024
- Comply with Sec. 127.1232. SECURITY OF VOTED BALLOTS Limited to video recording devices and necessary accessories
- Other election security-related projects: DIR Managed Security Services; Physical Security of Election-related Property; Election-specific IT Upgrades; ePollbooks



Funding Period

- Funding requests must be received no later than 6/30/2025
- Awards will be made by 8/1/2025
- Grants will allow for retroactive payments as far back as 1/1/2024 on a case-bycase basis. Cannot supplant local funds
- Grants will expire 7/30/2026



Submission Process

- SOS will send an email to each election officer with instructions on how to access the system
- Many election officers may already be set up in the system (it is the same system used for Primary Finance, Chapter 19, and previous HAVA subgrants)



Information Needed For Submission

- Requested funding amount (may exceed or be less than the formula amount)
- Types of expenditures
- Justification/Description
- Resolution from the Commissioners Court



Resolution Template

A resolution from the county Commissioners Court must be on file with the Secretary of State that includes, at a minimum, the following statements (the same resolution may be used for any HAVA funds awarded to the county provided the statements remain true and correct):

- _____ Commissioners Court agrees that the expenditure of the funds will be in accordance with applicable federal and state law and any agreement between ______ County and the State of Texas, Office of the Secretary of State as authorized under Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and in consultation and agreement with the county election official(s) as defined in Sections 12.001 and 31.091 of the Texas Election Code.
- <u>Commissioners Court agrees to assign a single point of contact (SPOC) to act on behalf of the county in communicating with the Office of the Secretary of State, including the submission of reimbursement requests and any other required reports.</u>
- Commissioners Court agrees claims against the fund shall be audited and approved in the same manner as other claims against the county before they are paid.
- _____ Commissioners Court agrees that it will not consider the availability of the funds in adopting the county budget.
- Commissioners Court agrees that in the event of loss, misuse, or noncompliance pursuant to any grant award agreement with the Secretary of State, ______ Commissioners Court assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Secretary of State in full.



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Available Support

