



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. Box 12697  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

August 10, 1982

The Honorable Anita Rodeheaver  
County Clerk, Harris County  
P. O. Box 1525  
Houston, Texas 77001

Election Law Opinion DAD-48  
Re: Delivery of sealed ballot  
container to the central  
counting station

Dear Ms. Rodeheaver:

In your letter of July 16, 1982, you asked whether election officials may deliver ballot containers containing voted ballots to designated "drop-off points" for eventual transportation to the central counting station by authorized officers of the law.

This official election law opinion is rendered by me as chief election officer of the state in accordance with V.A.T.S. Election Code, art. 1.03, subd. 1.

As you know, V.A.T.S. Election Code, art. 7.15, subd. 19(d), states in part: "After the ballot container is sealed, two authorized election officers shall immediately deliver the ballot container to the central counting station, and watchers shall have the privilege of accompanying them." (Emphasis added.)

In my opinion the legislature's use of the word "immediately" precludes the intermediate deposit of the ballot containers at a location other than the central counting station.

I note in passing that more than one central counting station may be established by the commissioners court. V.A.T.S. Election Code, art. 7.15, subd. 20(a).

The Honorable Anita Rodeheaver  
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SUMMARY

Sealed ballot containers containing voted ballots must be immediately delivered to the central counting station by two authorized election officials. This requirement precludes the deposit of the ballot containers at a "drop-off point" for eventual delivery to the central counting station.

Sincerely,



David A. Dean  
Secretary of State

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General Counsel for Elections

APPROVED:  
OPINION COMMITTEE

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Election Law Opinion DAD-48

Request from Anita Rodeheaver, Houston, concerning delivery of sealed ballot container to the central counting station.

SUMMARY

Sealed ballot containers containing voted ballots must be immediately delivered to the central counting station by two authorized election officials. This requirement precludes the deposit of the ballot containers at a "drop-off point" for eventual delivery to the central counting station.