



2017 ELECTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We hope that you will take a moment to review these questions. We encourage you to explore our website for more detailed information on elections and voting in Texas. We hope you find this useful, and we appreciate this opportunity to serve you.

Note: We have grouped questions and answers in categories and provided links to additional information when needed.

Who Can Vote In a City of Brenham Election?

Q: I work in the City. Am I eligible to vote in a City election?

A: Unfortunately, working in the City does not make you eligible to vote in a City election. See the next question for additional information.

Q: I own rental property in the City. Am I eligible to vote in a City election?

A: To be qualified to vote in a City election, a person must:

1. Be 18 years of age or older on the day of the election;
2. Be a citizen of the United States;
3. Not have been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be:
 - a. Totally mentally incapacitated; or
 - b. Partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote;
4. Not have been fully convicted of a felony or, if so convicted, must have:
 - a. Fully discharged his sentence, including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision, or completed a period of probation order by any court; or
 - b. Been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disability to vote;
5. Be a resident of the City on the day of the election; and
6. Be a registered voter on the day of the election.

In regards residency, the term means the place where a person is actually living for the time being. The Election Code defines “residence” as one’s home and fixed place of habitation to which one intends to return after any temporary absence.

In short, you must live within the city limits of Brenham. Simply owning property within the City does not qualify you to vote in a City election.

Checking Voter Registration Status, Getting Registered for the First Time, or Making Changes to Your Current Registration

Q: I'm not sure if I'm registered; how can I confirm my voter registration status?

A: You can confirm your registration status by going to the Texas Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.tx.us or calling the voter registrar's office in the county where you reside.

Q: I'm not registered, but want to vote in the May Election; how can I be sure that I'm registered in time to vote?

A: The deadline to register and be eligible to vote in the May 6, 2017 Election is **April 17, 2017**. This can be either the postmark date or the date the application is received in the office of the voter registrar in Washington County. You may, of course, register at any time before that date to ensure that your registration is effective for voting in May.

Q: If I send my registration by the deadline, what happens next?

A: Your voter registration becomes effective on the 30th day after it is submitted (and accepted*) by the county voter registrar in Washington County. The voter registrar will put your name on the voter registration list, generate your voter certificate and mail it to you. Once received, be sure to read the information on the back of the certificate, sign by the X on the "front" of the card and keep your voter card in a safe place. This is what you will take with you to the polls to vote.

Q: I am registered to vote, but I moved this past year. Is there anything I need to do to make sure that I won't have a problem voting in May?

A: If you moved "**within the same county and city**" where you are currently registered, you must file the new address information in writing with your voter registrar. The last day to make a change of address that will be effective for the May election is **April 17, 2017**. If you miss this deadline, you may return to your old precinct to vote. You will be required to complete a "statement of residence" confirming your new address in your new precinct. However, if you moved to a "**new county,**" you must re-register in your new county of residence.

Q: I don't remember seeing my certificate lately. Is that a problem? Don't I just stay registered?

A: New certificates are mailed out every two years to the most recent address you gave to the voter registrar. You will want to contact the voter registrar in Washington County to verify your registration status prior to Election Day. If you did not receive your certificate because you moved to a new Texas county, you will need to re-register with the voter registrar in the new county.

Voting Without a Certificate - Voting Early - Election Day Voting

Q: I can't find my voter certificate/card. Will I be able to vote without it?

A: If you are a registered voter and you have lost or misplaced your voter certificate, you may vote without your certificate by providing some form of identification (see list below) and signing an affidavit at the polls. This is the procedure to follow if your voter registration is still current and your name appears on the voter rolls in your county of residence. You may also contact your county voter registrar to obtain a replacement certificate. Acceptable forms of identification are:

- a driver's license or personal identification card issued to you by the Department of Public Safety or a similar document issued to you by an agency of another state, regardless of whether the license or card has expired;
- a form of identification containing your photograph that establishes your identity;
- a birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes your identity;
- United States citizenship papers issued to you;
- a United States passport issued to you;
- official mail addressed to you, by name, from a governmental entity;
- a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address.

Q: Can anybody vote early in person, or only those people who are going to be out of town on Election Day? What are the dates for voting early in person?

A: Any registered voter may vote early by personal appearance (in person). Early voting by personal appearance for the May 6, 2017 Election begins on **April 24, 2017** and ends on **May 2, 2017**.

Q: Where do I go to early vote?

A: Early voting will be held in the Washington County Annex Building, 100 S. Park Street, Brenham, Texas.

Q: Can anybody vote early by mail (also referred to as absentee voting)?

A: Only specific reasons entitle a registered voter to vote early by mail. You may request a ballot by mail if you:

- will be away from your county on Election Day and during early voting;
- are sick or disabled;
- are 65 years of age or older on Election Day; or
- are confined in jail.

Q: I fall under one of the 4 reasons above. What do I do now? Are there deadlines connected with this procedure?

A: Request an Application for Ballot by Mail (ABBM) from the Early Voting Clerk (City Secretary). Once received, read the instructions carefully, complete the ABBM form and return to the Early Voting Clerk. The last day to request an ABBM is **March 29, 2017**.

ELECTION DAY

Q: It's Election Day, I'm registered and ready to vote. Where do I go? What are the hours for voting on Election Day?

A: You will need to vote in the Ward in which you live, the polling locations are as follows:

Ward 1: Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library
100 W. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway
Brenham., Texas

Ward 2: City of Brenham City Hall – 1st Floor, Entrance B (Municipal Court)
200 W. Vulcan Street
Brenham, Texas

Ward 3: Brenham Junior High Band Hall
1200 Carlee Drive
Brenham, Texas

Ward 4: Blinn Junior College Student Center
1007 Walter Schwartz Way
Brenham, Texas

If you do not know which polling location you should vote at, review the Ward maps on the City of Brenham's website (www.cityofbrenham.org).

The hours of voting on Election Day are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Q: What do I need to take with me on Election Day to the polls?

A: You will need to take your voter registration card and one of the following forms for photo identification:

- Driver's license, election identification certificate, personal identification card or concealed handgun license all issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety;
- United States Military identification card containing your photograph;
- United States citizenship certificate containing your photograph; or
- United States passport

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than four (4) years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place.

If a voter does not possess one of the forms of identification listed above and cannot reasonably obtain such identification, the voter has the right to execute a Reasonable Impediment Declaration. A voter can find out more information about this by reading about the Reasonable Impediment Declaration on the city's website at www.cityofbrenham.org.

Voters that do not have an acceptable form of identification may cast a provisional ballot at the polls and will have up six (6) calendar days after the election to present to the county voter registrar the appropriate photo identification.

Voters with a disability may apply with the county voter registrar for a permanent exemption to showing an acceptable form of photo identification at the polls. Please contact the county voter registrar for information about permanent exemption.

Provisional Voting

Provisional voting is designed to allow a voter whose name does not appear on the list of registered voters due to an administrative error to vote. The cast ballots are kept separately from the regular ballots and the voter's records will be reviewed later by the provisional voting ballot board (the early voting ballot board), and the ballot is counted only if the voter is determined to be a registered voter, has not already voted, and is otherwise qualified. Provisional voters will receive a notice in the mail by the 10th day after the local canvass advising them if their provisional ballots were counted, and if they were not counted, the reason why.

MILITARY & OVERSEAS VOTERS

Military and overseas voters are welcome to use the regular registration and early voting by mail process available to all voters away from their home county on Election Day. However, there are also special provisions for military and overseas voters that are also available on the Secretary of State's website.

VOTERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Rather than providing sample questions & answers, we are directing you to special needs information on the Secretary of State's website to ensure that you are fully informed on the services available to you.

STUDENT VOTERS

Student voters often seek advice regarding residency issues for voter registration purposes. Information regarding student residency issues is available on the Secretary of State's website.

CONVICTED FELONS AND VOTING

In Texas, a convicted felon regains the right to vote after completing his or her sentence. Therefore, once you have completed the punishment phase (including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision, or completed a period of probation ordered by the court), you would be eligible to register and vote in the state of Texas.