



TAEA Newsletter

Texas Association of Elections Administrators

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F.U.D. in Election Security

Fear. Uncertainty. Doubt. = F.U.D.

Occasionally, I'm asked what's the hardest part of my job as an EA. I usually reply that it's how I manage F.U.D. in elections. Not my F.U.D. (my staff thanklessly manages & corrects my F.U.D.). I'm talking about the F.U.D. that people *on the outside* have on how we do our jobs.

That kind of election F.U.D. is often not reality-based and is typically topical. So, it mostly comes up when there's an election happening; and like that [scene in the movie Outbreak](#), man... does it move fast. Historically, we've had to hustle to get in front of outside F.U.D.: whether it was that silly 2016 rumor of presidential votes magically flipping on DRE's that voters called all our offices about, or the specter of **rampant, systemic** (<= sarcasm font) nursing-home ballot-by-mail fraud that temporarily haunted the state legislature last year before we all helped them come to their senses. We are the subject matter experts in Texas, so it was (and still is) up to us to separate truth from fiction for them. Again and again.

We've been told that the nursing-home F.U.D.'s coming back next legislative session. And I believe that. But I think it's obvious to all of us that election security F.U.D. at the Texas Lege is coming back big time, too. I propose that, as an association, we get proactive with election security F.U.D.

Perhaps some of y'all have already contacted your legislators and shared with them what you think is real and what is fake regarding election security. Since so many of you are planning to attend the SOS' Election Law Seminar from 7/30-8/1, perhaps we can find some time during a lull [in the agenda](#) to schedule a group presentation to legislative staff on the basics of election security: be it technical, practical, logistical, etc. The hope is that they can share that info with their bosses, well before any gross overreaction in bill drafting begins later this year. Pipe dream? Maybe. But I think it's worth a shot.

Best of luck in both any primary runoffs, as well as beating back that F.U.D. -CJD

Vice President	<p>Deep in elections....</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-Yvonne Ramon</p>
Treasurer	<p>Happy Mother's Day to all out in our Election World!</p> <p>I hope that your May 5th and May 22nd elections run smooth and that all is well in everyone's world. As many of you have already heard, our Senator resigned and a special election was called for June 30th. Deep sigh! I'm drowning in back to back to back elections and wish that I had more time to write a longer report to you all.</p> <p>Stay safe everyone!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- Michele Bennett</p>
Legislative Chair 	<p>Hey everyone, I know you're as busy as I am, so you don't have time to read anything either! Back to back to back elections keeps us all hopping.</p> <p>Good luck on your early voting & Election Day!</p> <p>Until next time, y'all have a good one!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- Mina Cook</p>
Secretary	<p>Hey everyone,</p> <p>Hope May 5th went smoothly for everyone and the May 22nd is uneventful. As you prepare for the meeting at the end of July, please make sure any minutes from committee meetings are sent to me or to Chris Davis. If you don't have formal minutes or agendas, a brief committee report will help your fellow members appreciate all the hard work you are putting in. If you could include me in any items you are requesting or any business, you are proposing for the board I would appreciate it. We don't want to leave anything out as we finalize the board agenda. Also, back up for any items to be discussed would be helpful, we might not be able to print hard copies for distribution at the meeting, but at least we will send an electronic copy to the membership beforehand.</p> <p>Please don't hesitate to let me know if you need anything. Yours in service, Remi.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- Remi Garza</p>
Continuing Education 	<p>All spring we assumed that we would have a June runoff for the City of Houston. Election Day we were thrilled that one of the nine candidates running to fill a vacancy in the city council easily won election. However, we did have an apparent runoff in one of our smaller cities. Friday one of their candidates withdrew leaving us with no runoff and nothing to do on June 16 except enjoy the weekend.</p> <p>Early Voting began this morning. From 7:00 am until 9:00 am, we averaged 2.3 voters per hour at our 11 sites. Let us just say we are underwhelmed.</p> <p>Last week a Federal Judge ruled that Texas is in violation of the National Voter Registration Act due to our failure to allow persons who update their TDL's online to register to vote at the same time. The court ruled that requiring online registrants to print out a paper form and mail it in resulted in disparate treatment from those who updated their license at a DPS facility. The court gave the state until May 17 to come up with a remedy. Although Texas will probably appeal, thirty-eight other states allow on line registration and it works pretty well.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- John Oldham</p>



SOS 2018 Election Law Seminars:

July 30 - August 1, 2018 36th Annual Election Law Seminar for County Election Officials

November 28 - November 30, 2018 30th Annual Election Law Seminar for Cities, Schools, and other Political Subdivisions

Just a SPECIAL NOTICE for the recipients of the newsletter. The association newsletter is intended for members and associates of Texas Association of Election Administrators. Those individuals who are not members or associates of the association may be removed at any time.