



TAEA Newsletter

Texas Association of Elections Administrators

SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

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President
- [Chris Davis](#)

Vice-President
- [Yvonne Ramon](#)

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- [Michele Bennett](#)

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- [Remi Garza](#)

Education Chair
- [John Oldham](#)

Legislative Liaison
- [Mina Cook](#)

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Dare Them to Show You How Your Voting System Is Insecure



I bet you're planning your public Logic and Accuracy test soon.

I bet you get calls from the public challenging you on the security of your voting machines and demanding a return to Ye Grand Olden Days of handing out manually-marked paper ballots & pencils(!) and tabulating them with abacuses (abaci?).

I bet your local newspaper, or better yet your local TV station, has a reporter looking for an easy, low-hanging story to work on.

I bet you know where I'm going with this...

So put on some fancy duds and invite those print/video media types to your public test! Let them get closer than they ever could've dreamed with their cameras focused on your trusty testers, toiling away on your perfectly programmed election. Explain the processssssss.

Pull back the curtain! [Let the sunshine in!](#) Show 'em who's boss.

YOU'RE BOSS! SO BOSS!

And your election is going to run perfectly!

-Chris Davis

FOLD APPLICATION TO FIT IN ENVELOPE.

Ballot By Mail Request Form

Registration Address

OFFICE USE ONLY

Voter ID:
Precinct:

I am 65 years of age or older and requesting an **Annual Ballot By Mail** to receive a ballot for all elections in 2018, including any **Democratic Party** elections, local elections, and the November 2018 General Election. Mail my ballots to the address indicated above (unless noted otherwise below).

SIGNATURE (FIRMA)

Must be signed. Do not print. If you cannot sign, make a mark and have witness fill out the box to the right.

I certify that the information given in this application is true, and I understand that giving false information in this application is a crime.

If you are not able to receive ballots at the address where you are registered to vote, the ballot may be mailed to an alternate address. This address may only be one of the following. Check which address you are using:

- A hospital, nursing home, retirement center or other long-term care facility.
- The address of a person related to applicant. Relationship: _____
- Mailing Address listed on applicant's voter registration card if different than voter registration address.

Mailing Address

Address where ballot

FOR WITNESS (Only if Applicant Cannot Sign):

If applicant is unable to make mark,

Witness shall check here:

Witness Name _____

Witness Address _____

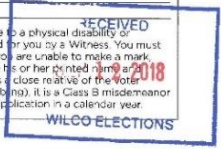
Relationship to Applicant (Check One)

spouse child reside at same address as applicant

other _____

Signature _____

to sign your name (due to a physical disability or application may be signed for you by a Witness. You must sign the application or, if you are unable to make a mark, must sign and provide his or her printed name on the application. Unless the Witness is a close relative of the voter (parent, spouse, child or sibling), it is a Class B misdemeanor if a witness more than one application in a calendar year.



THE RETURN OF THE DUPLICATE ABBM

[HB 2559](#), a bill TAEA [testified against](#), was made law in 2017. As y'all are no doubt aware, it made lists of annual ABBM applicants available for public inspection after just the first election an applicant voted in instead of at year's end. Proponents of the bill, some listed below from [HB 2559's Witness List](#), claimed that this public availability would finally eliminate duplicate ABBM's from being sent & thereby confusing voters.

HB 2559

For:

- Fairbrother, Bill (Self, Texas Republican County Chairmen's Association)
- Harris, Aaron (Self, Direct action tx)
- Johnson, Ed (Harris county clerks office)

Against:

- Davis, Chris (Texas Association of Elections Administrators)

Registering, but not testifying:

For:

- Bucy, John (Texas Democratic County Chairs Association)
- Hammerlein, George (Harris County Clerk's Office)
- Maxey, Glen (Texas Democratic Party)

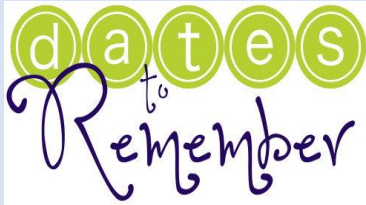
Against:

- Sargent, Bill (Self)
- Vera, Alan (Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee)

So much for that notion: for the upcoming election my office is seeing roughly a 1-in-6 rate of duplicate ABBM's coming in; and most of them are from one state party. We're also receiving many calls from the voters themselves asking if they need to mail in this 2nd application if they've already applied for the annual.

Are y'all seeing this in your offices?

-CD



SOS 2018 Election Law Seminar Cities, Schools & other Political Subdivisions:

November 28 – November 30, 2018

Treasurer



Happy September!

As Aransas County and the entire Texas Gulf Coast buckles down for upcoming Tropical storm let's all keep our fellow Election Officials and friends currently affected by Hurricane Florence in our thoughts. Florence is proving to be destructive. She is moving slowly dropping copious amounts of rain causing massive flooding issues for them.

I'm sure that most of you are finalizing your ballots and worried that you might forget something when it hits you....there are no Green Party candidates! I received a call from Jennifer Anderson in Hays County literally minutes after finalizing my ballot. That's when panic hit me and I immediately started seeing "green". No one wants to remake a ballot. What was I going to do?! Blah blah blah! After a quick call to SOS they advised me that there were no certified Green party candidates despite what their website says. They did not obtain enough signatures on their petitions to get on our ballot. Deep sigh! On to more important things like meeting the UOCAVA deadline, LAT testing, ballot proofing, hiring clerks etc. Ain't nobody got time for that!

Anyway, on to TAEA business. Membership Dues and Mid Winter Conference fees are rolling in! Please remember to use the 2019 Membership application. Mid-Winter Conference promises to be informative and great fun. Williamson County's EA and TAEA President, Chris Davis and his staff have been working hard to get things ready. REO classes will be held on Monday, January 7th and Tuesday, January 8th, 2019. The Mid-Winter Conference will begin on Wednesday, January 9th and end on Friday, January 11th. Additional information for the REO class will be distributed soon.

Stay safe everyone. But most of all stay sane! Here's wishing you all a successful Mid-Term Election!

- Michele Bennett

Legislative Chair



Hello everyone! Everything is really hopping around here as I know it is with all of you also. The public is coming in more, we keep scheduling VDR classes, the phones are ringing more, etc., and I know y'all are experiencing the same thing.

Our county judge passed away on September 2nd, very unexpectedly. He had a brief illness and it did not go well. He was 52 and it was a shock to all of us. You know in a public position, ours included, you cannot make everyone happy all the time, but overall he was good for our county. He tried hard to do what was best for the county as a whole, and he did a good job. He will definitely be missed.

You realize in times like this that life goes on though, when Monday was Labor Day and on Tuesday the phone starts ringing wanting to know what the next step will be to fill his position.

To change the subject, the weather has been great the last week or two, I love these low 70's mornings & upper 80's afternoons! Are we still in Texas? ☺

Anyway, that's all for now because I know we're all busy, just hope everyone has their ballot completed & at the printers!

Until next time, y'all have a good one!

- Mina Cook

Secretary

The rain continues to pour down today. The work isn't letting up either. Hurricane Season may end November 30th, but we are bracing for the storm on the sixth.

We are contracting with eight entities to run concurrent elections this year, which will be a challenge for our office. We will have over twenty early voting sites open each day and seventy-seven on Election Day. On top of that, quite a few voters will be eligible to vote on three distinct ballots. We expect to process more ballots this year than we do during a presidential year. At least it will keep us on our toes for 2020.

We just finished budget season on a high. Two slots created for our department, one in IT and the other in voter outreach. Our Commissioners Court has been very supportive. We are working closely with our Computer Department on cyber-security and look forward to enhancements to our systems.

Have a busy few weeks ahead with Constitution Day presentations, VDR trainings, registration drives and National Voter Registration Day activities. We expect to have twenty volunteers working on September 25th at the local colleges, high schools and in our county buildings to support the effort.

The Commissioner Court has asked us to initiate a voter information project so we are looking forward to developing materials. I apologize in advance if some of those materials look familiar to a few counties, mimicry is the sincerest form of flattery. We are trying to work on a joint project with the Communications Department of UTRGV and are excited at the possibilities. Our partnership with their Political Science department has always been strong. In fact, we have an intern working with us for the fall semester.

Stay safe and stay dry this hurricane season. Good luck in the weeks ahead.

- Remi Garza

Vice President -Yvonne Ramon

Continuing Education - John Oldham



Conference: Wednesday, January 9th - Friday, January 11th
REO Classes: Monday, January 7th - Tuesday, January 8th
Registration form attached to email.



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.