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## **Important Information Regarding Your Voter Registration Information and Voting Rights**

- I. Recent legislation now requires all voters of the State of Texas wishing to vote by personal appearance to present photo identification. To avoid the potential of being required to vote a provisional ballot and risk having your vote be rejected, please ensure you have at least one of the following acceptable forms of identification:
- a. Texas Driver's License issued by the Department of Public Safety (DPS)
  - b. Texas Personal Identification Card issued by the Department of Public Safety (DPS)
  - c. Texas Concealed Handgun License issued by the Department of Public Safety (DPS)
  - d. United States Military Identification Card containing a photograph
  - e. United States Citizenship Certificate containing a photograph
  - f. United States Passport
  - g. Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by the Department of Public Safety

*With the exception of the US Citizenship Certificate, all acceptable forms of identification must be current or have expired no more than 60 days from the date it is being presented.*

*All voters failing to present proper identification when voting by personal appearance will have the opportunity to vote provisionally. The voter will have six calendar days to appear in person to the Voter Registrar's Office (722 Moody Ave, Galveston, Texas 77550) to present an acceptable form of identification or apply for one of three exemptions. Should the voter fail to appear within the allotted time, the provisional ballot will be rejected.*

- II. A voter that does not possess a valid acceptable form of photo identification that has been declared by the Social Security Administration or US Department of Veterans Affairs to be disabled, is eligible to apply for a permanent disability exemption. If you believe you are eligible for this exemption please complete the attached form and submit it along with written documentation from the Social Security Administration or US Department of Veterans Affairs evidencing the disability, to the Voter Registrar's Office at least thirty days in advance of an election. Approval of this exemption by the Voter Registrar's Office will result in the following:
- a. Voter registration record being properly notated to ensure the voter's permanent exemption is valid for all subsequent elections, within the county for which it has been requested and approved
  - b. An updated voter registration certificate being issued to the voter evidencing the approval of his/her permanent disability exemption
  - c. Voter will not be required to present an acceptable form of photo identification when voting in person, but will instead be able to vote by presenting his/her voter registration certificate only

*Please be advised that should a voter appear in person to vote prior to filing for and being granted the permanent exemption, he/she will be required to vote a provisional ballot. The voter will then be required to submit his/her application and evidentiary documentation, by personal appearance, within six calendar days of the conclusion of an election. Failure to ensure personal delivery of the required documents within the allotted time will result in the provisional vote being disqualified/rejected.*

*Additionally, unless relocating within the same county for which the permanent exemption has been granted, the voter is required to reapply each time he/she relocates the voter registration to a new county of residence.*

- III. A voter that does not possess an acceptable form of identification due to (1) a constant religious objection to being photographed or (2) resides in an area declared a natural disaster by the US President and/or Governor of Texas is eligible to apply for a temporary exemption. The following is required of a voter meeting this criteria:
- a. If appearing in person, the voter must vote a provisional ballot
  - b. Present a completed "Temporary Exemption Request" form to the Voter Registrar's Office within six calendar days of the conclusion of an election

*Please be advised current law does not require the voter registration record and the acceptable form of identification to be an exact match. However, the name on the voter registration rolls and the name on the acceptable form of identification must possess a similarity. The similarity must be significant enough to allow for a reasonable conclusion to be determined that the parties are one and the same. Additionally, the voter will be required to initial the "Provisional Voters Appearing To Voter Registrar During Cure Period" form and will have the option of completing a "Voter's Similar Name Correction Request Form" should the voter wish to have his/her registration record updated to be an exact match to the acceptable form of identification.*

- IV. A voter that does not fit any of the types listed above, does not have a valid acceptable form of identification, but has a valid voter registration certificate is able to apply for an Election Identification Certificate (EIC) from the Department of Public Safety. This form of identification is free of charge, as long as the voter meets the eligibility requirements. The EIC is can only be used for the purpose of voting. For more information on how to obtain an EIC, please contact your local DPS office.
- a. A voter is now allowed to contact his/her local voter registrar's office and request a replacement certificate be mailed. However, the certificate can only be mailed to the address on file and no other changes can be made via telephone requests.