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**November 5, 2019 - Uniform Election Date**

These dates are subject to changes from the 2019 legislative session.	
Authority Conducting Elections	County Elections Officer/Local Political Subdivisions
First Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail	Tuesday, January 1, 2019*  *First day to file does not move because of New Year's Day holiday. An "Annual ABBM" or FPCA for a January or February 2019 election may be filed earlier, but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the January or February election.
Deadline to post notice of candidate filing deadline	Thursday, June 20, 2019 for local political subdivisions that have a first day to file for their candidates <sup>1</sup>
First Day to File for Place on General Election Ballot (for local political subdivisions ONLY) <sup>1</sup>	Saturday, July 20, 2019 ("first day" does not move; office hours not required)
Last Day to Order General Election or Election on a Measure	Monday, August 19, 2019
Last Day to File for Place on General Election Ballot (for local political subdivisions ONLY) <sup>2</sup>	Monday, August 19, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. See note below relating to four-year terms <sup>3</sup>
<b>Last Day to Register to Vote</b>	<b>Monday, October 7, 2019</b>
<b>First Day of Early Voting</b>	<b>Monday, October 21, 2019</b> (17th day before election day falls on a Saturday, first day moves to next business day)
Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)	Friday, October 25, 2019
<b>Last Day of Early Voting</b>	<b>Friday, November 1, 2019</b>
Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail	Tuesday, November 5, 2019 (election day) at 7:00 p.m. (unless a late-arriving deadline applies)

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**Explanatory Statements for the November 5, 2019  
Constitutional Amendment Election**

**Proposition Number 1  
(HJR 72)**

HJR 72 proposes a constitutional amendment permitting an elected municipal judge to serve as a municipal judge in more than one municipality at the same time. Unlike an appointed municipal judge, an elected municipal judge may not concurrently hold another municipal judge office. This amendment would allow an elected municipal judge to serve as a municipal judge in more than one municipality at the same time, in the same manner as appointed municipal judges.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **“The constitutional amendment permitting a person to hold more than one office as a municipal judge at the same time.”**

**Proposition Number 2  
(SJR 79)**

SJR 79 proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the Texas Water Development Board to issue additional general obligation bonds, in an amount that does not exceed \$200 million, for the economically distressed areas program. These bonds can only be used to provide financing for the development of water supply and sewer service projects in those economically distressed areas as defined by law.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **“The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$200 million to provide financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas.”**

**Proposition Number 3  
(HJR 34)**

HJR 34 proposes a constitutional amendment allowing the legislature to temporarily exempt from ad valorem taxation a portion of certain property located in an area covered by a disaster declaration of the governor. The proposed amendment would allow the legislature to prescribe the method of determining the amount of the tax exemption and the duration of the exemption and also would allow the legislature to create any additional eligibility requirements for the tax exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by a disaster.”**

**Proposition Number 4  
(HJR 38)**

HJR 38 proposes a constitutional amendment prohibiting the state from imposing or collecting an individual income tax, including an individual's share of partnership and unincorporated association income. There is no current constitutional bar on imposing or collecting an individual income tax.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual income tax, including a tax on an individual's share of partnership and unincorporated association income."**

**Proposition Number 5  
(SJR 24)**

SJR 24 proposes a constitutional amendment that would automatically appropriate the net revenue received from the portion of the state's tax revenue received on sales of sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Texas Historical Commission (THC). The legislature would maintain the authority to determine the specific uses of the funds and their allocation between TPWD and THC.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment dedicating the revenue received from the existing state sales and use taxes that are imposed on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission to protect Texas' natural areas, water quality, and history by acquiring, managing, and improving state and local parks and historic sites while not increasing the rate of the state sales and use taxes."**

**Proposition Number 6  
(HJR 12)**

HJR 12 proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase the maximum bond amount for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) from \$3 billion to \$6 billion to be issued by the Texas Public Finance Authority. CPRIT was created in 2007 to promote and fund cancer research in Texas. CPRIT uses bond proceeds to award grants for cancer research and prevention.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase by \$3 billion the maximum bond amount authorized for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas."**

**Proposition Number 7  
(HJR 151)**

**HJR 151** proposes a constitutional amendment allowing increased distributions from \$300 million per year to \$600 million per year to the available school fund and also allowing the State Board of Education, the General Land Office, and other entities that manage revenue from land or other properties held in the permanent school fund to distribute certain revenue to the available school fund.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **“The constitutional amendment allowing increased distributions to the available school fund.”**

**Proposition Number 8  
(HJR 4)**

**HJR 4** proposes a constitutional amendment creating the flood infrastructure fund as a special fund in the state treasury, using money appropriated from the economic stabilization fund. The flood infrastructure fund would provide additional resources to implement plans to mitigate flood damage. The proposed amendment would authorize the Texas Water Development Board to use money in the flood infrastructure fund for drainage, flood mitigation, or flood control projects. The proposed amendment also would authorize the creation of separate accounts in the flood infrastructure fund as necessary to administer the fund or authorized projects.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **“The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the flood infrastructure fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects.”**

**Proposition Number 9  
(HJR 95)**

**HJR 95** proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to create a property tax exemption for precious metal held in a precious metal depository located in this state.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation precious metal held in a precious metal depository located in this state.”**

**Proposition Number 10**  
**(SJR 32)**

**SJR 32** proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to allow a state agency or political subdivision to transfer a law enforcement animal to the animal's handler or another qualified caretaker in certain circumstances. Currently, the Texas Constitution prevents the transfer of certain public property, such as law enforcement animals, to a private person or organization at no cost. This amendment authorizes the legislature to allow the transfer of a law enforcement animal to the animal's handler or another qualified caretaker at no cost, upon the animal's retirement or at another time if the transfer is determined to be in the animal's best interest.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to allow the transfer of a law enforcement animal to a qualified caretaker in certain circumstances."**

TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE

## 2019 Legislative Update



Keith Ingram  
Director,  
Elections Division

Christina Worrell Adkins  
Legal Director,  
Elections Division

8/12/2019 Texas Secretary of State Elections Division 1




TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE

## 86th Texas Legislature

- January 8, 2019 – May 27, 2019
  - Approximately 246 amendments to the Texas Election Code


8/12/2019 Texas Secretary of State Elections Division 2



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## Election Security


- **H.B. 1421 (Israel)**
  - Adds Chapter 279 “Cybersecurity of Election Systems” to Election Code.
  - Defines key terms
  - Requires SOS prescribe election security best practices
  - Prescribes breach notification requirements for county election officers and SOS.
  - Requires SOS provide cybersecurity training to SOS personnel and counties.
  - Requires all counties to complete the Election Security Assessment.
- Effective: September 1, 2019

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## Confidentiality


- **H.B. 2910 (Klick)**
  - Makes changes in Election Code, Transportation Code, and Government Code to standardize confidentiality provisions.
  - Types of voter registration that remains confidential is standard across request mechanisms.
  - Adds Special Investigators as defined by 2.112 Code of Criminal Procedure to list.
  - Adds category of current or former US attorney or assistant US attorney and their spouse or child to Sec. 552.117 **NOT** Sec. 552.1175 of Government Code. This does **NOT** affect confidentiality.
- Effective: September 1, 2019.

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## Confidentiality


- **H.B. 3100 (Wray)**
  - Includes spouse of peace officer on list of individual's that are permitted to obtain confidentiality of VR records.
- **Effective: September 1, 2019.**

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## Confidentiality

- **S.B. 1494 (Paxton)**
  - Provides confidentiality to a current or former child protective services caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator for the Department of Family and Protective Services or a current or former employee of a department contractor performing child protective services caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator functions for the contractor on behalf of the department.
  - Provides confidentiality to state officers elected statewide and members of the legislature.
- **Effective: September 1, 2019**

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## Confidentiality

- **S.B. 662 (Campbell)**
  - Provides confidentiality to state officers elected statewide and members of the legislature.
- **Effective: September 1, 2019**



## Confidentiality

- **H.B. 2446 (Swanson)**
  - Provides confidentiality to a firefighter or volunteer firefighter or emergency medical services personnel as defined by Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code.
- **Effective: September 1, 2019**



## Confidentiality

- **H.B. 1351 (Cortez)**
  - Provides confidentiality to current or former members of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Marine Corps, an auxiliary service of one of those branches of the armed forces, or the Texas Military forces as that term is defined by Section 437.001.
  - Effective: September 1, 2019



## Ballot Order


- **H.B. 88 (Swanson):**
  - The order of names on a runoff ballot are relative to the order of names on a general election ballot. Conforms to Primary rules and Legislative vacancy rules on ballot order.
  - Gives SOS the ability to review ballot presentation on Ballot Marking Devices.
  - Provides definition of Ballot Marking Device.
- Effective: September 1, 2019



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## Name on Ballot


- **H.B 2075 (Neave)**
  - A candidate may use on the ballot any name acquired by marriage or law.
- **Effective: September 1, 2019.**

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## Branch Early Voting Locations


- **H.B. 1888 (Bonnen)**
  - Eliminates “mobile voting.”
  - Requires all branch early voting locations to remain open for the same weekdays as the main early voting location.
  - All branch locations run by a county or city must be open a minimum of 8 hours each day. All other branch locations located in a territory under 1,000 in population where the county or city is not the early voting clerk must be open 3 hours each day.
- **Effective Date: September 1, 2019**

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## Website Posting Requirements


- **H.B. 933 (Bucy)**
  - Requires the posting of certain types of election information on the Secretary of State and/or the county election officer’s internet website, if the county has a website.
    - **Required of both SOS and County:** Contact information for county election officials, Election day and EV polling places for county and local elections.
    - **County Requirements include:** Notice of Election, Notice of public L&A testing, Notice regarding change in boundary lines of precinct, notice when ballot box is opened, notice of branch early voting schedule, SVC order and notices.
    - **SOS Requirements Include:** Notice of Governor’s statewide canvass, Notice of receipt of petition to support the creation of a new party, notice of governor’s canvass for legislative vacancies, notice of ballot drawing for constitutional amendment elections.
- **Effective: September 1, 2019**

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## Political Party Rules and Procedures

- **H.B. 2640 (Cortez)**
  - Clarifies that precinct by precinct reporting is for county and precinct offices up to statewide offices. Eliminates precinct by precinct reporting for local political subdivisions.
  - Party affiliation occurs when ABBM is returned rather than mailed.
  - Ballot Certification must be delivered by email in addition to any other method used for transmission.
  - Modifies a number of rules related to party affairs.
- **Effective: September 1, 2019**

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## Submission of EV Information

- **H.B. 1850 (Klick)**
  - Requires EV rosters be made available, and posted to the county's website, not later than 11:00 am the day they become public under 87.121. If no website, then bulletin board used for commissioner's court postings.
  - Requires EV clerk to post on website a downloadable copy of the branch daily register.
  - For primary election, primary runoff elections, the general election for state and county officers, and any special election ordered by the governor, this information must be submitted to SOS for posting on SOS website in downloadable format.
- **Effective Date: September 1, 2019**



## Availability of Election Records


- **S.B. 902 (Hughes)**
  - Election records shall be available not later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day after election day in an electronic format. Fee for records capped at \$50 per record.
  - For Primary and General Election for State and County Officers:
    - The county election officers must maintain a list of the total number of votes cast in each polling place on election day and make it available for public inspection not later than the day after election day. This information must also be posted on the SOS website in a downloadable format.
    - Early Voting Rosters must be posted on SOS website.
  - Election Contest filing deadlines are tied to when election records are publically available.
- **Effective: September 1, 2019**



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## Debt Obligation Elections

- **H.B. 440 (Murphy)**
  - Requires posting of sample ballot for bond election be posted on website for 21 days before election along with the election order, notice of election and contents of the proposition.
  - If political subdivision, other than a school, wants to use unspent proceeds on other items, they must have an election to approve this alternative purpose.
- **Effective: September 1, 2019**

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## Debt Obligation Elections

- **S.B. 30 (Birdwell)**
  - Creates a new chapter 1251 in the Government Code which provides more specific instructions on bond elections.
  - Provides specific requirements for ballot language on bond elections.
- **Effective: September 1, 2019**

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