



## 2021 GENERAL ELECTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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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; and
5. Be a registered voter within the city limits of Brenham for more than 30 days prior to the day of the election.

In regards to 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 be a registered voter 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](http://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 1, 2021 General Election is April 20, 2021. 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 30<sup>th</sup> day after it is submitted and accepted by the county voter registrar in Washington County. Once your registration is accepted by the voter registrar, your name will automatically be shown on the voter registration list. A voter registration certificate is then generated and mailed to the address you provided on your application. Once you receive your certificate, 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 registration card in a safe place. You may take the certificate with you to the polls to vote. You will need a form of government issued photo identification 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 4, 2019. If you miss this deadline, you may return to your old precinct (if within the city boundaries) 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 or different county,"** you must re-register in your new county of residence. You cannot vote in a city or county in which you no longer reside.

**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. If you do not recall receiving a new orange and white certificate valid from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021, it could mean that you have moved without updating your address or there is some other problem with your registration. If there is a question, 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: Yes but you must have a valid form of photo ID to vote.

**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 voter that is registered within the City limits of Brenham may vote early by personal appearance (in person). No reason is required. Early voting by personal appearance for the May 1, 2021 General Election begins on April 19, 2021 and ends on April 27, 2021.

**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 (absentee voting). You may request a ballot by mail if you:

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

**Q: I meet one of the requirements shown above to vote early by mail. What do I do now? Are there deadlines connected with this procedure?**

A: Request an Application for Ballot by Mail (ABBM) from the Washington County Chief Deputy Elections Clerk. Once received, read the instructions carefully, complete the ABBM form and return to the Washington County Chief Deputy Elections Clerk, 100 E. Main St., Suite 105, Brenham, TX 77833. The last day for the Early Voting Clerk to receive an ABBM is April 20, 2021 by 5:00 p.m. The ABBM can be hand delivered, by the voter themselves, to the Washington County Chief Deputy Elections Clerk. An ABBM delivered for a voter by another person cannot be accepted. Once early voting begins, all applications must be returned by regular mail, via the U. S. Postal Service.

## 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: On Election Day, 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 Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway  
Brenham., Texas

Ward 2: City of Brenham City Hall – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Utility Billing Lobby  
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, look at your yellow voter registration card in the block labeled CITY and it will tell you which ward number or review the Ward maps on the City of Brenham's website ([www.cityofbrenham.org](http://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 must take one of the following forms of identification:

- Texas Driver's license,
- Texas election identification certificate,
- Texas personal identification card
- Texas concealed handgun license 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, for ages 18-69, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 4 years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place. Voters 70 or over, may present an acceptable ID that is expired by more than 4 years. Other exemptions to the photo voter identification requirement are:

- Voters with consistent religious objection to being photographed
- Voters who do not have any photo identification due to a natural disaster as declared by the President of the United States or the Texas Governor

These voters may cast a provisional ballot at the polls and then have up to six (6) days after the election to present to the county voter registrar appropriate photo identification.

Voters with a disability may apply with the county voter registrar for an exemption.

**Q: What if I do not possess one of the acceptable forms of ID named above?**

**A:** You may complete a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form and present one of the following forms of supporting ID:

- Copy or original of a government document that shows the voter's name and address, including the voter registration certification; or

- Copy of or original current utility bill; or
- Copy of or original bank statement; or
- Copy of or original government check; or
- Copy of or original paycheck; or
- Copy of or original of (a) a certified domestic (from a U. S. State or territory) birth certificate or (b) document confirming birth admissible in a court of law which establishes your identity (which may also include a foreign birth).

### **Provisional Voting**

Provisional voting is designed to allow a voter whose name does not appear on the list of registered voters or has not brought their valid ID to the poll to cast a ballot. An investigation of the voter records will determine whether or not the ballot will be counted. If a voter is voting provisional due to not bringing a valid ID with them to the polls, the voter will have up to six (6) days to present a valid ID to the Early Voting Clerk. The provisional voter will receive a notice in the mail by the 10th day after the local canvass advising them if their provisional ballot was counted, or if it was not counted, the reason why.

### **MILITARY & OVERSEAS VOTERS**

Military and overseas voters should use the Federal Postcard Application found on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at <https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fpca2013.pdf>.

### **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.