



Contact Zavala County Clerk's Office
Telephone 830.374.2331
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VOTERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Services Available to Voters with Special Needs in Texas
A publication of the Secretary of State

Voters May Receive Assistance at the Polls

Tell the election official if you are a voter who needs help to vote. You do not have to provide proof of your disability. Voters are entitled to receive assistance if they:

- Cannot read or write; or
- Have a physical disability that prevents them from reading or marking the ballot.

Voters may be assisted by:

- Any person the voter chooses who is not an election worker;
- Two election workers on Election Day; or
- One election worker during early voting.

Voters **MAY NOT** be assisted by:

- Their employer;
- An agent of their employer; or
- An officer or agent of their union.

The person assisting the voter must read him or her the entire ballot, unless the voter asks to have only parts of the ballot read. The person assisting the voter must take an oath that he or she will not try to influence the voter's vote and will mark the ballot as the voter directs. If the voter chooses to be assisted by polling place officials, poll watchers and election inspectors may observe the voting process, but if the voter asks to be assisted by a person the voter chooses, no one else may watch him or her vote.

It is illegal for a person assisting the voter to:

- Try to influence the voter's vote;
- Mark the voter's ballot in a way other than the way they have asked; or
- Tell anyone how the voter voted

Voters May Use Interpreters at the Polls

Voters who cannot speak English, or who communicate only with sign language, may use an interpreter to help them communicate with election officials. The voter may select any registered voter from his or her county to be their interpreter. If the voter cannot read the languages on the ballot, the interpreter may also assist by translating the language on the ballot for the voter in the voting booth. (See assistance section above for more details.) If the voter is deaf and does not have a sign language interpreter who can accompany them to help communicate with the poll worker or read the ballot, the voter should contact his or her local election officials before the election and request assistance.

Curbside Voting

If a voter is physically unable to enter the polling place, he or she may ask that an election officer bring a ballot to the entrance of the polling place or to a car at parked at the curbside. After the voter marks the ballot, they will give it to the election officer, who will put it in the ballot box. Or, at the voter's request, a companion may hand the voter a ballot and deposit it for him or her.

Tip For Voter With Disability: If you plan to go alone to vote curbside, it is wise to call ahead so election officials will expect you. Generally speaking, you may vote curbside during the early voting period (the 17th day before Election Day until the 4th day before Election Day) or on Election Day. For a May uniform election date or resulting runoff election, the early voting period is the 12th day before Election Day until the 4th day before Election Day.

Voters May Vote Early, Either in Person or by Mail

Voters who vote during the early voting period may vote at any early voting site in the political subdivision that is holding the election. Alternatively, if a voter will be 65 years of age or older on Election Day, has a disability, or will be outside the county during early voting hours and on Election Day, the voter can apply to vote by mail. Simply submit a completed and signed Application for a Ballot by Mail any time from the 60th to the 9th day before Election Day to the proper county early voting clerk. Please note that for an election held on a Tuesday, the deadline moves to the 11th day before Election Day because the 9th day falls on a weekend. Applications for a Ballot by Mail may also be submitted in person at the main early voting polling location, as long as early voting by personal appearance is NOT taking place. Applications for a Ballot by Mail may also be submitted in person at the main early voting polling location, as long as early voting by personal appearance is NOT taking place. For further information on voting early in person or by mail, including information on assistance in requesting, marking, or mailing a ballot by mail, please read our pamphlet titled "Early Voting in Texas."

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Zavala County Clerk's Office at 830.374.2331 or by email at countyclerk@zavalacounty.org.