



THE
AL GREEN REPORT
Proudly Representing Texas' 9th Congressional District



algreen.house.gov

Special Edition

August 2016

***MAKE SURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD: AN UPDATE ON VOTING IN THE
UPCOMING ELECTION***

Dear Friends:

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on July 20, 2016 that the Texas Voter Identification Act of 2011 is a violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This decisive judgment will mean that in the upcoming election on November 8, 2016, the rules concerning the type of identification and information you need to vote will be modified significantly. Moreover, it is my hope that a multitude of citizens who were ineligible to vote as a result of this law will now be eligible to vote once again. However, we must be mindful that Texas officials will likely appeal this decision to the Supreme Court, producing a new judgment after the upcoming election.

Previously, under the Texas Voter Identification Act of 2011, acceptable forms of identification included: Texas Driver's license; Texas Election identification certificate; Texas Department of Public Safety personal ID card; U.S. Military ID; U.S. citizenship certificate; U.S. passport; and Texas concealed handgun license, issued by the Department of Public Safety. All identification documents had to include a photo of the voter. Additionally, the law established that acceptable identification documents will be those that have not expired or that expired no earlier than 60 days before the date of presentation. According to the law, a voter who failed to present the required identification would have had the opportunity to cast a provisional ballot. In such a case, and no later than the sixth day after the date of the election, the voter would have been required to present an acceptable form of identification to the voter registrar.

According to the Texas Secretary of State, for the upcoming November election, if a voter is not able to obtain one of the seven forms of approved photo ID, as mentioned in the Texas Voter Identification Act of 2011, the voter may vote by:

- Signing a declaration at the polls explaining why the voter is unable to obtain one of the seven forms of approved photo ID, and
- Providing one of the various forms of supporting documentation. According to the Texas Secretary of State's official website, "Supporting documentation can be a certified birth certificate (must be an original), a valid voter registration certificate, a copy or original of one of the following: current utility bill, bank statement, government check, or paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter, although government documents which include a photo must be original and cannot be copies. If a voter meets these requirements and is otherwise eligible to vote, the voter will be able to cast a regular ballot in the election."

Additionally, "all approved photo ID, except for the U.S. citizenship certificate, must be current or have expired no more than four years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place."

According to the Texas Secretary of State official website, "Voters with a disability may continue to apply with the county registrar for a permanent exemption to showing approved photo ID (which now may be expired no more than four years) at the polls. Also, voters who (1) have a consistent religious objection to being photographed or (2) do not present one of the seven forms of approved photo ID because of certain natural disasters as declared by the President of the United States or the Texas Governor, may continue to apply for a temporary exemption to showing approved photo ID at the polls."

As your Congressman, I will continue to monitor and update the community about this important issue. For additional information and updates please visit: votetexas.gov.

Sincerely,

Al Green
Your Congressman



DEADLINES AND DATES

The below dates apply to the entire State of Texas.

- **October 11, 2016:** Last day to register to vote in the election.
- **October 22, 2016:** Early voting locations will be listed on the website: votetexas.gov. Registered and eligible voters may vote at ANY early voting location located in the county of residence.
- **October 24—November 4, 2016:** Early voting period. Early Voting Polling Places are open every weekday during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **October 28, 2016:** Last day to apply for ballot by mail.
- **November 8, 2016:** General Election Day. The hours for polling places are 7am—7pm. On Election day, you can only vote at the voting precinct assigned to you.

Source: Votetexas.gov

COUNTY CLERK CONTACT INFORMATION

FORT BEND COUNTY

Elections Administrator

Mr. John W. Oldham

301 Jackson St., Richmond 77469-3108

(281) 341-8670

FAX: (281) 341-4418

HARRIS COUNTY

County Clerk

Mr. Stan Stanart

P.O. Box 1148, Houston 77251-1148

(713) 755-6965

FAX: (713) 755-4983

Source: Votetexas.gov

HOW TO CONTACT CONGRESSMAN AL GREEN

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

2347 Rayburn House

Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (202)-225-7508

Fax: (202)-225-2974

HOUSTON OFFICE

3003 South Loop West

Houston, TX 77054

Phone: (713)-383-9234

Fax: (713)-383-9202

<http://algreen.house.gov>

www.facebook.com/repalgreen

www.twitter.com/repalgreen

www.youtube.com/repalgreen

