

## UNITED STATES ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION



## VOTER REGISTRATION SURVEY

The following form should be completed on-line or in electronic format. Completed forms should be returned to the United States Election Assistance Commission via email to [Survey\\_Response@eac.gov](mailto:Survey_Response@eac.gov) on or before March 31, 2005.

Please complete all of the fields below. Specific instructions relative to certain fields are found at the end of this form. If your question or concern is not answered in the instructions section of this form, please contact Brian Hancock at 202-566-3100.

RESPONDENT INFORMATION		
Name of the responding State: Texas	Date response is submitted: 4/29/2005	
Name of responding official: Melinda Nickless	Title of responding official: Assistant Director of Elections	
Address of responding official: P.O. Box 12060 Austin, Texas 78711	Email Address: rnickless@sos.state.tx.us	
	Phone Number: 512-463-9868	Fax Number: 512-475-2811

**TOTAL VOTER REGISTRATION:**  
Please respond to the following questions in the space provided below.

- Total number of registered voters (active) at the time of the close of registration for the 2002 Federal general election  
10,334,773
- Total number of registered voters (inactive) at the time of the close of registration for the 2002 Federal general election  
2,228,686

3. Total number of registered voters (active) at the time of the close of polls for the 2004 Federal general election (November 2, 2004)  
11,000,678
4. Total number of registered voters (inactive) at the time of the close of polls for the 2004 Federal general election (November 2, 2004)  
2,097,651
5. Total number of registered voters who were determined to be eligible to vote in the November 2, 2004 election through the provisional voting process.  
7,770
6. Were there any voter registration applications received prior to the deadline for registering to vote in the November 2, 2004 election that were not processed in time for the election?
- Yes  No

**VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICIALS:**

Please respond to the following questions in the space provided below.

7. Identify the local election official primarily responsible for registering voters.  
Voter Registrar/Tax Assessor Collector
8. Identify each and every other state or local government office or agency that conducts voter registration including (a) motor vehicle offices, (b) all offices that provide public assistance that are mandated as registration sites by NVRA, (c) all offices that provide state-funded programs primarily serving persons with disabilities, (d) all Armed Forces recruitment offices, and (e) all other agencies designated by the State.

Any agency or program that provides public assistance, including: TX Dept of Human Services (AFDC program, Medicaid program, programs for the aged); TX Dept of Health (special supplemental food program for women, infants, and children); TX Dept of Mental Health & Mental Retardation; TX Comm for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired; TX School for the Deaf; TX Comm for the Blind; TX School for the Blind and Visually Impaired; TX Rehabilitation Comm; and any other agency that provides a state-funded program primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities, as determined by the SOS. The Dept of Public Safety; each public library, including any branch or other service outlet; that is open more than 30 hours per week; operated by a single public agency or board; open without charge to all persons under identical conditions; receives its financial support wholly or partly from public funds. Each marriage license office of the county clerk and any other agencies that the SOS deems necessary for compliance to federal law.

9. Identify whether voter registration forms are received by local registration officials or state registration officials.
- Local       State       Both
10. Identify whether voter registration forms are processed by local registration officials or state registration officials.
- Local       State       Both
11. Total number of election jurisdictions conducting voter registration  
254
12. Total number of jurisdictions identified in question 11 that provided information for this survey  
253

**VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS.**

Please respond to the following questions in the space provided below.

13. Total number of voter registration applications received from all sources during the period from the close of registration for the November 2002 federal election until the close of registration for the November 2004 Federal election  
4,021,329
14. Total number of **mail** voter registration applications (including state, federal, and military or overseas forms that are accepted) received during the period from the close of registration for the November 2002 Federal election until the close of registration for the November 2004 Federal election  
1,137,766
15. Total number of voter registration applications received **in person in the clerk or voter registrars' office** during the period from the close of registration for the November 2002 Federal election until the close of registration for the November 2004 Federal election  
480,268

16. Total number voter registration applications received from each voter registration agency, including (1) motor vehicle offices, (2) all public assistance agencies that are mandated as registration sites by NVRA, (3) all offices that provide state-funded programs primarily serving persons with disabilities, (4) all Armed Forces recruitment offices, and (5) all other agencies designated by the State (those identified in response to question 8), during the period from the close of registration for the November 2002 Federal election until the close of registration for the November 2004 Federal general election

Motor Vehicle Offices 2,170,520

Offices that provide Public Assistance 66,866

Offices the provide State-funded programs  
primarily serving persons with disabilities 11,553

Armed Forces recruitment offices 12,161

Other agencies designated by the State 82,217 And Federal Form 52,902

17. Total number of voter registration applications identified in response to questions 14 - 17 that were **changes of address, name or party**

1,465,903

18. Total number of voter registration applications identified in response to questions 14-17 that were **duplicates** of other valid voter registrations

320,442

19. Total number of voter registration applications identified in response to question 13 that were invalid or rejected (other than duplicates)

128,754

20. How are voter registration applications transferred from other voter registration agencies (see question 16) to the official responsible for voter registration? (i.e. email, VPN, tape, disk, mail, fax)

Generally by mail. Some are delivered in person. Secretary of State delivers electronic copy of voter registration applications received from the Department of Public Safety to voter registrars on a weekly basis.

21. What, if any, training is provided to employees of voter registration agencies on the voter registration process?

Voter Registration agencies train their own employees on the voter registration process. The Office of Secretary of State provides additional training upon request, and provides training materials, including a training video tape.

22. Identify any restrictions on the acceptance of voter registration applications such as paper weight, fax, electronic, mail (for non-NVRA states), batch, third-party delivery, etc.

Third party delivery is not authorized unless the person has specific authority to hand deliver such as a volunteer deputy or a NVRA agency. Electronic registration is not available.

23. Total number of new valid registrations added to the voter registration lists between the 2002 and 2004 Federal general elections

2,106,230

**PROCESSING VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS**  
Please respond to the following questions in the space provided below.

24. How are voter registration applications maintained (e.g., paper or computerized)?

- Paper       Computerized       Other

If Other is selected, please specify the method of maintaining records.

Paper, Computerized and Image, Data on application is captured by electronic data entry.

25. How does the registration official check for duplicate registrations?

State runs a duplicate check every day for the 172 on-line counties and once a week for the other off-line counties.

26. Does your State check for duplicate voter registrations across state lines?

- Yes       No

27. What type of number is used as a voter registration number (e.g., social security number, unique identifier)? If a unique identifier is used, please identify what method is used for assigning the identifier (e.g., random, combination of county number and other number)

- Social Security Number (4 digits)       Driver's License Number  
 Social Security Number (9 digits)       Unique Identifier  
 Other

The certificate number for a voter is determined by each county. Some counties use meaningful numbers while others use a sequential set.

28. Are applicants who are rejected notified of the rejection and reason for rejection?

- Yes       No

#### LIST MAINTENANCE

Please respond to the following questions in the space provided below.

29. How many removal notices (Section 8(d)(2) confirmation notices) were sent between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 2, 2004?  
2,098,913
30. How many responses were received to the confirmation notices identified in response to question 29?  
269,027
31. How many voters were moved to the inactive list?  
1,829,886
32. How many voters were ultimately removed from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 2, 2004?  
742,779

33. How many voters were removed from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 2, 2004 because of the **death of the voter**?  
did not track
34. How many voters were removed from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 2, 2004 due to **failure to vote in two consecutive federal general elections**?  
none
35. How many voters were removed from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 2, 2004 because the **voter requested to be removed**?  
did not track
36. How many voters were moved from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 2, 2004 because of **disqualifying felony convictions**?  
did not track
37. How many voters were removed from the voter rolls between the close of registration for the November 2002 election and November 2, 2004 for reasons other than those set forth in questions 33 – 36? Please specify the reason for the removal.  
unknown
38. What sources of data are considered in performing list maintenance (e.g., returned election notices, returned jury summons, Postal Service NCOA information, house-to-house canvasses, etc.)?  
returned certificates, NCOA, any information received by voter registrar - a notice is sent to voter before cancellation to confirm information
39. What process is used to perform list maintenance? (e.g., is the process electronic or manual)  
electronic processing

40. Who is responsible for list maintenance (e.g., state or locality)?  
each local voter registrar
41. How does your State treat voters who (a) have been convicted of a felony, (b) are serving a sentence of incarceration for conviction of a felony, and (c) are serving a term of probation following being convicted of a felony?
- (a) Convicted of a felony  
cannot register until felon's sentence is completed ("discharged")
- (b) Serving a sentence of incarceration for conviction of a felony  
Cannot register if conviction is final
- (c) Serving a term of probation following being convicted of a felony  
cannot register

**NVEA AND HAVA PROVISIONS:**

Please respond to the following questions in the space provided below.

42. Is your State subject to the National Voter Registration Act?
- Yes       No
43. Has your State revised its state voter or mail voter registration form to include the citizenship and age questions required by HAVA?
- Yes       No
44. How does your State treat applications where one or more of the HAVA mandated questions (citizenship and age) are not answered?  
as incomplete application, notifying voter to send additional information



45. Total number of voter registration applications that were accepted and processed without the applicant completing the question "Are you a citizen of the United States of America?"  
none
46. Total number of voter registration applications that were accepted and processed without the applicant completing the question "Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day?"  
none
47. Has your State implemented the verification requirements of HAVA for new mail registrations?  
 Yes       No
48. Has your State implemented the verification requirements of HAVA for all new registrations?  
 Yes       No
49. How does your State verify voter registration applications (e.g., tracking the return of disposition notices, checks against drivers license and social security administration records, etc.)?  
Currently verified under voter's signature unless voter registrar has reason to believe person is lying, then a challenge process and hearing is conducted.
50. Has your State implemented a statewide voter registration database?  
 Yes       No

If the answer is no, when will your State implement a statewide voter registration database and what progress has been made toward achieving that implementation?

Currently in the design phase of a statewide system. Statewide roll out estimated in January, 2006.

Does the database or any solicitation for such a database include linking disability and social service agencies to the database in a similar manner as the state department of motor vehicles?

Yes  No

#### VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES

Please respond to the following questions in the blanks provided below.

51. Does your State allow outside groups to conduct voter registration drives and submit the voter registration applications to the local registration official for processing?

Yes  No

52. How does your State manage the number of applications given to the outside group and the number and timing of the return of those forms by the outside registration group?

We do not, except for one program which is monitored. It includes delivery of an application to each senior high school student. We track how many were used to register based on a source code.

53. Does your State use serial numbers on voter registration applications given to outside groups and organizations in order to be able to identify which group or organization handled completed applications that are received by State and local officials?

Yes  No

54. Does your State permit agents of outside groups to be paid compensation for registering voters?

Yes  No

If so, may the agent be paid on the basis of the number of voter registrations submitted?

Yes  No

If payment of a voter registration is prohibited, what is the penalty for violating the prohibition?

Not applicable

**PUBLIC INFORMATION:**  
Please respond to the following questions by the blanks provided below.

55. Are voter registration records public information?

Yes       No

56. Are voter registrations available for sale to the public?

Yes       No

**Instructions:**

Please answer every question. Do not leave any questions blank. The appropriate answer may be "0", "none", or "N/A". This survey seeks information only from the State level.

# The State of Texas



Elections Division  
P.O. Box 12060  
Austin, Texas 78711-2060  
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(800) 252-VOTE (8683)

Roger Williams  
Secretary of State

## FACSIMILE COVER PAGE

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TO: Brian Hancock

FAX #: 202-506-3127 PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: Melinda Nickless

Elections Division  
Phone: (512) 463-5650 or toll-free 1-800-252-VOTE(8683)  
Fax: (512) 475-2811 Elections Division

DATE: 4/29/05 # PAGES (including cover page): 12

If you did not receive this telefax in its entirety or there is a problem with the transmission, please contact Kim Thole at one of the Elections Division phone numbers listed above.

### MESSAGE:

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