

Training for Texas Volunteer Deputy Registrars

<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/volunteer-deputy-registrar-training.pdf>



Table of Contents

- Before Getting Started
- Qualifications
- Length of Appointment
- Role of a Volunteer Deputy Registrar
 - Supplies Needed
 - Distributing and Accepting Applications
 - Assisting Applicants
 - Reviewing the Applications
 - Registration Receipt
 - Delivery of Applications and Receipts
- Voter Registration
 - Applicant Eligibility Requirements
 - Voter Name Changes
 - Voter Address Changes
 - Effective Date of Registration
 - Period of Effectiveness



Before Getting Started

- A person may not receive another person's registration application until satisfactorily completing training developed or approved by the Secretary of State and is appointed a volunteer deputy registrar.
- At the time of appointment, the county voter registrar will advise the volunteer deputy registrar of any county-specific procedures for processing voter applications and that the only requirements for voter registration are those prescribed by state law or by the Secretary of State



Qualifications

- A Volunteer Deputy Registrar must:
 - Be 18 years of age or older
 - Be a United States Citizen
 - Not have been determined by a final judgement of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be:
 1. totally mentally incapacitated, or
 2. partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote
 - never have been convicted of failing to deliver a voter registration application to a voter registrar
 - not have been finally convicted of a felony, or, if convicted, must have
 1. fully discharged the sentence, including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision, or
 2. been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disability to vote



Qualifications (cont.)

- not have been finally convicted of identity theft under Section 32.51 of the Texas Penal Code
- be a Texas resident
- Note:
 - A county voter registrar may not reappoint a person whose appointment as a volunteer deputy registrar is terminated either for a final conviction under
 1. Section 13.043, Texas Election Code, relating to delivery of completed registration applications or
 2. Section 13.008, Texas Election Code, relating to performance- based compensation for volunteer deputy registrars.
 - Pursuant to Section 13.031(d)(3) of the Texas Election Code, to be eligible for appointment as a volunteer deputy registrar, a person must meet the requirements to be a qualified voter under Section 11.002 of the Code, except that the person **is not** required to be a registered voter.



Length of Appointment

- A person who meets the qualifications may be appointed a volunteer deputy registrar at any time
- All appointments expire on December 31st of every even-numbered year
- A person who has previously taken the volunteer deputy registrar examination and received a certificate of appointment in one county is not required to take the examination again in another county. The person should submit a Request for Appointment as a VDR with the new county. The voter registrar in the new county will appoint the person as a VDR and advise of any county-specific procedures.



Length of Appointment (cont.)

Your appointment as a volunteer deputy registrar **MAY** be terminated by the appointing authority if it is determined that you:

- failed to properly review a voter registration application;
- intentionally destroyed or physically altered a registration application; or
- engaged in any other activity that conflicts with your responsibilities as a volunteer deputy registrar.

Your appointment as a volunteer deputy registrar **WILL** be terminated by the county voter registrar if you are:

- finally convicted of an offense under the law relating to performance-based compensation for voter registration, Section 13.008, Texas Election Code; or
- finally convicted of an offense under the law relating to a failure to deliver a completed voter registration application to the county voter registrar, Section 13.043, Texas Election Code



Role of a Volunteer Deputy Registrar

Supplies Needed

- Certificate of Appointment*
- Texas Volunteer Deputy Registrar Guide and any other handbook provided by your appointing authority*
- Voter Registration Applications*
- Receipt Book*
- Pens

**All election materials issued to a volunteer deputy registrar, including the Certificate of Appointment, receipt books, receipts, applications and other forms in the volunteer deputy registrar's possession, must be returned or accounted for upon termination of appointment, not later than the second day after the volunteer deputy registrar receives the termination notice.*



Role of a Volunteer Deputy Registrar

Distributing and Accepting Applications

A volunteer deputy registrar assists the county voter registrar who appointed him or her to encourage voter registration.

A volunteer deputy registrar:

- may **distribute** voter registration applications to anyone who requests one.
- may **distribute and accept** a completed voter registration application from any resident of the county who is:
 - a United State citizen;
 - a resident of the county;
 - at least 17 years and 10 months of age;
 - not a convicted felon (unless the person's sentence has been completed, including probation or parole or the person has been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disability to vote);
 - not a person determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be (1) totally mentally incapacitated; or (2) partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.



Role of a Volunteer Deputy Registrar

Distributing and Accepting Applications (cont)

- may **distribute and accept** a completed voter registration application from any resident of the county who wishes to change or correct information on his/her voter registration certificate (such as name or address).

Your county voter registrar should provide you with applications containing the county return address. If your county voter registrar does not have enough applications to provide to you, you may print blank applications for volunteer deputy registrars from the Secretary of State's website. These applications should only be distributed to applicants residing in the county.

Should you receive generic applications containing the Secretary of State's return address, you can distribute to anyone residing in any county; however, you can only accept applications from those registering within the county in which you were appointed.



Role of a Volunteer Deputy Registrar

Assisting Applicants

- You may assist any resident of the county in completing a voter registration application, if he/she cannot read, or has a physical disability
- If an applicant cannot sign his/her name on the application, the applicant may make a mark on the signature line. Print the name of the applicant beside the mark. Sign your name and address as the witness and state the reason the applicant is unable to sign.
- You may allow another registered voter (or anyone who has submitted a registration application) to fill out and sign an application for his/her spouse, parent or child. That person must sign the application as "agent" and state the relationship to the applicant on the application. The "agent" must have the permission of the applicant to do this.



Role of a Volunteer Deputy Registrar

Reviewing the Applications

- Each voter registration application should be reviewed in the presence of the applicant.
- If the voter registration application does not contain all the required information, including the required signature, the volunteer deputy registrar shall return the application to the applicant for completion and resubmission.



Role of a Volunteer Deputy Registrar

Reviewing the Applications (cont)

A voter registration application you accept from any resident of the county should include the following:

- Section 1: Applicant must select why they are submitting the application (new application, change to current information or request for replacement). Applicant must also answer citizenship and age question;
- Section 2: Full name, including any middle, maiden, or former name;
- Section 3: Residence address must be a street address or a description of the location of the residence;
- Section 4: Valid mailing address, if mail can't be delivered to the residence address;
- Section 5: City and County of Former Residence in Texas;
- Section 6: Date of birth, including month, day, and year;



Role of a Volunteer Deputy Registrar

Reviewing the Applications (cont)

A voter registration application you accept from any resident of the county should include the following:

- Section 9: Texas Driver's License No., Texas Personal I.D. No. or last 4 digits of social security number. If the applicant hasn't been issued any of these items, he or she must check the box in this section affirming this statement; and
- Section 10: Signature of applicant and date of signing. Be sure the applicant has read the statements that he/she is signing regarding qualifications to register and if an agent is registering for an applicant, be sure the agent provides his/her relationship to the applicant.

A volunteer deputy registrar **MAY NOT**:

- determine if the applicant is actually qualified to register to vote; or
- make the applicant provide his/her gender or telephone number.



Role of a Volunteer Deputy Registrar

Reviewing the Applications

REQUIRED

OPTIONAL

MUST BE SIGNED AND DATED

January, 2023

Texas Voter Registration Application For Official Use Only
Prescribed by the Office of the Secretary of State VR17 2011E.03

Please complete sections by printing LEGIBLY. If you have any questions about how to fill out this application, please call your local voter registrar.

1 These Questions Must Be Completed Before Proceeding (Check one)

☒ New Application ☐ Change of Address, Name, or Other Information ☐ Request for a Replacement Card

Are you a United States Citizen? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If you checked 'No' in response to either of the above, do not complete this form.

Are you interested in serving as an election worker? ☐ Yes ☒ No

2 Last Name (Include Suffix if any (Jr, Sr, III)) First Name Middle Name (if any) Former Name (if any)

Smith Jane Doe

3 Residence Address: Street Address and Apartment Number. If none, describe where you live. (Do not include P.O. Box, Rural Rt. or Business Address) City State

123 This way lane Here TEXAS

4 Mailing Address: Street Address and Apartment Number. (If mail cannot be delivered to your residence address.) City State Zip Code

123 This way lane There 77777

5 City and County of Former Residence in Texas

N/A

6 Date of Birth: (mm/dd/yyyy)

12/12/1912

7 Gender (Optional) ☐ Male ☐ Female

8 Telephone Number (Optional) (Include Area Code)

() - -

9 Texas Driver's License No. or Texas Personal I.D. No. (Issued by the Department of Public Safety) If no Texas Driver's License or Personal Identification, give last 4 digits of your Social Security Number

61234567 XXX-XX- -

☐ I have not been issued a Texas Driver's License/Personal Identification Number or Social Security Number.

10 understand that giving false information to procure a voter registration is perjury, and a crime under state and federal law. Conviction of this crime may result in imprisonment up to 180 days, a fine up to \$2,000, or both. Please read all three statements to affirm before signing.

- I am a resident of this county and a U.S. citizen;
- I have not been finally convicted of a felony, or if a felon, I have completed all of my punishment including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or I have been pardoned; and
- I have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

X Jane Smith Date 07/01/2015

Signature of Applicant or Agent and Relationship to Applicant or Printed Name of Applicant if Signed by Witness and Date.



Role of a Volunteer Deputy Registrar

Registration Receipt

For each completed voter registration application you receive, you must:

- prepare a receipt in duplicate
- sign the receipt and give the original to the applicant

You should not keep copies of the completed voter registration applications because these documents contain information that is confidential by law.



Role of a Volunteer Deputy Registrar

Delivery of Applications and Receipts

- You must deliver completed registration applications and receipts in person to the county voter registrar who appointed you no later than 5 p.m. on the 5th day after the date you receive them
- Alternatively, you may deliver completed registration applications and receipts to the county voter registrar through another volunteer deputy registrar appointed by the county voter registrar no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 5th day after the date you receive them.
- You **MAY NOT** deliver the application and receipts by mail.



Role of a Volunteer Deputy Registrar

Delivery of Applications and Receipts (cont)

Note:

To be eligible to vote, a person must be registered 30 days before Election Day. Pursuant to Section 13.042(c) of the Election Code, as amended by House Bill 2324 (85th Legislature, RS, 2017), effective September 1, 2017, when you receive a completed application after the 34th day before the date of an election and on or before the last day for a person to timely submit a registration application for that election as provided by Section 13.143 of the Code, you **MUST** deliver the application to the county voter registrar **no later** than 5 p.m. of the next regular business day after the date to timely submit a registration application for that election as provided by Section 13.143 of the Code.

- FAILURE TO DELIVER AN APPLICATION IN A TIMELY MANNER IS A **CRIMINAL OFFENSE.**



Voter Registration

Applicant Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to register to vote a person must:

- be at least 17 years and 10 months of age;
- be a United States citizen;
- be a resident of the county where registering
- not have been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be
 1. totally mentally incapacitated; or
 2. partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote
- not have been finally convicted of a felony or, if so convicted, must have:
 1. fully discharged the person's sentence, including any incarceration, parole, or supervision, or completed a period of probation ordered by any court; or
 2. been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disability to vote



Voter Registration

Voter Name Changes

If a voter's name changes, his/her voter registration can be updated by:

- making the change on the back of his/her voter registration certificate and mailing it to the county voter registrar;
- submitting a new application form to the voter registrar and checking the box for "change"; or
- writing a letter to the voter registrar explaining the name change.



Voter Registration

Voter Address Changes

If the voter moves within the same county, his/her voter registration can be updated by:

- making the change on the back of the voter registration certificate and mailing it to the county voter registrar;
- submitting a new application form to the voter registrar and checking the box for "change";
- writing a letter to the voter registrar explaining the change of address; or
- submitting a change of name/address online at www.VoteTexas.gov

If the voter moves to another county, they must re-register in the new county of residence.



Voter Registration

Effective Date of Registration

- The applicant can vote as soon as the 30th day after submitting the application. This 30-day waiting period starts when the volunteer deputy registrar receives the application form.
- If the applicant is under 18, the registration will become effective on the 30th day after the voter registrar gets the application or on the applicant's 18th birthday, whichever comes later.



Voter Registration

Period of Effectiveness

Voter registration will be automatically renewed every even-numbered year unless:

- the voter moves to another address; or
- the voter is convicted of a felony and has not completed the sentence, probation or parole or been otherwise pardoned or released from the resulting disability to vote



Upcoming Elections

- Ask your county voter registrar about upcoming elections and deadlines to register to vote.
- For general voting information, please visit www.votetexas.gov.

**Thank you for your service as a
Texas Volunteer Deputy Registrar!**



Elections Division

P.O. Box 12060
Austin, Texas 78711-2060
512.463.5650 or
1.800.252.VOTE (8683)
Fax 512.475.2811
TTY 7.1.1

www.sos.state.tx.us

www.votetexas.gov

elections@sos.texas.gov

