

You can still VOTE!

A Voter's Guide for Harris County Residents of Long Term Care Facilities and their families.

Just 2 Steps!

Step 1 - REGISTER TO VOTE

Before you can vote, you must be registered!

When you enter a facility, you need to decide if you want to use the facility address, or a family member's address, as your residence for voter registration. The address you use **must** be in Harris County. This address will determine in which precinct you will vote and which ballot you will vote. You can have the registration card mailed to an address different than your registered address.

You can register to vote at any time, but must be registered to vote in Harris County at least 30 days prior to an election. If you are not sure if you are registered, you can call Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector's office at 713-368-8683 to verify your status.

If you are under guardianship, you may still be able to vote. The guardianship order must specifically take away the right to vote.

Step 2 - VOTE EARLY

All registered voters are eligible to visit any one of a series of locations within Harris County for early voting two weeks prior to an election. The early polling locations are open extended hours and on weekends. All locations have wheel chair access. If you are unable to leave the car, an election clerk can bring the eSlate to your car so you can cast your ballot at the curb.

If you vote in person, you will be asked for your voter registration card or identification. If you do not have your voter registration card, you may use the following:

- ✓ Driver's license (even if it is expired)
- ✓ State ID
- ✓ A government document showing your current address

VOTING USING BALLOT BY MAIL

If you are at least 65 years of age or disabled, you can request a ballot by mail by calling 713-755-6965. You will need your voter registration number **before** requesting a mail in ballot. You may ask that the ballot be sent to an address other than the address on your voter registration card.

Mail in ballots may also be requested using the Application for Mail in Ballot form available on the web at www.harrisvotes.org.

WHAT CAN I DO?

What a resident CAN do

- Ask for assistance from your relative or the facility to verify your voter registration status
- Request a voter registration form and assistance in completing and mailing the form
- Request an application for ballot by mail and assistance in completing and mailing the request form
- Ask for assistance from your relative or the facility to complete the ballot by mail
- Ask for assistance from the workers at a polling place to help you with your ballot

What a resident CANNOT do

- Wait until the last minute to make your wishes known
- Vote outside your registered precinct on election day

What a Family Member CAN do

- Make certain your loved one is registered to vote in Harris County
- Provide a mail in ballot application if requested and assistance in filling it out
- Provide transportation to the polls during early voting
- Inform the facility that you will be assisting your loved one in voting
- Know where your loved one's voter registration card and photo id are located

What a Family Member CANNOT do

- Request a mail in ballot without your loved one's knowledge
- Vote a proxy. i.e., "My mother has always voted a straight party ticket. She does not respond to anything around her. I will vote her ballot as a straight party ticket, because that is what she would have wanted."
- Try to influence a vote, mark a ballot in a way other than the way instructed, or to tell anyone how the person voted

What a Facility CAN do

- Provide mail in ballot applications if requested and assistance in filling them out
- Provide information on upcoming elections
- Encourage activities that educate the residents about the candidates and issues
- Assist residents in maintaining their voter registration cards or identity cards to present at the polls

What a Facility CANNOT do

- Request a mail in ballot without a resident's knowledge
- A non-family member cannot witness more than one mail in ballot per election
- Try to influence a vote, mark a ballot in a way other than the way instructed, or to tell anyone how the person voted

NOTE:

Each facility has slightly different policies and procedures. They may vary for a variety of reasons. If you are a resident, and wish to vote, notify the administrator at your facility.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Registration questions: Am I registered? How do I get a registration card?
Call 713-368-VOTE(8638)

Voting questions: How do I get an application for a mail in ballot? Where are early voting locations? Call 713-755-6965

On line resources:

<http://www.harrisvotes.org>
<http://www.lwvhouston.org>

Dates to remember for 2008

First day to apply for Mail in Ballot	September 5, 2008
Last day to register to vote	October 6, 2008
First day of Early Voting	October 20, 2008
Last day to apply for Mail in Ballot	October 28, 2008
Last day of Early Voting	October 31, 2008
General Election	November 4, 2008

SPECIAL THANKS

Long Term Care Ombudsman Program Center on Aging, School of Nursing University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
League of Women Voters of Houston
Harris County Clerk's Office
Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office
Advocacy, Inc.

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