

Civic Leadership Playbook

Introduction



The Health & Democracy Houston (H&D Houston) initiative is focused on improving health outcomes for all members of the community by promoting nonpartisan civic participation. This commitment is grounded in an understanding that higher civic engagement leads to [better individual and community health outcomes](#).

Houston's health sector is a [major economic force and represents over 300,000 employees](#) — about [10% of the city's workforce](#). National data reveals a concerning trend that health care workers are [12-23% less likely to vote](#) compared to the general population even as clinicians (and other professionals in health and social services) increasingly report burnout and moral distress founded in civic disengagement.

This Civic Leadership Playbook is meant to be your one-stop resource for strengthening nonpartisan civic participation across the health sector. Civic Leadership is more than just showing up at the polls every election, it is about caring for our community by actively engaging with our governing institutions regularly. This resource includes key civic leadership contacts; civic education materials focused on the role of local government, opportunities for health professionals to engage with governing institutions in between elections, templates for engaging your workforce, students, and/or community in civic leadership opportunities; and an easy to follow calendar for key civic health milestones across 2026 and 2027.

[Become a civic leadership champion and strengthen your members, employees, and community!](#) Organizations can join this initiative by committing to promote nonpartisan civic participation, fostering a more engaged and empowered community.

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Civic Leadership Directory

Navigating the civic landscape is complex. Use this directory to connect with key organizations, tap into their expertise, and strengthen your civic impact.

Organization	Contact	Expertise
National Association of Social Workers Texas Chapter	Taylor Sambrano: TSambrano.naswtx@socialworkers.org Will Francis: wfrancis.naswtx@socialworkers.org	• CEUs focused on civic education and ethical framework for social workers • Engaging social workers in civic leadership and relationship building opportunities • Civic Leadership Pledge
Texas Nurses Foundation	Jack Frazee: jfrazee@texasnurses.org Laura Kincheloe: lkincheloe@texasnurses.org	• Continuing Nursing Education focused on civic education and ethical framework for nurses • Engaging nurses in civic leadership and relationship building opportunities • Civic Leadership Pledge
League of Women Voters Houston	Jessica Pace: jpace@lwvhouston.org	• Nonpartisan civic education materials, presentations, and simulations • Nonpartisan local voter guide (available in multiple languages)
Texas Civil Rights Project	Carl Blair: carl@texascivilrightsproject.org Taylor Treviño: taylortrevino@texascivilrightsproject.org	• Nonpartisan civic education materials and presentations • Election information 1-pagers (available in multiple languages)
Disability Rights Project of Texas	Voter Assistance Hotline: 1-888-796-VOTE (8683) Email: vote@drtx.org	• Voter Assistance Hotline
Health & Democracy Houston	Gnora Mahs: gnora@responsivegov.org Rosie McStay: rosie.mcstay@wildbluehealth.com	• Collaboration with health organizations to partner on civic leadership initiatives
Harris County Elections	Phone Number: (713)755-6965 Email: voters@harrisvotes.com	• Track my ballot • Voter Registration form and training • Key election dates • Resources for voters with disabilities
Galveston County Elections	Phone Number: (409) 770-5108	
Montgomery County Elections	Phone Number: (936) 539-7843 Email: election@mctx.org	
Fort Bend County Elections	Phone Number: 281-342-3411	
Texas Secretary of State		

Strengthening Local Civic Participation

True civic engagement means staying active in local government year-round. Use these plain-language tools from Health & Democracy and our partners to navigate local systems and host civic education events — like lunch-and-learns — with partner organizations to spark community change.

Local Government Explainers

These easy to use one-pagers explain how local government works and how individuals can be involved

- ☐ [Guide to City Councils in Texas](#)
- ☐ [Guide to County Commissioners Courts in Texas](#)
- ☐ [Guide to Texas School Boards](#)
- ☐ [Guide to the Texas Legislature](#)

These explainers go into deeper detail about what local government does and how everyday people can influence their decisions.

- ☐ [Guide to City Councils in Texas](#)
- ☐ [Guide to County Commissioners Courts in Texas](#)
- ☐ [Guide to Texas School Boards](#)
- ☐ [Guide to the Texas Legislature](#)

Compliance Resources for Engaging Elected Officials and Advocacy Through Nonprofit Organizations:

- ☐ [Praising and Criticizing Incumbents: How 501\(c\)\(3\)s Can Hold Elected Officials Accountable for Official Actions](#) | As part of an advocacy campaign, a nonprofit may want to publicize its views by criticizing or praising an elected public official for her actions in paid advertising in newspapers, on the radio, or online, as well as billboards, mailers and other materials that praise or criticize the policy positions or votes of elected officials.
- ☐ [Legal Tips on Using Social Media for Advocacy](#) | This fact sheet offers tips on how charities can legally use social media for advocacy, when social media needs to be counted as lobbying, and how to ensure partisan content does not get attributed to the organization.

Civic Participation Matrix

There are many ways health professionals can be engaged as a civic leader at every level of government. This table shows examples of various levels of local and state governmental institutions, what health issues those bodies cover, and how individuals can be informed and involved.

Governing Body	Health issues	Where to participate	Regular engagement pattern / notes
City of Houston Mayor & City Council	- Emergency services - Housing - Transportation - Public Safety	Meeting information	- Public sessions are typically on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. - Speaker sign-up is through the City Secretary by phone, email, or in

Governing Body	Health issues	Where to participate	Regular engagement pattern / notes
	City Budget		person by 3:00 p.m (the day before i.e. Monday)
City of Houston Boards & Commissions	- Planning, - Housing, - Public safety, - Civic infrastructure,	Houston has many active boards and commissions. The list of boards and commissions can be found here. You can also serve on a board or commission, learn more and apply here.	This is a good pathway for healthcare/community leaders who want ongoing civic service rather than one-time testimony.
Harris County Commissioners Court	- County Budget, - Public Health, - Behavioral Health, - Jail Health, - Infrastructure, - Emergency Response	Commissioners Courts have public agenda and public comment registration.	- Regular meetings are usually held on Thursdays at 9:00 am and are bi-weekly. - Agendas are posted at least three days before court.
Harris County Boards & Commissions	- Public Systems Oversight, - Local Governance	Apply for Harris County boards/commissions	Useful for leaders who can bring health, community, data, finance, or lived-experience expertise into standing public bodies.
Harris Health System Board of Trustees	- Safety-Net Care, - Clinic Access, - Charity Care, - Capital Investments	Join Harris Health Board meetings and public comment registration	- Board meetings are held once a month on 2nd Wednesday and start at 9:00 a.m. - Public speakers must sign up by 4:00 p.m. the day before the meeting. (Harris Health)
Harris County Public Health / CHA-CHIP	- Community Health Priorities, - Prevention, - Chronic Disease, - Maternal And Child Health, - Preparedness	Engage in the Community Health Improvement Planning Process.	Best for organizations that want to shape priorities, align programs, contribute data, host listening sessions, or connect community voices to public health planning.
Houston ISD and area ISDs	- School Health, - Mental Health, - School Nursing, - Nutrition, - Student Safety, - Medicaid School Services	HISD board meetings and via written comment. You can learn how to participate here. Not in Harris County? You can also find all Houston area ISD websites here.	- Speakers generally register in advance; - Regular board meetings include opportunities for community comment on agenda and district-related topics.
Texas Legislature	- Medicaid & Insurance - Workforce, - Maternal Health, - Scope Of Practice, - Public Health Funding	You can find Texas House witness registration and upcoming committee hearings, here.	- Most useful during session and interim hearings. - Testimony is often short, so healthcare leaders should bring clear examples, local data, and a specific ask.
Texas Health and Human Services Committee	- Medicaid & CHIP - Behavioral Health, - Long-Term Care, - Rule Implementation	Engage in the HHSC rulemaking comments and advisory committees.	Public comment periods on proposed rules usually begin after publication in the Texas Register and generally last 31 calendar days.
Texas Department of State Health Services	- Public Health, - Prevention, - Maternal/Child Health, - Oral Health,	Attend a DSHS advisory committee meeting.	DSHS advisory committee meetings include public comment;

Governing Body	Health issues	Where to participate	Regular engagement pattern / notes
	• Disease Surveillance,		• Instructions are usually posted with the agenda at least 72 hours before the meeting.
Informal civic venues	• Narrative-Setting, • Coalition Alignment, • Community Priorities, • Trust-Building	Coalitions, chambers, neighborhood groups, faith tables, philanthropy, professional associations, op-eds	• Most accessible entry point for busy healthcare employees. • Can be used to prepare people before formal public comment or testimony.

Being a Voter Friendly Organization

Civic leadership goes beyond the ballot, but voting remains a critical pillar. Empower your workforce and community with these actionable, nonpartisan, voter-friendly strategies.

- ☐ **Join the Civic Leadership Initiative with the Health & Democracy Houston Partners**
[Commit to strengthening nonpartisan civic leadership across your organization](#). When you join the initiative, the Health & Democracy partners will support you with materials, education opportunities, and collaborative guidance– you will not be alone! Want to learn more about the initiative? Email Gnora Mahs (gnora@responsivegov.org)
- ☐ **Understand what 501(c)(3) organizations are allowed to do during elections**
 Make sure you and your team understand what your organization can do during election season to promote nonpartisan civic participation. Below is a list of resources that you and your team can use to better understand the ins and outs of nonprofit engagement:
 - ☐ [Election Checklist](#) for 501(c)(3) Public Charities: Ensuring Election Year Advocacy Efforts Remain Nonpartisan
 - ☐ [Sample 501\(c\)\(3\) Organizational Policy for Election Season](#)
 - ☐ [The Rules of the Game](#): A Guide to Election-Related Activities for 501(c)(3) Organizations
 - ☐ [Election Activities of Individuals](#) Associated with 501(c)(3) Organizations
The prohibition on 501(c)(3) organizations participating in political activity does not apply to the activities of officers, directors, or employees of 501(c)(3)s who are acting in their individual capacity.
 - ☐ [Board Members and Election-Year Activities](#)– This fact sheet can help an organization and its board members avoid having personal activities attributed to the organization.
- ☐ **Offer Time Off to Vote for Employees.**
 Ensures your workforce has the time and/or flexibility to vote by establishing and promoting your organization's time off to vote policy. See Nonprofit Vote's [Sample Staff Policies for Time Off to Vote](#) as a great place to get started.
- ☐ **Support a Nonpartisan Voter Registration Drive**

The top reason people don't vote is because they aren't registered. Support your workforce and community in being civically engaged by partnering with your county [elections office](#) and/or the [League of Women Voters](#) to support a nonpartisan voter registration drive.

Pro Tip: You can also partner with your local elections office to offer Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar training.

☐ **Share Nonpartisan Election Information During Every Election (state, local, school boards, ballot measures, etc.)**

Make sure your staff and members have all the information they need to vote in every election by sharing nonpartisan election information like voter registration deadlines, polling locations, absentee ballot applications, and more!

- ☐ Get Out the Vote [Email Templates](#) from the League of Women Voters Houston
- ☐ Voter Checklists:
 - ☐ [Texas Civil Rights Project](#)
 - ☐ [League of Women Voters Houston](#)
- ☐ [Vote411](#) national nonpartisan voter guide sponsored by the League of Women Voters

☐ **Mark your calendar to celebrate the Civic Holidays!**

Promote civic holidays on social media to ensure your external audiences are excited about the upcoming election. The *Health & Democracy Houston* team will share communications materials ahead of time to make it easy to celebrate civic health. Mark your calendars for:

- ☐ [National Poll Worker Recruitment Day](#): Tuesday, August 4th
- ☐ National [Voter Registration Day](#): Tuesday, September 15th
- ☐ [National Voter Education Week](#): October 5th through 9th
- ☐ [National Vote Early Day](#): October 20th
- ☐ Election Day: November 3rd

☐ **Encourage your audience to serve as poll workers or poll observers**

Partner with Power the Polls to encourage your external audiences to serve as poll workers this year. Share opportunities for your audience to sign up as poll workers throughout the year to ensure local elections have enough capacity to operate smoothly. See the table below for poll worker applications in Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, and Montgomery Counties (looking for another county? Find poll worker applications across the state at [Vote Texas](#) run by the Texas Secretary of State).

County	Poll Worker Application Link
Fort Bend County	Here
Galveston County	Here
Harris County	Here
Montgomery County	Here

☐ **Share Voter Help Hotlines with your workforce and/or members**

Ensure health professionals have access to critical real-time voter support by sharing these election protection hotlines. When a voter calls these hotlines they can get live support from a volunteer that can help them navigate questions about voter identification, disability access, and in-language support.

Voter Assistance Hotlines
Disability Rights Texas Voting Rights Hotline: 1-888-796-VOTE (8683)
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law: 866-OUR-VOTE 866-687-8683
NALEO Spanish Language Helpline: 888-VE-Y-VOTA 888-839-8682
Asian Languages Helpline: 888-API-VOTE 888-274-8683
Arabic Language Help Line: 844-YALLA-US 844-925-5287
Voter ID Hotline: 866-432-8683

Nonpartisan Calendar for 2026 & 2027

Civic participation is complex, but tracking key dates shouldn't be. Use this calendar to plan your organization's civic leadership milestones.

July

Theme: Civic Education & Civic Leadership Pledge

TO DO:

- ☐ Plan a Civic Education Event with a [Civic Leadership Partner](#)
- ☐ [Announce](#) Civic Leadership Initiative
- ☐ Share the Civic Leadership Pledge
 - ☐ [NASW TX Pledge](#)
 - ☐ [TNF Pledge](#)
 - ☐ Create your own!

August

Theme: Civic Health Month & Civic Leadership Pledge

TO DO:

- ☐ Host a Civic Health Month Event with a [Civic Leadership Partner](#)
- ☐ Encourage members of your organization to volunteer as a poll worker Recruitment Day
 - ☐ [Social Media Posts](#)
 - ☐ [Email Template](#)

September

Theme: Voter Registration & Voter Preparedness

TO DO:

- ☐ Send a [voter registration reminder email](#)
- ☐ [Social Media Posts](#) for National Voter Registration Day (September 15th)
- ☐ Host a voter registration drive in partnership with the [League of Women Voters or County Elections office](#)
- ☐ [National Voter Registration Week](#) (NVRW) September 14-18
- ☐ [Become an election poll monitor](#) with Texas Civil Rights Protection

October

Theme: Early Voting and Make a Plan to Vote

TO DO:

- ☐ Host a Plan Your Vote Lunch & Learn with a [Civic Leadership Partner](#)
- ☐ Share materials to help [colleagues make a plan to vote](#)
- ☐ Send a [final voter registration reminder](#) on October 5th
- ☐ Celebrate a [Hero on Election Hero Day](#): Oct 20 - a nonpartisan national celebration recognizing the contributions of election officials, staff, and poll workers.

Key Texas Election Deadlines

- **October 5th:** Last Day to Register to Vote
- **October 19th:** First day of early voting
- **October 23rd:** Last day to apply to vote absentee
- **October 30th:** Last Day of Early Voting

November

Theme: Vote & Civic Participation

TO DO:

- ☐ Send [election day reminder email](#) on November 3rd by 7am CT.

Key Election Deadlines

- **November 3rd (by 7:00pm CT):** Election Day and last day for county to receive a mail ballot

December

Theme: Engage State Electeds in District

TO DO:

- ☐ Host a nonpartisan town hall for state-level elected officials
- ☐ Invite recently elected officials to visit your organization, tour your facilities, and learn about the clients/patients you serve

January

Theme: Local Civic Leadership

TO DO:

- ☐ Share an opportunity for health professionals to [engage with local governmental institutions](#)
- ☐ Send an email to staff highlighting one opportunity to [attend a local government meeting](#)
- ☐ Invite local elected officials to co-host a town hall with your staff/members/students, tour your building, and learn about the clients/patients/community you serve

February

Theme: Local Civic Leadership

TO DO:

- ☐ Share an opportunity for health professionals to [engage with local governmental institutions](#)
- ☐ Host local elected officials to tour your facility and host a town hall with your staff/members/students

March

Theme: Local Civic Leadership

TO DO:

- ☐ Share an opportunity for health professionals to [engage with local governmental institutions](#)

More is coming soon!

This guide will be updated as more opportunities become available!

Template Emails

Civic Leadership Initiative Announcement

Subject: We are taking the pledge, will you join us?

{ORGANIZATION} is pleased to announce that we are joining the Health & Democracy Houston Civic Leadership Initiative as a commitment to promoting nonpartisan civic participation across our organization. This Initiative is critical: higher civic engagement [drives better community health](#) outcomes, yet the healthcare workforce, representing over [300,000 employees in Houston](#), is experiencing a troubling trend. Our professionals are [12-23% less likely to vote](#) than the general population, even as civic disengagement fuels burnout and moral distress.

Through this initiative we are joining Houston health sector leaders in sharing nonpartisan resources to strengthen civic leadership across the sector including:

- Sharing reminders ahead of key civic milestones (i.e. voter registration deadlines, early voting dates, election day, etc.)
- Co-hosting civic education opportunities for our workforce {students/community/members}
- Encouraging our community to engage in local civic opportunities like town halls, public comment opportunities, and more!

Serve as a Poll Worker Email

Subject: Support Your Local Community: Apply to be a Poll Worker!

As we enter the 2026 election season, we wanted to share some nonpartisan opportunities for members of our community to get involved as election workers. Becoming an election worker is a great way to care for our community by supporting free and fair elections.

Election Workers are essential to ensuring that elections are a success. With each election, thousands of dedicated Texas residents dedicate themselves to sustaining the backbone of democracy—our election process. [You can learn more and find training in your county, here.](#) You also will be paid for the days you work and for attending the training (provided you work at least a day during the election season).

Voter Registration Reminder Email Templates

Version 1

Subject: Don't miss the voter registration deadline

As a leading Houston-based health organization, we care for our patients, our neighbors, and our community. Part of caring for Houston means being active participants in our democracy. We at [Organization Name] are asking all our staff and volunteers who are eligible to register to vote. If you're already registered, now is the time to make sure your voter registration is up-to-date at your current address. Our goal is to have 100% of

eligible staff registered by the week of National Voter Registration Day (September 15th) [Will you help us reach that goal?](#)

You can learn more about registering and voting using official sources like [votetexas.gov](#), or a nonpartisan tool like [Vote411](#). We appreciate your service to [Organization Name]. Thank you for being a registered voter!

Version 2 (From the League of Women Voters Houston)

Suggested Subject Lines:

- November is closer than you think, are you set to vote?
- One thing to do before the 2026 election: check this
- 2 minutes now could save your vote in November
- Make sure your vote counts, take this step before October
- Election season is here. Is your voter registration ready?

Email Body:

Dear [Name / Members / Friends / Neighbors],

With the 2026 Texas Midterm Election coming up on November 3, now is the perfect time to make sure you're ready to vote.

It takes about two minutes, and doing it today means no surprises at the polls.

Step 1: Check or Confirm Your Registration

Whether you're registering for the first time or making sure your existing registration is current, start here:

- Visit: houstonyotersguide.org/voter-status search by name, date of birth, for voter registration status in the statewide voter registration portal

When you look up your record, confirm:

- Your full legal name matches your government-issued photo ID
- Your current home address is on file
- Your status shows as Active

Step 2: Register or Update if Needed

Not registered yet? Need to update your address or name? You have until October 5. Here's how:

- **By mail:** Download and mail a completed [Texas Voter Registration Application](#), it must be postmarked by October 5
- **In person:** Deliver your completed form to the Harris County Tax Office or any county voter registrar by October 5

New registrants: after submitting, watch for your Voter Registration Certificate in the mail, it confirms your registration is active.

Registration can be affected by things you may not have tracked:

- Moving — even within the same city or zip code
- A name change (marriage, divorce, legal update)
- Not voting in two consecutive federal election cycles

- An address update made by another agency on your behalf

Key Dates to Know

Last Day to Register / Update: October 5, 2026

Early Voting Begins: October 19, 2026

Early Voting Ends: October 30, 2026

Election Day: November 3, 2026

Harris County Vote Centers

Once you're registered, you can vote at any open Harris County Vote Center during early voting or on Election Day, you are not assigned to a single polling location.

Share This With Someone

You probably know someone who hasn't thought about this yet. A neighbor, a coworker, a family member. Forward this email or simply ask: "Have you checked your registration lately?" That conversation matters.

For a complete guide to voting in Harris County, what's on the ballot, where to vote, what to bring, visit the nonpartisan HoustonVotersGuide.org

[Optional: add a personal note about why this election matters to you or your organization.]

See you at the polls.

Warmly,

[Your Name]

[Title / Organization]

[Phone / Email / Website]

Version 3 (From the League of Women Voters Houston)

Suggested Subject Lines:

- Voted recently? You still need to check this before November
- Your voter registration may have changed, here's how to check
- One 2-minute step every voter should take before October
- Don't assume, confirm your voter registration is active
- Before you vote in November, check this first

Email Body:

Dear [Name / Members / Friends / Neighbors],

If you voted in a recent election, a primary, a runoff, a city election, you might assume your voter registration is still active and current. Many voters do.

But voter registration records can change without notice, and discovering a problem at the polls on Election Day is too late to fix it.

Why your registration might have changed — even if you voted recently:

- You moved, even within the same city or county
- You changed your name (marriage, divorce, legal name change)
- Your address was updated by a government agency without your knowledge
- You were removed from the rolls in an inactivity purge after missing two federal election cycles
- A clerical error was made when your registration was processed
- You recently turned 18 and registered, but your record hasn't fully processed yet

None of these situations mean you did anything wrong. They happen to voters across Texas every election cycle. The good news: a quick check right now gives you time to fix anything before the October 5 registration deadline.

How to Check Your Voter Registration

It takes about two minutes:

- Visit: houstonvotersguide.org/voter-status search by name, date of birth, for voter registration status in the statewide voter registration portal

When you check, confirm that all of the following are correct:

- Your full legal name (as it appears on your photo ID)
- Your current residential address
- Your registration status shows as Active

If Something Needs to Be Updated

If your name, address, or status needs to be corrected, you have until October 5 to update your registration. Here's how:

- **By mail:** Download and mail a completed [Texas Voter Registration Application](#), it must be postmarked by October 5
- **In person:** Deliver your completed form to the Harris County Tax Office or any county voter registrar by October 5

If you registered within the last 30 days, you should receive a Voter Registration Certificate in the mail. Keep it! It confirms your registration is active and includes your polling information.

Mark These Dates

Last Day to Register / Update: October 5, 2026

Early Voting Begins: October 19, 2026

Early Voting Ends: October 30, 2026

Election Day: November 3, 2026

Pass It On

Once you've checked your own registration, share this message with someone you know, a neighbor, a coworker, a family member. A simple 'Did you check your registration?' conversation can make a real difference.

For nonpartisan information on candidates, races, and how to vote in Harris County, visit the Houston Voters Guide: HoustonVotersGuide.org

[Optional: add a personal note about why civic participation matters to you or your organization.]

Thank you for being an informed, engaged voter, and for helping others do the same.

Warmly,

[Your Name]

[Title / Organization]

[Phone / Email / Website]

National Voter Registration Day Email Blurb

Subject: Happy National Voter Registration Day!

[ORGANIZATION] joins today's National Voter Registration Day! As a leading Houston-based health organization, we care for our patients and clients, we care for our neighbors, and we care for Houston. We know that caring for Houston means being active in our community. Join us in caring for Houston, by [taking 30 seconds and verify your voter registration at your current address](#). By confirming that your voter registration is up-to-date, you can secure a seamless voting process this November, whether you choose to vote from home or in person.

Early Voting Started Reminder Email Templates

Version 1

Subject: Early Voting Begins Today

Dear Colleagues, As you are likely aware, there is an important election Tuesday, November 3rd for several state and federal races. Early voting has started and we want to make sure each of our staff and volunteers who are eligible to vote has a plan to cast their ballot.

Voting creates stronger healthier communities for us, our members, our clients, and everyone that is a part of communities we live in.

Polls are open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm and during early voting, Registered and eligible voters may vote at ANY early voting location located in their county of residence.. If you need help finding an early voting location or your election day polling place, you can do so at [votetexas.gov's poll finder](#) or call your local election office.

Make sure you have what you need to cast your ballot, [check out the Secretary of State's Website](#) for everything you'll need to make your voting plan!

Thanks again for your service to [organization] and for being a voter!

Version 2 (From the League of Women Voters Houston)

Suggested Subject Lines:

- 🕒 Only [X] days left to register to vote in Texas
- October 5 is the last day, is your voter registration up to date?
- Don't miss the deadline: register to vote by October 5
- Voter registration window closes October 5
- Quick action needed: Texas voter registration closes October 5

Email Body:

Dear [Name / Members / Friends / Neighbors],

If you're not yet registered to vote, or if you've moved, changed your name, or haven't voted in a while, Monday, October 5 is your last chance to register before the 2026 Texas Midterm Election.

Check Your Registration Now

Before anything else, confirm your current voter registration is active, even if you have voted in a past election:

- Visit Houstonvotersguide.org/register-to-vote to check your status or start your mail in application for voter registration

How to Register

There are two ways to register or update your registration before the October 5 deadline:

- **By mail:** Download and mail a completed [Texas Voter Registration Application](#), it must be postmarked by October 5
- **In person:** Deliver your completed form to the Harris County Tax Office or any county voter registrar by October 5

In Harris County, once you're registered, **you can vote at ANY open Harris County vote center on Election Day or during early voting.** You are not limited to one polling location.

Key Upcoming Dates

Last Day to Register: October 5, 2026

Early Voting Begins: October 19, 2026

Early Voting Ends: October 30, 2026

Election Day: November 3, 2026

Elections are decided by voters who show up. Sharing this information is one of the most powerful civic actions you can take.

[Optional: add a personal line about why this election matters to you or your organization.]

If you have questions about registering, voting, or what's on the ballot, the nonpartisan Houston Voters Guide has answers: HoustonVotersGuide.org

Thank you for being a civic leader in our community.

Warmly,

[Your Name]

[Title / Organization]

Last Day to Early Vote Email Templates

Version 1

Subject: Last Day of Early Voting is Today

Dear Colleagues,

As you are likely aware, there is an important election Tuesday, November 3rd for several state and federal races. Today is your last day to vote early and skip the election-day lines. We want to make sure each of our staff and volunteers who are eligible to vote has a plan to cast their ballot.

Voting creates stronger healthier communities for us, our members, our clients, and everyone that is a part of communities we live in.

Polls are open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm and during early voting. Once early voting ends, your last chance to vote will be on election day, November 3rd, where polling locations will be open from 7am to 7pm. Registered and eligible voters may vote at ANY early voting location located in their county of residence. If you need help finding an early voting location or your election day polling place, you can do so at [votetexas.gov's poll finder](https://votetexas.gov/poll-finder) or call your local election office.

Make sure you have what you need to cast your ballot, [check out the Secretary of State's Website](#) for everything you'll need to make your voting plan!

Thanks again for your service to [organization] and for being a voter!

Version 2 (From the League of Women Voters Houston)

Suggested Subject Lines:

- Early voting starts TODAY! Here's what you need to know
- Your 12-day window to vote just opened, go vote this week!
- October 19: Early voting is now open in Harris County
- You can vote early starting today! No lines, no waiting
- Plan your vote: Early voting runs October 19–30

Email Body:

Dear [Name / Members / Friends / Neighbors],

Today is the first day of early voting in Harris County, and you have 12 days to cast your ballot before Election Day on November 3.

Early voting is one of the easiest, most flexible ways to vote. You do not need a reason. Any registered voter in Harris County can vote early at any open Vote Center, no matter which precinct you live in.

Find Your Nearest Vote Center

- Harris County has Vote Centers across the county, you are not limited to one location
- Find open locations, hours, and wait times at [Houstonvotersguide.org/polling-location](https://houstonvotersguide.org/polling-location)
- Early voting hours vary by day, check the your [polling location](#) before you go

What to Bring: Photo ID

Texas requires an approved photo ID to vote. Acceptable forms include:

- Texas Driver License or ID Card (expired by up to 4 years is OK if you're 70+)
- U.S. Passport
- Military ID
- Texas Handgun License
- Texas Election Identification Certificate (free from DPS)

If you do not have an approved photo ID, you may be eligible to vote using the Reasonable Impediment Declaration (RID) process with a supporting document such as a utility bill, bank statement, or government document with your name and address. Ask a poll worker for assistance.

Requested a Mail Ballot? Here's What to Know

If you requested a mail-in ballot and have not yet returned it, you have options:

- Mail it back: must arrive by Election Day (November 3) to be counted
- Hand-deliver to Harris County Elections office or a Vote Center, bring your ballot, carrier envelope, and ID
- You can also surrender your mail ballot at a Vote Center and vote in person instead

Full Voting Window

Early Voting: October 19–30, 2026

Election Day: November 3, 2026

Polls Open: 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM (if you're in line by 7 PM, you can vote)

What's on the Ballot?

Not sure what to expect at the polls? The nonpartisan Houston Voters Guide has candidate information, race descriptions, and voting guides, in English and Spanish, at no cost: HoustonVotersGuide.org

[Optional: add a personal note about why you're voting early or why this election matters to you or your organization.]

Your voice matters. Your vote matters. Go vote!

Happy voting,

[Your Name]

[Title / Organization]

Election Day Reminder Email

Subject: Today is Election Day: Polls Close at 7pm!

Dear Colleagues,

As you are likely aware, there is an important election today, Tuesday, November 3rd for several state and federal races. Today is your last day to cast your ballot and make your voice heard. We want to make sure each of our staff and volunteers who are eligible to vote has a plan to cast their ballot.

Voting creates stronger healthier communities for us, our members, our clients, and everyone that is a part of communities we live in. [Organization] strongly encourages each of our eligible staff and volunteers to make their voices heard by casting a ballot this election. As civically engaged leaders in our community, we can set a good example by voting.

Polls are open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm today. Once early voting ends, your last chance to vote will be on election day, November 3rd, where polling locations will be open from 7am to 7pm. Registered and eligible voters may vote at ANY early voting location located in their county of residence. If you need help finding your polling place, you can do so at [votetexas.gov's poll finder](https://votetexas.gov/poll-finder) or call your local election office.

Where to Vote

Harris County uses Vote Centers, you can vote at any open location in the county, regardless of your home precinct.

- Find your nearest Vote Center and current wait times: Houstonvotersguide.org/polling-location
- Hours today: 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Not in Harris County? find your polling location at votetexas.gov.

What to Bring

Texas requires an approved photo ID. Acceptable forms include:

- Texas Driver License or Personal ID Card
- U.S. Passport
- Military ID
- Texas Handgun License
- Texas Election Identification Certificate (free from DPS)

No qualifying photo ID? You may still be able to vote.

Ask a poll worker about the Reasonable Impediment Declaration (RID) process. You can use a supporting document, such as a utility bill, bank statement, or government mail with your name and address, and sign a declaration explaining why you lack an approved ID. You have the right to ask for this option.

Have a Mail Ballot?

If you requested a mail-in ballot and haven't returned it yet, you have two options today:

- Hand-deliver your sealed carrier envelope to a Vote Center or the Harris County Elections office, bring your ballot and an approved photo ID
- Surrender your mail ballot at a Vote Center and vote in person instead

Mail ballots cannot be dropped in a regular mailbox today and still be counted.

Not Sure What's on Your Ballot?

The nonpartisan Houston Voters Guide has race-by-race information for Harris County, candidates, descriptions, and voting guides in English and Spanish. Look it up before you go: HoustonVotersGuide.org

Thanks again for your service to [organization] and for being a voter!

GOTV Email Templates

(From the League of Women Voters Houston)

Version 1: GOTV EARLY!

Use this version when your goal is pure mobilization, getting people out the door today, not walking them through how the system works. Same send timing: October 18–19.

Suggested Subject Lines:

- Early voting starts today, go vote
- Your window just opened. Use it.
- 12 days to vote early in Harris County, starting now
- Don't wait for Election Day, early voting is open
- Go vote this week. Early voting is here.

Email Body:

Dear [Name / Members / Friends / Neighbors],

Early voting is open in Harris County, starting today, October 19, through October 30.

You have 12 days and dozens of locations across the county. No reason required. No waiting for Election Day.

Go vote!

Here's what you need:

- 📍 Any Harris County Vote Center, find locations and live wait times at: Houstonvotersguide.org/polling-location
- 🗳️ An approved Texas photo ID — driver's license, state ID, passport, military ID, or handgun license
- 📄 Your ballot research, HoustonVotersGuide.org has nonpartisan candidate and race information in English and Spanish

No qualifying photo ID? You can still vote.

Ask a poll worker about the Reasonable Impediment Declaration (RID) process, you may be able to vote using a supporting document like a utility bill or bank statement. You have the right to ask for this option at any Vote Center.

Early voting spreads the load, shortens lines on Election Day, and gives you flexibility, if something comes up November 3, you'll already have voted.

Key Dates

Early Voting Open: October 19–30, 2026

Election Day: November 3, 2026 | Polls: 7 AM – 7 PM

[Optional: add one sentence about why you're voting early or why this election matters to your community.]

Go vote! Then tell someone else to go.!

Warmly,

[Your Name]

[Title / Organization]

[Phone / Email / Website]

Version 2: GOTV Election Eve

Send this the evening of November 2, the night before Election Day. This is your final push before polls open. Keep it short, personal, and direct. The reader either voted early (affirm them, ask them to bring someone) or hasn't voted yet (give them exactly what they need for tomorrow). No new information, just motivation and logistics.

Suggested Subject Lines:

- Tomorrow is Election Day, here's everything you need
- Polls open at 7 AM tomorrow. Are you ready?
- One more sleep. Then go vote.
- Tomorrow, November 3, your vote is waiting
- Tonight: get ready. Tomorrow: go vote.

Email Body:

Tomorrow is Election Day.

Polls open at 7:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM. If you haven't voted yet, tomorrow is your day.

Tonight: take two minutes to plan your vote.

- 📍 Find your Vote Center: [Houstonvotersguide.org/polling-location](https://houstonvotersguide.org/polling-location) (any Harris County location — you're not limited to one).

Not in Harris County? find your polling location at votetexas.gov.

- 🗳️ Locate your photo ID: Texas DL, state ID, passport, military ID, or handgun license
- 📄 Review candidates on the ballot at HoustonVotersGuide.org — nonpartisan candidate info, available in English and Spanish
- ⌚ Plan your time: go before work, during lunch, or right after, just get there before 7 PM

Already voted early? Thank you!

Here's one more thing you can do: reach out to one person you know who hasn't voted yet. A text, a call, a knock on a neighbor's door. Peer encouragement is one of the most effective drivers of turnout. You don't need to say much, just "Are you voting tomorrow?"

If you're in line at 7:00 PM tomorrow, you have the right to vote. Stay in line.

[Optional: share why this election matters to you personally, or what you're most looking forward to after casting your ballot.]

See you on the other side.

Warmly,

[Your Name]

[Title / Organization]

[Phone / Email / Website]

Version C: GOTV Election Day

Send this on the morning of Election Day, November 3, 2026. Short, urgent, action-first. The goal is one thing: get your reader out the door. Keep your customizations brief and personal. Do not add candidate endorsements or partisan language of any kind.

Suggested Subject Lines:

- Today is the day, go vote!
- Polls are open right now in Harris County
- Election Day is here. Here's everything you need.
- Your vote counts today! Polls close at 7 PM
- November 3: Don't let today pass without voting

Email Body:

Dear [Name / Members / Friends / Neighbors],

Today is Election Day.

Polls are open across Harris County right now, and they close at 7:00 PM tonight. If you are in line by 7:00 PM, you have the right to vote, stay in line.

Where to Vote

Harris County uses Vote Centers, you can vote at any open location in the county, regardless of your home precinct.

- Find your nearest Vote Center and current wait times: [Houstonvotersguide.org/polling-location](https://houstonvotersguide.org/polling-location)
- Hours today: 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Not in Harris County? find your polling location at votetexas.gov.

What to Bring

Texas requires an approved photo ID. Acceptable forms include:

- Texas Driver License or Personal ID Card
- U.S. Passport
- Military ID
- Texas Handgun License
- Texas Election Identification Certificate (free from DPS)

No qualifying photo ID? You may still be able to vote.

Ask a poll worker about the Reasonable Impediment Declaration (RID) process. You can use a supporting document, such as a utility bill, bank statement, or government mail with your name and address, and sign a declaration explaining why you lack an approved ID. You have the right to ask for this option.

Have a Mail Ballot?

If you requested a mail-in ballot and haven't returned it yet, you have two options today:

- Hand-deliver your sealed carrier envelope to a Vote Center or the Harris County Elections office, bring your ballot and an approved photo ID
- Surrender your mail ballot at a Vote Center and vote in person instead

Mail ballots cannot be dropped in a regular mailbox today and still be counted.



Not Sure What's on Your Ballot?

The nonpartisan Houston Voters Guide has race-by-race information for Harris County, candidates, descriptions, and voting guides in English and Spanish. Look it up before you go: HoustonVotersGuide.org

[Optional: add one personal sentence about why you voted or why today matters to your community.]

Go vote. Then tell someone else to go vote.

Every vote matters, including yours!

Warmly,

[Your Name]

[Title / Organization]

[Phone / Email / Website]

Template Social Media Posts

Compliance Tips for Using Social Media for Advocacy

Alliance for Justice offers clear [guidance for nonprofit organizations](#) to consider when using social media to talk about nonpartisan civic engagement, advocacy, and lobbying activities. Review this resource as you make plans for social media engagement.

Poll Worker Recruitment Day

- It's #NationalPollWorkerRecruitmentDay, and we're excited to help address the shortfall in poll workers by implementing #CivicTimeOff, an initiative from The Civic Trust for businesses to help recruit poll workers among our ranks and boost #CivicEngagement in our community. Other businesses can learn how to get involved here: <https://uscc.foundation/civictimeoff> #HelpAmericaVote
- #HelpAmericaVote! Increased #CivicEngagement has positive benefits for businesses, communities, and employees, which is why we encourage employees to volunteer as nonpartisan poll workers. Volunteering not only gives employees first-hand knowledge of the civic process, but it also helps employees fill crucial gaps in poll workers, strengthening our civic culture. Sign up today to become a poll worker: <https://uscc.foundation/civictrustpolls>
- Businesses play a critical role in filling the need for election workers and fostering stronger #CivicEngagement in our community. That's why we implemented the #CivicTimeOff initiative from The Civic Trust, an easy, flexible way for businesses to make a positive impact for their employees and the communities they serve. Other businesses can learn how to get involved here: <https://uscc.foundation/civictimeoff> #HelpAmericaVote

Voter Registration Reminders

- #1 reason people don't vote? Not being registered! Voter Registration Deadlines are approaching in many states! Visit <https://www.houstonvotersguide.org/register-to-vote> to make sure you're #VoteReady
- Be a Civic Leader in Texas by making sure you are registered to vote! Voting is an important way to ensure your voice is heard on issues that affect your health. <https://www.houstonvotersguide.org/register-to-vote> has all the resources you need to be #VoteReady in your state! #HealthyVoting

- Have you moved since last Election Day? Make sure you're registered to vote with your new address! <https://www.houstonvotersguide.org/register-to-vote> #NationalVoterRegistrationDay #VoteReady
- Voter Registration Deadlines are approaching! Visit <https://www.houstonvotersguide.org/register-to-vote> to check registration deadlines in your state and register to vote today! #NationalVoterRegistrationDay

National Voter Registration Day

- Celebrate #NationalVoterRegistrationDay by making sure you're #VoteReady for upcoming elections! Visit <https://www.houstonvotersguide.org/register-to-vote> to find all the resources you need to register and vote!
- Are You #VoteReady? Make sure you are by getting registered today, #NationalVoterRegistrationDay! Visit <https://www.houstonvotersguide.org/register-to-vote> and check your registration today! #HealthyVoting

Make a Plan to Vote

- <https://www.lwvhouston.org/voters-guide> is a great resource to make your voting plan! Voting helps us care for our families and communities and is associated with better health. #HealthyVoting
- People are more likely to vote if they have a plan. <https://www.lwvhouston.org/voters-guide> provides voters with all the information they need in one place, so they can ensure they are #VoteReady for the 2026 election!
- We're ready for the 2026 elections! How about you? Check out <https://www.lwvhouston.org/voters-guide> to be sure you're #VoteReady, #MailReady, #BallotReady and much more!

Early Voting Started

- Early Voting starts today and **ends XXXX!** <https://www.lwvhouston.org/voters-guide> is a great resource to make your voting plan! Voting helps us care for our families and communities and is associated with better health. #HealthyVoting

- Don't leave voting to the last minute, Early voting starts today! Check out <https://www.lwvhouston.org/voters-guide> for all the information you need in one place, so you can ensure you are #VoteReady!

Last Day to Early Vote

- Early Voting ends today (DATE). Avoid long lines on election day by casting your ballot today. <https://www.lwvhouston.org/voters-guide> is a great resource to make your voting plan!

Election Day

- Voting supports healthy communities, make sure you have a plan to get your ballot in by the time polls close on November 3rd! Check out the voting options in your community <https://www.lwvhouston.org/voters-guide>
- Elections have lasting impacts on the health and well-being of our communities. Make sure you have a plan to vote by November 3rd. <https://www.lwvhouston.org/voters-guide>
- Communities who vote at higher rates have better health because voting is one way you exercise your voice on decisions that affect your wellbeing. Learn more about your voting options at <https://www.lwvhouston.org/voters-guide>