

The State of Texas



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John Steen
Secretary of State

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL COUNTIES, CITIES, SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

FROM: KEITH INGRAM, DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

DATE: JUNE 25, 2013

RE: **ALERT: TEXAS' VOTER ID LAW IS NOW ENFORCEABLE**

Today, the United States Supreme Court issued its opinion in Shelby County v Holder. The Court ruled that Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is unconstitutional.

This decision effectively ends pending litigation regarding the Voter ID Law passed in 2011 by the Texas Legislature.

WHO IT AFFECTS?

The new law will apply to all elections in Texas, and provide new requirements for all voters and election officials.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU – TEXAS ELECTION OFFICIALS

Texas' Voter ID Law, passed as S.B. 14 in 2011, is now law. The new requirements will be in effect for all future elections, including the November 5, 2013 election.

Election officials for counties, cities, schools and other political subdivisions will need to enforce these new provisions in future elections. If your political subdivision is planning to hold an election before November 5, 2013, please contact our office. We will work to get you updated forms and other materials in an expedited manner.

We recommend that education and training materials for election judges and clerks be updated before your next training sessions.

Most importantly, we strongly recommend conducting local voter education programming to increase awareness of the new requirements before the next election.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

The Secretary of State is here to help! We have updated the information on www.VoteTexas.gov.

We will continue to update other training materials, and notify you as new materials are posted to the website this week, and during the month of July.

We are working on updating our handbooks for the Early Voting Ballot Board, and for Election Judges and Clerks on Qualifying Voters.

We will provide updated versions of the November 5, 2013 Election Law Calendar and 2014 Primary Calendar, and post them to our website.

We plan on addressing these changes at our election seminars coming up in July for County Officials, October for County Chairs, and December for Cities, Schools and Other Political Subdivisions. If you need more information on our seminars, or would like to register, please view our website (<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/seminars/dates.shtml>) or contact Leticia Salazar at lsalazar@sos.state.tx.us.

Also, please feel free to contact our Legal Division directly at (512) 463-2898, or Ashley Fischer, Legal Director, at afischer@sos.state.tx.us.

WHEN IS THE LAW EFFECTIVE?

The law becomes effective today.

Please see the Press Release by Attorney General Greg Abbott here: <https://www.oag.state.tx.us/oagnews/release.php?id=4435>

HOW ELECTIONS WILL CHANGE

Senate Bill 14 created a new requirement for voters to show photo identification when voting in person. Voters can no longer present their voter registration certificate, or other previously acceptable forms of identification that only showed name/address of the voter.

Here is a list of the new identification requirements:

1. Texas Driver's License issued by the Department of Public Safety ("DPS")
2. Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS;
3. Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS;
4. Texas Concealed Handgun License issued by DPS;
5. United States Military Identification Card containing the person's photograph;
6. United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph; or
7. United States Passport.

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 60 days before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place.

Note: These forms of IDs should not be used if “Limited Term” or “Temporary Visitor” appears on the face of the card as this indicates the person is not a U.S. Citizen.

Note: Please contact DPS for information on obtaining an Election Identification card, or any other forms of identification provided by DPS.

If you have any questions, or if you do not have web access to view these documents, please feel free to contact the Elections Division toll-free at: 1-800-252-VOTE (8683).

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