

The State of Texas



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Hope Andrade
Secretary of State

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Dear High School Principal:

Please be advised that per by Section 13.046(a) of the Texas Election Code you or your designees are required to be a high school deputy voter registrar. This entails registering high school students who are eligible to register to vote.

Remember that young Texans may register to vote at 17 years, 10 months, but must be 18 years of age on Election Day to vote. Please have the students complete the voter registration application and either return to you for forwarding to the county voter registrar or they can mail it, postage-free, to their local county voter registrar (fill in the city and zip code on the front of the card). The Voter Registrar information can be found in the government pages of your local telephone directory, or you can find the county seat and zip code information for all 254 counties on our website at www.state.tx.us.

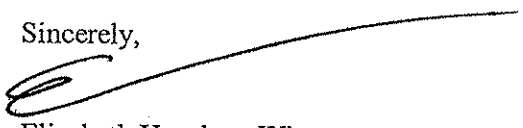
We recommend distributing and collecting the voter registration applications at graduation rehearsal. Certainly, feel free to issue the cards at any time and in any manner that works for you, as long as it is done no later than graduation day.

Also, state law requires postage paid voter registration applications to be provided to the public free of charge. Since 1987, the United States Postal Service ("USPS") has granted the Secretary of State's office a special exception in which we have been allowed to use a business reply permit without pre-addressing the application. Due to current postal standards for Business Reply Mail, the USPS revoked our exemption this year. As a result, we had to redesign the voter registration application and provide pre-addressed voter registration applications for each county voter registrar.

Since the USPS has made these changes to the voter registration applications currently in use, any remaining applications without the zip plus four bar code must be destroyed. If there is no bar code at the bottom of the Business Reply Label, the USPS will delay delivery of the applications to the county registrar office and assess fees. Our office has heard from several counties who have already experienced rejections of applications by the USPS.

Thank you in advance for your commitment to this most important mission. Please extend my heartfelt congratulations to your graduating seniors. Whatever their futures may hold, I know that you will encourage your graduates to make a difference and vote. If you have any questions about the new voter registration application, please don't hesitate to email Louri O'Leary at lolarey@sos.state.tx.us, Leticia Salazar at lsalazar@sos.state.tx.us or Monica Garcia at mgarcia@sos.state.tx.us or by phone at 1.800.252.8683.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Hanshaw Winn
Interim Director of Elections

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