

Important Dates

A yellow rectangular graphic with the title "2020 Election Deadlines" in purple text at the top. Below the title is a bulleted list of seven election-related dates in purple text.

- Register to vote: Oct 5
- Update registration: Oct 5
- In-person early voting starts: Oct 13
- Apply to vote-by-mail: Oct 23
- In-person early voting ends: Oct 30
- Vote by mail ballot in by: Nov 3
- Election day: Nov 3

Go to <https://my.lwv.org/texas/voting-elections> for more information

The objective of our Whatsapp group

Ensure that we get all the votes we can.

We share information that is useful to us, FAQs, updates, reminders and resources.

A platform for you to ask questions and perhaps ask the local candidates directly too.

For adding any information to this document, please contact its owner, Jyothi Shankar at jshankit@yahoo.com with the subject 'Elections Pdf'

Are you already registered to vote?

Please use this link for a Voter Registration Search in Collin county

<https://apps.collincountytexas.gov/voterregistrationsearch>

Enter Your First Name, Last Name and Date of Birth, click Search.

It will give show you details of the districts you are in and also the current representative.

Many of those positions are being contended for by Democrats. Normally there used to be a choice on top of your electronic ballot where you could click one box to pick all the Democratic candidates. This time we may not have that one box and we will need to click each candidate one by one. So please choose each Democratic candidate on your ballot ALL the way from top to bottom. Do not stop at simply voting for Biden-Harris.

Please register to vote by Oct 5th. If you need help of a VDR (Volunteer Deputy Registrar), please contact Paula Hall who is at paula.simpson.hall@gmail.com

Another site to check registration -

<https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do>

Who is eligible to Vote by mail (VBM)?

If you fall under any of the following:

- Those 65 and older
- Disabled
- In prison
- Those who will be out of the county during all days of the Fall election

Vote by mail (VBM) applications are available at

<https://reg.vote/tdvbm.html>

What is the Process, What are Dates and Deadlines for Vote by Mail?

There are 3 steps.

- 1) Request VBM application by **Oct 23rd** (only those meeting the criteria). But really, do it now if you haven't already!
- 2) Receive the ballot which will be sent to you and fill it out.
- 3) Mail it back via USPS, with first class stamp (currently that is 55 cents)

Make sure there is only one ballot per envelope.

Send out the vote by mail ballots soon after you have filled it out, **considering anticipated postal delays**.

The deadline to receive it at the election office is **by Nov 3rd** but obviously you should send it in *well before*.

Mail it via USPS OR DROP it (in which case, take your ID) at

Collin County Elections Office

2010 Redbud Blvd., Suite 102

McKinney, TX 75069

Curbside Voting

A voter who is physically unable to enter the polling place may ask an election officer to bring a ballot to the entrance of the polling place or to a car parked at the curbside. Pull in and call **972-547-1900**. A voting clerk or judge will come out to get your photo ID. They will check you in and bring out the voting machine to you. Be sure to wear your mask.

In Person voting

This year with the extended period of early voting in Texas and early voting even available on the weekends, you will feel safe to vote in person. Much preferred.

Locate voting centers and voting times at <http://txdp.cc/wheretovote>

Wear a mask. Take your own pen if you like.

First time voters: Voting is an easy process. However if you want to know about it beforehand, check this video on voting in Collin county, <http://txdp.cc/howtovote>

General useful sites and numbers:

<https://www.vote.org/>

<https://iwillvote.com/>

www.vote411.org

TX Dems have a number to call for questions related to vote by mail. [1-844-TX-VOTES](tel:1-844-TX-VOTES).

Collin County Elections Office: [\(972\) 547-1990](tel:972-547-1990)

General Collin County Democrats website,
<https://www.collindemocrats.org/contact-us/>

Important question for college kids and anyone else

If one registers to vote by mail, can they still cast their vote in person if they change their mind last minute?

In Texas - a mail in ballot can be “surrendered” by taking it to the polls on voting day. The poll worker will take the mail in ballot from you, thus allowing you to vote in person.

College Students Related

1. Does it make difference if our Plano students who are now at Texas A&M, UT Austin and other colleges around the state, cast their vote here at Collin county vs at their college town?

It is highly preferred that they vote by mail in Collin County. Collin County is on the verge of flipping blue. Their vote is worth more here than if they vote in a county that is “very red” or very blue. So please urge them to vote here in person or well in time, by mail.

2. There is lots of apprehension about voting by mail, possible fraud etc. Do you see any issue in casting vote by mail?

In person voting is the best option. HOWEVER, if it requires coordinating kids' trip back home with voting window and possibility of missing voting, then by mail would be better. Mail in the vote early enough.

How can I help?

1. URGE YOUR COLLEGE KIDS TO VOTE AND FOLLOW UP WITH THEM!!

ASK THEM TO MOTIVATE THEIR FRIENDS IF THEY CAN.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS. AND VOTE BLUE ALL THE WAY DOWN IN THE BALLOT. DON'T STOP AT THE TOP.

2. Raising money is an extremely important need for campaigns. They will simply fail without enough monetary support that helps them reach people with their messages. It costs a lot of money. For those like Trump, it has never been something to worry about. There had been a local candidates too who put in a lot of her own money. Not all local candidates have that luxury. So contribute whatever you can, even if it \$10 (and obviously more if you can) for the next 2 months. It will be the most important contribution you will make!

Use the below to make a donation to one or more candidates in one go, however you wish to split it up....

https://secure.actblue.com/donate/voteblue2020_plano

If you can, please also donate to senate races across the country that are close!

3. Be a volunteer. There are many possible ways.

Invest 1 to 2 hours a week! (or more if you have the time)

Very important to vote for local candidates as they represent our voices in the TX House, Senate, US House and Senate. These are the very issues and policies affect our daily life!

- Phone bank
- Text banks
- Be a walker and do stickies on the door (see item 4 below)
- Deliver precinct 119 newsletters door to door
- Drive around in pairs and drop off voter registration forms

Ask us on the whatsapp group if you have any questions on these.

4. The Collin County party needs poll workers. There is a shortage of poll workers nationwide. Please help here if you have the bandwidth. It is a paid position and will require longer hours.

There is an info session (Collin county residents only).

Contact Barb Walters at this email: elections@collindemocrats.org

OR

https://www.collincountytx.gov/elections/election_information/Pages/election_worker_recruitment.aspx

5. Be a “walker” in mid Oct to post stickers on Democratic voter doors in our Precinct and precincts around here. ‘Lit sticks’ are 4x 6 post its with voting dates times. Usually takes 1.5 hours avg to drop.

50 houses- some driving required. Contact Paula Hall, 119 Precinct Chair at paula.simpson.hall@gmail.com

6. Get your yard signs and show your support. Contact their individual campaigns in which case it will also be a donation to them. Or order through CCDP office (Collin County Democrats office) to get your signs, <http://txdp.cc/store>

Who are some of our candidates?

- MJ Hegar for US Senate
- Sharon Hirsch for TX House Dist 66
- Lulu Seikaly for U.S. Congress
- Of course, Biden-Harris
- And more down ballot democratic candidates

There are more TX candidates but we have short descriptions on some of them below, including information on how you can help.

(A) MJ Hegar for US Senate

MJ is dynamic! She will be running against Republican John Cornyn. MJ (Mary Jennings) Hegar is an American politician, United States Air Force veteran, and teacher. In 2017, she published the memoir *Shoot Like a Girl*, which describes her service in Afghanistan. She also sued the U.S. Air Force to remove the Combat Exclusion Policy.

Please read about her stance on issues at website,

<https://mjfortexas.com/issues/>

To volunteer for MJ Hegar for US Senate, go to

<https://mjfortexas.com/get-involved/>

(B) Sharon Hirsch for TX House Dist 66

Sharon runs against Matt Shaheen (Republican). Sharon's driving factors are Education, Healthcare and Gun Reform. She and her husband have had a long standing career at PISD.

Please read about her stance on issues at website,

<https://www.sharon4tx.com/>

To volunteer for Sharon Hirsch, go to

<https://www.mobilize.us/sharon4tx/>

(C) Lulu Seikaly for U.S. Congress

An attorney and advocate, Lulu is driven by a commitment to give back to her community and provide a voice to the voiceless. Lulu is running to make sure everyone in North Texas has a chance to succeed. Lulu understands the challenges facing North Texans. She is running against Republican Van Taylor.

For her stance on issues please go to <https://lulufortexas.com/issues/>

To volunteer, <https://lulufortexas.com/take-action/>

(D) To volunteer for Biden-Harris campaign, go to, <https://joebiden.com/take-action/>

(E) There are other candidates like judges but I have not listed their names and details here. But please make sure to pick all who are democratic on the ballot.

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