



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Respect Life Office

***“Participation in the political
process is a moral obligation”***

USCCB Faithful Citizenship

Voting: A Moral Obligation

Why Should I Vote?

In Faithful Citizenship, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote “participation in the political process is a moral obligation” of Catholics.

www.nccbuscc.org/faithfulcitizenship

The 2000 Presidential Election provides striking proof that every vote counts. This is especially true in “off-year elections” when there is not a Presidential race, since traditionally voter turnout is low.

How Do I Vote?

If your voter registration card is easily accessible, bring it. It makes finding your name on the voter registration rolls easier for the poll workers. However, you ARE NOT REQUIRED to have your voter registration card with you. You can vote by showing your Texas Driver’s license, preprinted checks from a Texas Bank, etc.

When Can I Vote?

From 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4, 2008. If you are in line at your polling place at 7:00 p.m., the law says you will be able to vote.

Where Do I Vote?

If you do not know where you can vote, contact the **Office of The Secretary of State/Elections Division toll-free at 1-800-252-8683.**

If you live in Montgomery County, call 936-539-7843 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday or Tuesday, or consult the list of polling places found at <http://www.co.montgomery.tx.us/election>

If you live in some other Texas county, you can find the name and phone number of your election official on **the Texas Secretary of State website at**

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/county.shtml#C>

Who Should I Vote For?

The church does not endorse any candidate or political party. You must inform yourself on the different candidates’ voting records.

The Texas House and Senate

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/welcome.php>
<http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/senate/senmem.htm>

The Capitol House and Senate

<http://www.house.gov/>
<http://www.senate.gov/>

To find out who represents you click on:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us>
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cdirectory/index.html>

Please urge every eligible voter in your parish, your family and on your e-mail list to vote.

Voter Registration

In Texas, the county tax assessor-collector is the voter registrar for the county. The voter registrar may not charge a fee. Paul Bettencourt is the voter registrar at www.hctax.net/ then click voter registration.

The voter registrar shall conduct voter registration activities at all times during regular office hours. The registrar may establish one or more branch offices in the county to conduct voter registration activities for the convenience of persons desiring to register.

Office Locations

In addition to the Downtown Location, there are 15 Tax Office branch office locations in the county. You will find a map and all pertinent information at:

www.hctax.net/locations/locations.asp

The main telephone number for all locations (including downtown) is (713) 368-2000.

All locations have business hours of 7:45 A.M. to 4:45 P.M., Monday through Friday (Please see our list of holidays when the full service locations will be closed).

Southeastern Harris County

Raul C. Martinez
Bay Area/Clear Lake
Kyle Chapman - Pasadena
Pasadena
Palm Center
Baytown
Scarsdale

Northwest Harris County

Cypresswood
Clay Road
Mickey Leland
Spring Branch
Tomball

Northeast Harris County

Humble
Jim Fonteno - Wallisville

Southwest Harris County

Bellaire

The registrar maintains files containing the approved registration applications of the registered voters of the county. These files are kept in the registrar's office at all times in a place and manner ensuring their security.

Before any county elections in each voting year, the registrar must prepare for each county election precinct a certified list of the registered voters in the precinct. The list must contain the name of each voter whose registration will be effective on the date of the first election held in the county in the voting year.

The office of the voter registrar is funded by the Secretary of State. Each year the registrar must prepare and submit to the Comptroller of Public Accounts and to the Secretary of State the total number of initial registrations for the previous voting year and the total number of registrations canceled. This list is to include the deceased, felons, and those who have moved out of the county. The office is to also provide the total number of registrations for information updates.

The office of the voter registrar must provide to the Secretary of State the following information:

Registration statements
Suspense lists
Statement of residence

The voter registrar mails renewal registration certificates to voters, other than those on the suspense list, who are registered in the county in November of odd-numbered years. There are approximately 1.9 million registered voters in Harris County.

You can acquire an applications for Voter Registration in English, Spanish and Vietnamese in two ways:

You may obtain a Voter Registration application at www.hctax.net
Applications can be downloaded in English, Spanish and Vietnamese at <http://www.hctax.net/voter/voterapp/acquirevoterapp.asp>

You may also write to this office:
Paul Bettencourt,
Tax Assessor/Collector,
1001 Preston
Houston, TX. 77002
Tel: 713-368-2000 – English
713-368-2001 – Spanish
713-368-2002 - Vietnamese