

Advocacy Begins in the Voting Booth

Voter Registration

To be eligible to register in Texas, you must:

- be a U.S. citizen
- be a resident of the county
- be 18 years old (you may register at 17 years and 10 months)
- not be a convicted felon (unless a person's sentence is completed, including any probation or parole)
- not be declared mentally incapacitated by a court of law

Registering to vote is easy in Texas. It doesn't even require a stamp! Official applications to register to vote are postage-paid by the State of Texas.

In most Texas counties, the Tax Assessor-Collector is also the Voter Registrar. In some counties, the County Clerk or Elections Administrator registers voters. You may obtain an application from the county Voter Registrar's office, the Secretary of State's office, libraries, many post offices, high schools and on the Web at

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/reqvr.shtml>

The application must be received in the Voter Registrar's office or postmarked 30 days before an election in order for you to be eligible to vote in that election.

PTA Nonpartisan Policy

PTA takes a stand on issues and principles — not on candidates or political parties. Issues may become identified with partisan politics because of the differing approaches to the solution, but the basic principles involving the welfare of children and youths are matters of public concern and, therefore, PTA business.

What is a Primary election?

A primary election is an election that chooses a political party's candidate for office. The winning candidates from each party will later go up against each other in the general election.

Primary voting schedule

February 16, 2010	Early voting in person begins
February 26, 2010	Last day to vote early in person
March 2, 2010	Primary election day 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Check with your local League of Women Voters and keep track through your local media to know who is running for what in your area.

Plan a Candidate Forum — www.txpta.org

During a candidate forum, candidates for elected office express their views before a public audience so listeners can make independent voter decisions. Possible formats include candidate speeches, a panel discussion, and an audience question and answer session. Whatever the format, each candidate must have an equal and fair opportunity to express his or her position on issues. Visit the Legislative page of the Texas PTA Web site at www.txpta.org and choose "Candidate/Issue Forum Guide," which includes the following:

- Forum Guide and Sample Questions
- Forum Timeline
- Forum Candidate Letter
- Forum Individual Candidate Biographical Information
- Forum Equipment Needs
- Forum Equipment Fax
- Forum Question Solicitation
- Forum Flyer
- Forum Press Release
- Forum Moderator Letter
- Forum Group Candidate Information