



# Judge Updates and Reminders

## 2021 Constitutional Amendment & Joint Election

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### Hotline Numbers

- **Judge Hotline – 972-225-7323**
- Voter Hotline - 469-627-8683

### Mask Mandate

- Per Dallas County mandate, all poll workers should wear a mask when working at a vote center.
  - If a poll worker refuses to wear a mask, do not take any immediate action. Call the Judge Hotline after the vote center is set up and running.
- Voters are encouraged, but not mandated to wear a mask.

### Wireless (WiFi) Router

- When setting up the wireless (WiFi) router, initially leave it in its case and plug it in.
- If you do not have at least 3 blue bars signal strength, reposition the case and router to a new location.
- If the signal strength does not improve, remove the router from the case.
- Allow a few minutes to sync with the E-Pollbooks.

### Curbside Voting

- In training, you were instructed to process curbside voters using a paper application. The Secretary of State's office has instructed us not to use the paper application.
- To process Curbside Voters, follow the steps below:
  - 1) When a voter contacts you for curbside assistance, complete the check-in process using the E-Pollbook at the voter's vehicle.
  - 2) Once check-in is completed, return inside, plug in the E-Pollbook and print the voter's activated ballot card.
  - 3) Return to the vehicle with the voter's activated ballot card and the Accessible Voting Machine and complete the process as previously instructed in training. If possible, allow two poll workers to assist with curbside voting.

### Vote Center Signage

- The Elections Department has purchased new "Official Vote Center" signage to replace the obsolete "Polling Place" language on our old, weathered metal signs. However, the new signage is slightly smaller so that it fits into the ESCs with other delivered equipment.
- Each vote center received two vote center signs and four vote center directional signs. Please strategically place all six signs to assist voters in finding the vote center location.
- If necessary, your Inspector and Technician will place additional signage to direct voters.
- In the upcoming 2022 elections, each vote center will receive additional, larger signage.

### Bilingual Assistance

- If you do not have a bilingual clerk at your vote center and have a voter who needs bilingual assistance, please call the Judge Hotline and ask for bilingual assistance.

## Electioneering

- Texas law prohibits individuals from wearing a badge, insignia, emblem, or other similar communicative device relating to a candidate, measure, or political party appearing on the ballot in the polling place or within 100 feet of any outside door through which a voter may enter the building in which the polling place is located.
- Texas law also generally prohibits electioneering “for or against any candidate, measure, or political party” within the 100-foot distance marker. **However, a recent U.S. District Court struck down this rule in the context of voters’ apparel** during voting as a violation of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
  - As a result, **a person may not wear apparel relating to a candidate, measure, or political party appearing on the ballot in the current election, but a person may wear such apparel if the candidate, measure, or political party does not appear on the ballot in the current election.**

## Poll Watchers

- Poll Watchers must provide the Election Judge with a certificate of appointment. Place the certificate in Yellow Envelope #2.
- Poll Watchers must wear identification issued by the Election Judge. Poll watcher ID tags are in an envelope in the Judge’s Shoulder Bag.
- Texas Senate Bill 1 will change certain rules regarding Poll Watchers. However, that bill is not yet in effect and does not apply for this Election.
- If you have any questions regarding poll watchers, please refer to the Poll Watcher guide in your Judge’s Notebook, or call the Judge Hotline.

## Additional Materials in Judge’s Shoulder Bag

- Provisional Ballot Documents
  - The old style Provisional Ballot Envelopes (black & red) were packed in the blue Provisional Ballot Box.
  - Updated *Provisional Ballot Envelopes* (black & white) were recently approved by the Secretary of State and updated *Notice to Provisional Voter* forms were also produced. Both documents were delivered in your Judge’s Shoulder Bag.
    - Please utilize the updated documents. If you run out, please contact the Judge’s Hotline but utilize the old style documents until replacements arrive.
- Name Tags
  - Inside an envelope in the Judge’s Shoulder Bag are Presiding Judge name tags, Bilingual poll worker name tags, generic name tags for clerks, and poll watcher ID tags
- Extra Acceptable Forms of ID
  - Please distribute the extra Acceptable Forms of ID to your Check-in Clerks.

## Regional Site Drop-off

- Review the Closing the Vote Center Checklist to be informed about what items that need to be returned to your regional site.