

## Diane Trautman · Harris County Clerk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 13, 2020 CONTACT: Communications & Voter Outreach County.Clerk@cco.hctx.net (713) 274-9550

## Harris County Clerk Urges Voters 65 and Older to Vote by Mail as a Precaution to COVID-19 Early Voting for the Primary Runoff Elections is July 6-10

(Houston, Texas) – Harris County Clerk Diane Trautman urges voters 65 and older to vote by mail to ensure their safety during the COVID-19 outbreak. Last month, the governor postponed the May 26 Primary Runoff Elections and rescheduled them for July 14, with early voting taking place July 6-10. The deadline to apply to vote by a mail ballot for these elections is July 2.

"Our office will do everything it can to ensure a safe, secure, and accessible election," said Trautman. "In order to do anything different from a normal uniform election, our office will require explicit guidance from the Texas Secretary of State."

To be eligible to vote by mail in Texas, a voter has to be 65 years or older, have a disability or illness, be out of the county during the election period, or be confined in jail, with no conviction. Voters can go to <u>www.harrisvotes.com</u> to print out the application or call 713-755-6965 to request one. The last day to register to vote for the July 14 election is June 15. For voter registration information, please contact the <u>Harris County Tax Office.</u>

"The procedure for mail ballot applications has always been to honor any request from a voter who checks the disabled box. We are not going to question someone's disability," added Trautman. "Any ability to expand the Ballot-By-Mail program will need to be granted at the state level."

Residents are encouraged to visit <u>HarrisVotes.com</u> and follow on us social media for updates and information.

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