



## TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY ELECTION OFFICIALS

### Voter List Maintenance in the 90 Days Before a Federal Election

*What Texas counties may do, what federal law pauses, and the evidence standard that governs every voter registration review and cancellation.*

#### FEDERAL MORATORIUM BEGAN

**August 5, 2026**

90 days before the federal general election. New systematic removal programs stop — [52 U.S.C. § 20507\(c\)\(2\)](#).

#### TEXAS REGISTRATION DEADLINE

**October 5, 2026**

Counties keep registering voters and processing address updates right up to it. Voters on suspense should update their address by this date.

#### ELECTION DAY

**November 3, 2026**

Individualized action on specific records — death, disqualification, voter requests — continues throughout.

#### SYSTEMATIC VS. INDIVIDUALIZED: THE LINE FEDERAL LAW DRAWS

##### ✓ Continues through Election Day

- Processing new voter registration applications
- Processing voter-initiated address updates and corrections
- Cancelling a record at the voter's own request
- Cancelling a confirmed deceased voter's record
- Cancelling after a final felony conviction, absent restoration of rights
- Cancelling after a final judgment of total mental incapacity
- Finishing notice-and-response processes already properly underway before August 5
- Investigating individual eligibility questions and challenges
- Correcting clerical and data-entry errors

##### ✗ Paused until after the election

- New list-wide removal programs of any kind
- New bulk canvasses or mass mailings to identify address changes across the roll
- New systematic database comparisons run as a general removal program
- Cancelling on a weak match without the required notice and response period
- Cancelling based on unverified third-party data
- Removing a voter solely because that voter is on the suspense list

#### THE EVIDENCE STANDARD: 1 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 81.6

##### STRONG MATCH

###### Cancellation permitted

**Deceased:** last name and full nine-digit SSN and date of birth all match the death record.

**Duplicate:** first and last name plus full SSN; or plus a Texas DPS-issued license, ID, or election identification certificate number; or plus the last four SSN digits and date of birth.

→ The county may cancel the registration.

##### WEAK MATCH

###### Notice and investigation first

Any lesser combination — for example, first and last name plus date of birth, or a DPS-issued number standing alone.

The county sends written notice and the voter has an opportunity to respond, generally 30 days, before any action is taken.

→ A weak match can never, on its own, remove a voter.

**Why outside data comparisons cannot substitute for this process:** every strong-match pathway in Texas rule requires a Social Security number or a Texas DPS-issued identification number. Those fields are confidential, are not in the public voter file, and are not available in obituary databases, property records, or commercial change-of-address products. A list built from those sources cannot produce a strong match — at most an unverified lead a county must run down against authoritative records. A downloaded snapshot of the statewide file is also out of date the day it is taken: counties process registrations, updates, and cancellations every business day.

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