



Encourage and Equip Citizens to Vote

## “Voting 101”

- 1. Register.** And if you move keep your registration current by going to [elections.mctx.org](http://elections.mctx.org) (Montgomery County) or [harrisvotes.com](http://harrisvotes.com) (Harris County).
- 2. Vote in every election.** At the beginning of each year, go to [elections.mctx.org](http://elections.mctx.org) or [harrisvotes.com](http://harrisvotes.com) and download the annual elections calendar – and put all the dates including early voting in your personal calendar for the entire year. Even year March primaries (and May runoffs) are particularly important because for most local partisan offices in Montgomery County the primary is the election. General elections occur every May and November.
- 3. Print your customized sample ballot.** With every election download your sample ballot at [elections.mctx.org](http://elections.mctx.org) or [harrisvotes.com](http://harrisvotes.com). Your sample ballot will only have the races and ballot items that you are eligible to vote in. Print it out!
- 4. Gather facts and take notes on your sample ballot.** Information provided by advocates during a campaign season can be biased or even false. To find objective information, read Voter Guides published in local papers, attend or watch nonpartisan/unbiased candidate forums, and/or go to [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) for unbiased information. Mark your preferred candidates and your vote on all other ballot items on your sample ballot.
- 5. Take your completed sample ballot with you into the voting booth.** In Texas you may do this. It is your personal election guide and will allow you to vote in less time - very important now that straight-party voting no longer exists.
- 6. Vote a complete ballot.** “Under-Voting” (not voting in every race/ballot item on your ballot) is a major issue, especially on long ballots. Races are sometimes won or lost by margins less than the number of under-votes – like recent elections in The Woodlands and Shenandoah.
- 7. Encourage others to vote.** Do your part to increase voter turnout. Democracy best represents the will of the people with robust and informed voter participation.

