

## Office of the Texas Secretary of State

Yesterday, Governor Greg Abbott issued a [proclamation](#) suspending Section 85.001(a) of the Texas Election Code to expand the early voting period for the November 3, 2020 elections. Pursuant to the Governor's proclamation, the early voting period for any election authorized to occur on November 3, 2020 will begin on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 and last through Friday, October 30, 2020. As the proclamation recognizes, this expansion will allow for increased in-person voting opportunities for the November 3, 2020 elections while maintaining appropriate social distancing standards in response to the COVID-19 disaster. Additionally, the proclamation suspends a portion of Section 86.006(a-1) to allow a voter to hand deliver their marked mail ballot to the early voting clerk's office before Election Day.

In connection with the Governor's proclamation, we would like to provide additional guidance on several items:

- 1. Extended Early Voting Days and Hours:** As a reminder, in addition to the increased number of early voting days pursuant to the Governor's proclamation, the Texas Election Code allows you flexibility to offer voters extended early voting hours. Specifically, you can provide extended hours beyond the minimum number of hours required for weekdays during early voting, as set forth in Section 85.005, in order to allow persons more opportunities to vote after work. You can also provide for more than the minimum of weekend hours, if petitioned for additional weekend voting, as detailed in Section 85.006.
- 2. Expansion of In-Person Delivery for Mail Ballots:** We will be providing more detailed guidance about procedures related to this part of the Governor's proclamation as well as providing updated forms.
- 3. Updated Resources:** As a result of the Governor's proclamation, there are a number of SOS resources that will be updated. Below is a list of resources that you can expect updates to this week. As the updates become available, we will be notifying you via email and/or web updates.

**“These new changes will be posted to the website upon receipt from the Secretary of State”**

- November 3, 2020 Election Law Calendar
- Important Election Dates
- “Dear Voter” Letter
- Selected VoteTexas.gov pages