

Grayson County, Texas Health Protocols for Elections

Voter and poll worker safety at the polls is our top priority in Grayson County. **We ask our voters to join us and participate in the recommended voter health safety plan to continue to keep our county safe during this voting season.** Elections in 2020 (and possibly 2021) will be conducted with the recommended health protocols issued by the County and from the Texas Secretary of State. If you have questions, please call our office at 903-893-8683 or email us at votegrayson@co.grayson.tx.us.

The following are the minimum health safety plan recommendations in place for elections. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all poll workers and voters.

Recommended health protocols for voters:

- 1) Wear a face mask covering nose and mouth. If a poll worker needs to verify identity of the voter, they will ask for the mask to be removed briefly then replaced for the duration of the voting process. Masks will be provided if needed.
- 2) Disinfect hands upon entering and exiting the voting area along with practicing cough etiquette, cleanliness and sanitation.
- 3) Maintain at least six feet of physical distance between all others, where possible.
- 4) Use the clear glove provided to check in and vote on equipment.
- 5) Voters age 65 and older and voters who have pre-existing health conditions should consider staying at home and submitting an Application for Ballot by Mail, or voting curbside from their vehicles.
- 6) Self-screen before going to the polling place. Voters exhibiting any CDC-listed symptoms associated with COVID-19 should consider utilizing curbside voting at the polling place.

Recommended health protocols for poll workers:

- 1) Face shields, masks and gloves will be provided to the poll workers.
- 2) Consistently disinfect items that come into contact with voters.
- 3) Poll workers will self-screen for any CDC-listed symptoms before entering the polling place.
- 4) To the extent possible, maintain at least six feet between others at the polling place.
- 5) Arrange polling place and mark floor to allow voters to maintain six feet of separation from others.

Voting by Mail: A voter is eligible to vote early by mail if they are a registered voter who:

- A. Is 65 years of age or older on Election Day;
- B. Has a disability or illness defined as a sickness or a physical condition that prevents voter from appearing at the polling place without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or injuring voter's health;
- C. Expects to be out of the county during the hours that voting is conducted during early voting in person and on Election Day. An out of county address and the begin/end dates voter will receive mail at this address must be provided;
- D. Is confined in jail, but eligible to vote due to 1) serving a misdemeanor sentence and will not be released prior to Election Day, or 2) pending trial or appeal after denial of bail or without bail or where release on bail before Election Day is unlikely.

To vote by mail, voters must first apply for a ballot. Applications are available by calling 903-893-8683 or visiting the Elections page on the county website.