

Hosted by  
**Friendship-West Baptist Church**

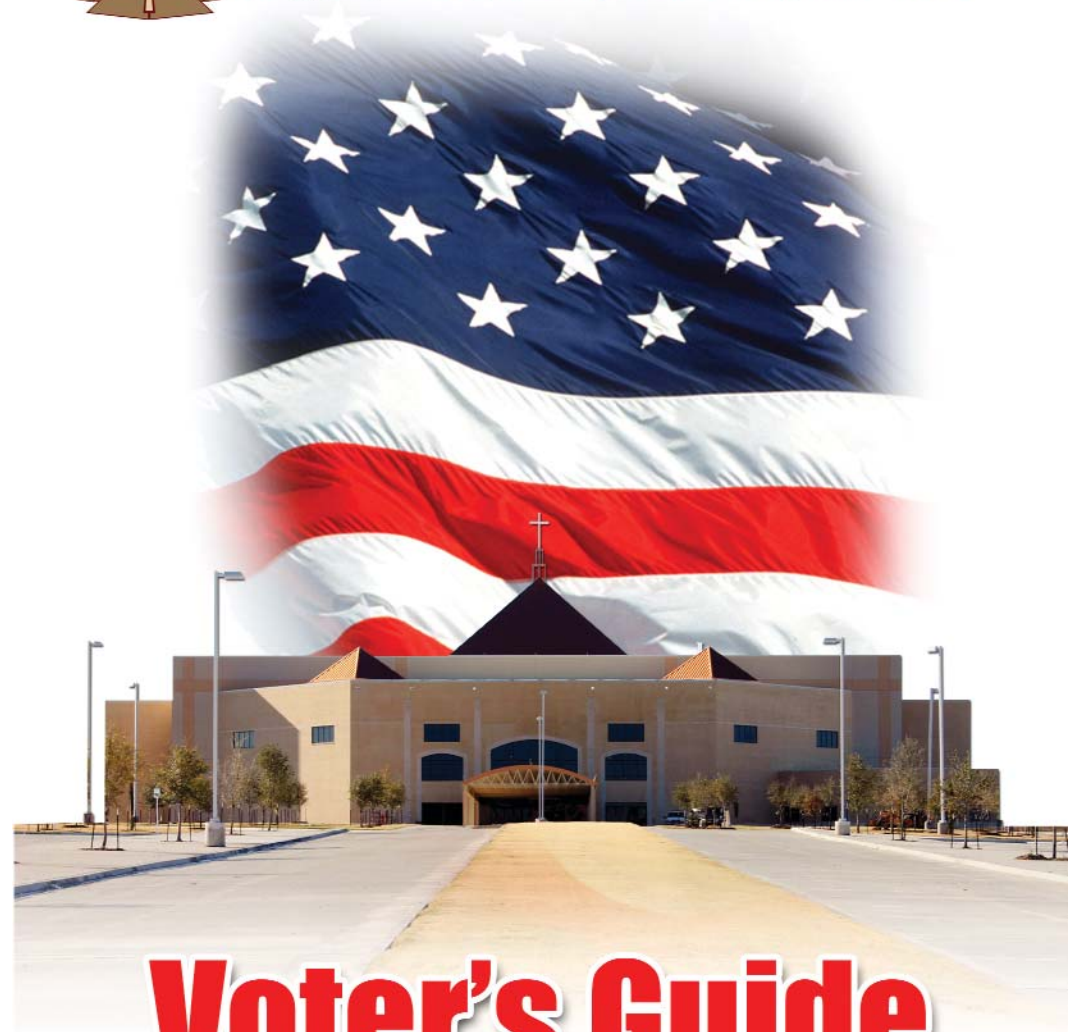
Moderated by  
**Gordan Jackson**



**Friendship-West Baptist Church**  
2020 W. Wheatland Rd.  
Dallas, Texas 75232  
(972) 228-5200



**Friendship-West Baptist Church**  
Equipping Changed People to Change the World



**Voter's Guide**

**May 12, 2007 Elections**

# Mark your calendars for the Dallas Mayoral Debates

at Friendship-West Baptist Church

# Dallas Mayor Candidate Debate

Thursday, April 26th  
7:00pm

2020 West Wheatland Road  
For more information contact  
(972) 228-5200 ext:222

The purpose of the debate is to engage the candidates in a conversation about important issues on economic development, crime, education, and more...

**Overvoting**- when you overvote, that means that you vote for more candidates in a race than you are supposed to. Always read the instructions at the top of the ballot. If the instructions tell you to vote for one candidate in the race, only vote for one, otherwise, if you vote for two candidates, and you're not supposed to, that is considered an overvote. If you overvote, that race will not be counted.

**Paper ballot** - Ballots counted by hand by election officials at the polling place.

**Political subdivision** - a county, city, or school district or any other governmental entity that embraces a geographic area with a defined boundary, exists for the purpose of discharging functions of government, and possesses authority for subordinate self-government through officers selected by it.

**Provisional Voting** - a new requirement for elections with a federal office on the ballot. The ballot is not immediately counted. The voter's eligibility must be established before the ballot is counted.

**Undervoting**- when you undervote, you either (1) don't vote for anyone, (2) vote for less candidates than allowed in a multiple candidate race, or (3) don't vote for or against a particular measure. Maybe you want to vote for just one office on the entire ballot, because that is the only office up for election that you know about, or care about. That's fine, vote for what you have educated yourself about, and for that which you feel comfortable-you don't have to vote the entire ballot. Your ballot will be counted if you don't vote for every item on a ballot.

The rule of thumb is that you should always read the instructions on the ballot-instructions are printed on the ballot for a reason-to explain how to properly cast your vote.

Please call the Elections Division, toll-free at 1.800.252.VOTE(8683) or direct at 512.463.5650 or e-mail us at [elections@sos.state.tx.us](mailto:elections@sos.state.tx.us) with any questions.

*Source: Texas Secretary of State*

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/pamphlets/everytexan.shtml>

flourish. Thank you for celebrating freedom by VOTING.

**And just in case you haven't had enough...here are some election vocabulary words. What do they mean?**

**Blank Ballots**- what's a blank ballot? A blank ballot is simply that-no mark is made on the ballot-the voter did not vote for any of the candidates on the ballot, nor did they vote for or against a proposition on the ballot. They didn't cast a vote, they cast a ballot. The voter went through the qualifying process at the polling place, but they simply did not want to cast a vote, for whatever reason. It is the same as voting for "none of the above" or "doesn't matter."

**County Election Precinct** - the basic unit of county elections. Each county election precinct (unless combined or consolidated) contains a polling place.

**DRE** - Direct Recording Electronic Voting System. The voter votes directly on the machine without a physical ballot.

**Federal Election** - an election in which an officer of the federal government is on the ballot. This includes the general election for state and county officers, party primary elections, and any special election to fill a vacancy in the U.S. House of Representatives or U.S. Senate.

**General Election for State and County Officers** - the election at which officers of the federal, state, and county governments are elected; held every November in even-numbered years.

**HAVA** - the Help America Vote Act of 2002. An act passed by the federal government to improve the overall election process and provide uniformity in elections from state to state.

**National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)** - Federal law that requires voter registration at DPS, agencies providing public assistance, and agencies offering services to the disabled. NVRA also requires the Secretary of State to provide regular updates to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) detailing the sources of voter registration.

**Optical Scan** - A voting system under which paper ballots are counted by an infrared or light sensitive reader. The device may be located either at the polling place or a central counting station.

# Meet the Candidates

## Candidates Dallas City Council May 12, 2007 Elections

### Candidates for City Council

#### District 5

Candidate	Ballot Position
Betty J. Culbreath	4
Jesse Diaz	1
Vonciel Jones Hill	5
Jurline Gates Hollins	7
Don Robinson	2
Camile D. White	3
Yolonda Faye Williams	6

### Candidates for City Council

#### District 8

Candidate	Ballot Position
Tennell Atkins	3
Sandra Crenshaw	6
Clara McDade	7
Michael D. Rodgers, Sr.	2
Charles R. Rose	4
T. G. Washington	5
Erik Wilson	1

## Voter's Information

### Who can vote in Texas?

To be eligible to register to vote in Texas, any United States citizen residing in Texas who is:

- At least 18 years old on Election Day
- Not a convicted felon (unless sentence, probation and/or parole are completed)
- Not declared mentally incompetent by a court of law

### How do you register?

Registering to vote is easy in Texas. It doesn't even require a stamp! Official applications to register to vote are postage-paid by the State of Texas.

In most Texas counties, the Tax Assessor-Collector is also the Voter Registrar. In some counties, the County Clerk or Elections Administrator registers voters. You may obtain an application from the county Voter Registrar's office, the Secretary of State's Office, libraries, many post offices, high schools and on the web. From our website, you may request that we send you an official, postage-paid application. Or, you may download an informal application, but you will be required to affix a stamp before mailing. You may also register to vote when you apply for or renew your driver's license.

Read the instructions on the form, fill it out and mail it to the Voter Registrar in your county, or take it to the Voter Registrar's office in your county.

You must be at least 17 years and 10 months of age on the date you apply.

If for any reason you cannot register yourself, with your permission, your spouse, parent or child may fill out and sign an application for you if that person is a registered voter or has applied for voter registration. This person is known as your "agent."

The application must be received in the Voter Registrar's office or post-marked 30 days before an election in order for you to be eligible to vote in that election. You will receive a voter registration certificate in the mail after the Voter Registrar has processed your voter registration application. Upon receipt of the voter registration certificate, sign it, fold it and keep it in your

vote by mail and did not provide a Texas driver's license number, personal identification number, or last four digits of your social security number, you will be required to show ID at the polling place (see acceptable forms of ID already discussed above), other than your voter registration certificate. Now it's time-Casting Your Ballot.

### Casting Your Ballot

Now that you've gone through the qualifying process, it's time to head to the voting booth. Voting booths (or other forms of dividers) are required in Texas, because you are entitled to vote in private/secret. If there are any declared write-ins for the election in which you are voting, you will see a list posted in your voting booth. That means that you can write in the name of a declared write-in candidate for a particular race on your ballot.

### Marking Your Ballot

#### Important:

**READ THE INSTRUCTIONS LOCATED AT THE TOP OF YOUR BALLOT.**

#### If You Need Help-ASK!

If you need assistance, ASK. The election officials in the polling place are trained on the voting process, and are there to help you. Please don't be shy-ask! If you don't know how, or don't understand how to use the voting system in your polling place, ask the election official to demonstrate the voting system to you. It's no big deal-you're not expected to know everything about voting, and that's why the people working the polls are there-to help you.

#### Tidbit:

Did you know that registered, qualified voters are entitled to up to 3 ballots? I bet you didn't know that. That DOES NOT mean that you get to vote 3 times, it means that if you mess up...it's not a problem. It's called the 3 strikes and you're out rule. Say you get in the voting booth, you vote for a candidate that you didn't mean to...so what? If your voting system doesn't allow you to go back and correct it (let's say you are using paper ballot), just take your ballot back to the Election Judge and ask them to give you a new, clean ballot. They'll register that ballot as spoiled, and you can begin again.

#### Thanks...

Again, thank you for taking an interest in Texas elections. The greatest freedom and responsibility that you hold is the right to vote. There is no greater power than voting-ensuring that our strong, vibrant democracy continues to

- The right to receive up to two more ballots if a mistake is made while marking the ballot.
- The right to ask the polling place official for instructions on how to cast the ballot, but not for suggestions on who to vote for.
- The right to bring an interpreter to assist you as you qualify to vote if you do not understand the English language.
- The right to assistance while casting your ballot if you cannot write, see the ballot, or understand the language in which it is written.
- The right to bring written materials into the voting booth to assist you as you cast the ballot.
- The right to vote at any early voting location in the county for elections conducted county-wide.
- The right to report a possible voting rights abuse to the Secretary of State or to your local election official.
- The right to cast a provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the list of registered voters, or you do not have proper identification.
- The right to file an administrative complaint with the Secretary of State concerning violations of federal and state voting procedures.
- The Secretary of State's office may be contacted toll-free at 1.800.252.VOTE (8683), via e-mail at elections@sos.state.tx.us, and by regular mail at: Elections Division, P.O. Box 12060, Austin, TX 78711.

**You may not:**

- Vote in an election in which you know that you are not eligible to vote.
- Vote twice in an election.
- Provide assistance to a voter who is not eligible to receive assistance.
- Suggest how another person should vote by word, sign or gesture while in the polling place.
- Intimidate, threaten, or coerce any person from voting or attempting to vote.
- Electioneer or loiter within 100 feet of the entrance to the polling place or inside the polling place.
- Buy or sell your ballot.
- Deposit a ballot in the ballot box that was not given to you by an election official.

O.K., you're at the polls, you know your rights, now, hopefully, you've brought your voter registration certificate with you! If you did not, it's not a problem, you can still vote, but you first need to prove, by showing some form of ID, who you are. You will be required to show identification at the polling place if you don't have your voter registration certificate. And, if you registered to

wallet and take it to the polls with you when you vote.

All voters who register to vote in Texas must provide a Texas driver's license number or personal identification number issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. If you do not have such a number, then you must state that fact and provide the last four digits of your social security number. If you do not have a social security number, you must also state that fact.

**What if I don't have a driver's license, personal identification number, OR a social security number? Can I still register to vote in Texas?**

Even if you have not been issued any of three identification numbers requested on the application, you are still eligible to register to vote, but you will be required to provide proof of your identity. You may enclose a copy of identification with your voter registration application, or you may present identification when you vote. Acceptable identification includes:

**What is considered an appropriate form of identification?**

- a driver's license or personal identification card issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety or a similar document issued to the person by an agency of another state, regardless of whether the license or card has expired;
- a form of identification containing the person's photograph that establishes the person's identity;
- a birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes the person's identity;
- United States citizenship papers issued to the person;
- a United States passport issued to the person;
- official mail addressed to the person by name from a governmental entity;
- a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter; or
- any other form of identification prescribed by the Secretary of State.

**Do I register by Party in Texas?**

No. Party affiliation is established in several ways; the most common methods are by voting in the party's primary election, or taking the party oath of

minor parties holding conventions. But unlike many other states, you don't register to vote by party.

### Where do I vote?

Polling places are usually listed in your local newspapers in the weeks before the election. Call your County Clerk, County Elections Administrator, or political subdivision conducting the election in order to find your polling location. You may want to search the web-most counties post polling place information on their websites.

### What is "early voting?"

"Early voting" is a way to cast your ballot before Election Day either in person or by mail.

**In person** - Anyone can vote early in person. Call or go to the website of your local County Clerk or Elections Administrator for early voting dates, hours and locations.

**By mail** - If you will be: (1) out of the county during early voting and on Election Day; (2) age 65 or older; (3) sick or disabled; or (4) confined to jail but eligible to vote, call the Elections Administrator in charge of the particular election and ask him/her to send you an application for a ballot by mail. Or you may request one from the Secretary of State's office at 1.800.252.VOTE [8683], or on-line at [www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us).

### When are the Elections?

There are **two uniform election dates** (dates that political subdivisions can hold elections by law) in Texas for political subdivisions, those being the months of **May** and **November** (House Bill 57, during the 79th Regular Legislative Session eliminated the February and September Election dates). Those election dates are the second Saturday in May, and the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Additionally, statewide and federal elections are held in the months of March, April, and November of even-numbered years. There are exceptions to these uniform election dates, and in some cases, the Governor can call a special election. For instance, in the case of a vacancy in the state legislature or Congress, the Governor will call a Special Election. But generally, you can participate in elections held during those months.

You will hear a lot about Primary, Runoff, and General Elections. These are the elections at which votes are cast for the offices of President, Governor, federal and statewide officials.

**Primary Election:** 1st Tuesday in March in even-numbered years. You vote in either the Democratic or Republican Primary and you would vote for federal (U.S. Senate race as an example), state (State Senate, State Representative, as examples), and county officers (County Judge, County Clerk, etc.). Minor parties that have ballot access in Texas do not hold Primary Elections.

**Runoff Elections:** 2nd Tuesday in April following the primary election in even-numbered years. You can only vote in one primary, and if you vote in that primary, you are entitled to vote in that party's runoff election. If you don't vote in either primary, you can still vote in the Primary Runoff election for whichever party you choose.

**General Election:** 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November in even-numbered years. You would vote on federal, state, and county officers in this type of an election. For example: President, Governor, U.S. Senate, State Senator, etc.

In **odd-numbered** years, Constitutional Amendment Elections are generally held on the November uniform election date. Please visit our website at [www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us) for a complete listing of offices/propositions on the ballot.

### You're headed to the polls-what do you do now? What should I expect?

A polling place is where you will go to vote-cast your ballot. Polling places are rooms in buildings such as a school, community center, courthouse, or other public or private building. When you walk in the door, you will see election workers seated at a table, called the qualifying table. That's where you will present yourself for voting. They'll walk you through the process if you need help.

### As a Texas Voter, Know Your Rights-What are they?

#### **You Have:**

- The right to a ballot with written instructions on how to cast the ballot.
- The right to cast your vote in secret and free from intimidation.