

# Extended-Hours During Early Voting Offers Voters More Opportunities Ahead of March 3<sup>RD</sup> Joint Primaries



**(TRAVIS COUNTY, TX)** – Travis County Clerk Dyana Limon-Mercado is reminding voters that the final two days of early voting for the March 3 Joint Primaries are approaching, with extended hours at seven locations to provide additional flexibility and convenient evening voting options. Over the first eight days of early voting, 93,572 voters have already cast their ballots, representing 10.17% of registered voters.

“Early voting is designed to give voters flexibility over when and where they vote,” said Clerk Limon-Mercado. “Extended evening hours help ensure that voters who work late, have family obligations, or busy schedules still have convenient opportunities to participate.”

**Early voting hours for the final two days are:**

- Thursday, February 26: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Friday, February 27: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

The following seven early voting locations will remain open until 10 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, and Friday, February 27:

- Ben Hur Shrine Center
- Carver Branch Library
- Lakeway Activity Center

- PflISD Rock Gym
- Randalls Brodie
- Travis County Clerk, 5501 Airport Blvd
- UT Texas Union

**Ballot by Mail and Postmark Deadlines:**

Completed Ballots by Mail must be postmarked by 7 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, March 3. Completed ballots must be received by the Travis County Clerk’s Office by 5 p.m. on

Wednesday, March 4. Ballots from military members or voters residing overseas must be postmarked by Tuesday, March 3 and received by Monday, March 9 by 5 p.m.

Voters who want to ensure their ballot receives a same-day postmark may request a free manual postmark at USPS retail locations.

Voters may also hand deliver their own Ballot by Mail to the County Clerk’s Office at 5501 Airport Blvd. on Election Day, March 3, between 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. and must present a **valid form of ID**.

**Voter Changes for the Primary:**

• Due to recent redistricting, some voters may now be assigned to new precincts or congressional

districts.

• The Travis County Democratic and Republican Parties are conducting a joint primary, allowing all voters—regardless of party affiliation—to cast their ballots at the same locations.

• During check-in, voters will be asked to select their preferred party on the ePollbook.

• Each polling place will display notices with additional information about upcoming Party Conventions.

• At the request of the Travis County Republican Party regarding early voting tabulation procedures, early voting ballots will not be counted until Election Day. As a result, complete early voting results may not be available when polls close at 7 p.m., and posting of complete results to the website could be delayed. This change is a step toward implementing a new state law that will take effect by 2027, requiring early voting and Election Day ballots to be counted and reported together after polls close on Election Night.

Voters can find early voting locations, hours, and their personalized sample ballot at **VoteTravis.gov**.

## Texas NAACP Launches Election Protection Group to Safeguard Voter Rights in the 2026 Texas Primary Election on November 3, 2026.



The Texas NAACP is proud to announce the formation of an Election Protection Group, spearheaded by the NAACP Legal Redress Committee, alongside the Political Action and Civic Engagement Committees, and supported by legal experts from the national NAACP office. Key leaders include Legal Redress Chair Robert Notzon, Election Expert and Labor Chair Linda Lewis, Legal Redress Co-Chair Jesse Gaines, and NAACP Staff Member Lonzo Kerr. The National Office of General Counsel will be a partner in this effort.

With record voter turnout in Texas, we are

increasingly vigilant about potential irregularities that could undermine minority voting rights. Texans of all backgrounds recognize the critical importance of the upcoming election for the future of our democracy. The stakes have never been higher.

In recent years, Texas has enacted numerous voter suppression laws, making it easier to disenfranchise voters. The Texas NAACP is actively challenging several of these laws in court. Additionally, there are concerns about potential trial runs of voter suppression tactics that may be planned for the upcoming fall

elections.

If you encounter any irregularities or have concerns, please report those to the NAACP State Conference. Under the appropriate circumstances, if you feel comfortable doing so, you should report the irregularities or concerns to the appropriate governmental or party authority. The Texas NAACP offers a reliable option for reporting. Contact us on election day at (512) 985-9151. For more information, visit our website at [Texasnaacp.org](http://Texasnaacp.org).

Stay informed and engaged. Together, we can protect the integrity of our elections.

## APD Issues New Crime Bulletins as Theft, Auto Crime & Fraud Spike Across Austin



**(AUSTIN, TX)** – The Austin Police Department has released a new series of crime bulletins highlighting a rise in theft, auto-related offenses, and financial fraud across multiple parts of the city, urging residents to review surveillance footage and report tips that could help identify suspects.

According to APD, detectives are investigating **several vehicle break-ins**, including cases where suspects targeted apartment complexes and commercial parking lots. In multiple incidents, windows

were shattered and personal items stolen within minutes, suggesting coordinated or opportunistic activity.

Police also released images tied to **credit card fraud investigations**, where suspects allegedly used stolen cards at convenience stores and retail locations across South and Central Austin. Detectives say these cases often link back to earlier vehicle burglaries, where wallets and IDs were taken.

In addition, APD is seeking public assistance in **multiple theft**

**cases**, including shoplifting incidents and property crimes at local businesses. Officers emphasized that even small tips — such as identifying clothing, tattoos, or vehicles — can help move cases forward.

The department continues to encourage residents to secure vehicles, avoid leaving valuables in sight, and report suspicious activity. Anyone with information can submit tips anonymously through Crime Stoppers.

APD says the bulletins will be updated as new leads develop.