

Texas NAACP Issues Urgent Call to Protect the Vote for Everyday Texans

NAACP Texas STATE CONFERENCE

(AUSTIN, TX) — The Texas NAACP and President Gary Bledsoe today issued an urgent call for all Texans—of every race, color, and background—especially those who are not wealthy and who live as regular, everyday citizens, to take immediate steps to verify their voter registration status and make a concrete plan to vote this November. The organization has confirmed that a number of counties have purged voters from the rolls and that voters are also being placed in “suspense” status due to address and other issues. At the same time, recent changes have made it significantly more difficult for Texans to successfully vote by mail, and strict in-person delivery rules now govern any mail ballot a voter decides to hand-deliver on Election Day.

The Urgency for Everyday Texans

President Gary Bledsoe emphasized that the issues at stake affect neighborhood integrity and the affordability and quality of everyday life for Texans who are not part of the wealthy elite. “When policies advance the interests of the wealthy at the expense of regular people, every neighborhood’s integrity, affordability, and quality of life are on the line,” said Bledsoe. “We need every eligible Texan to vote, because efforts to suppress or sideline voters should matter to all Texans. Ironically the most pressing needs for everyday people such as large data centers, the potential loss of Texas hospitals and affordable healthcare, support for our rural schools and communities and general affordability are common across the board.”

Voter Purges and “Suspense” Status Demand Vigilance

The Texas NAACP has received lists showing voters purged following written communications from local registrars, often based on information from the Secretary of State requiring a response within 30 days, and many purges occur simply because voters do not respond . Even highly informed and sophisticated Texans have been affected, underscoring that no one is beyond risk.

Travis County Voter Registrar issues statement regarding newly transmitted voter registration applications from the Texas Department of Public Safety

Celia Israel
Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector & Voter Registrar

(AUSTIN, TX) — Celia Israel, Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar, released the following statement in response to reports regarding voter registration application data transmitted by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS):

“The Travis County Tax Office received approximately 32,000 applications from Texas DPS overnight, bringing our total DPS application count to over 35,000 records to process. This is in addition to the high volume of applications we are receiving through our network of Volunteer Deputy Registrars, those mailed directly to the Texas Secretary of State, and the many more we expect to receive by the Oct. 5 deadline.

We have taken an all-hands-on-deck approach to process this increased volume of applications accurately, efficiently and in accordance with state law. Our focus is on maintaining the integrity of the voter registration process while providing timely service to eligible voters.

While I am deeply disappointed in our state partner, the Texas Department of Public Safety, I have the utmost confidence in the Travis County team to carry out our mission for eligible voters.”

Voters are urged to check mail for any “Notice of Examination,” to respond within 30 days if the information is inaccurate, and, if outside the 30-day window but eligible, to immediately re-register and keep records of correspondence and copies of updated registrations . We will be uploading a form for voters to fill out if they feel their rights have been violated when they attempt to vote, and we want to call everyone’s attention to that. On election day we will have a voter hotline and will work with other groups such as the National Bar Association Texas affiliates, the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the National NAACP Office of General Counsel.

President Bledsoe stated, “This is not a partisan issue. It is a question of whether everyday Texans will have a voice. Check your status now, respond to any official notices immediately, and keep documentation. We cannot allow clerical issues to cancel our voices.”

What Every Voter Should Do Now

Check with both the Texas Secretary of State and your local registrar right away to verify whether you are registered, whether your registration has been purged, or whether you have been placed in “suspense” for address or other issues . If unregistered, re-register if eligible, retain a copy of your registration, and keep it with you . The registration deadline for the November 3, 2026 election is October 5, 2026, and voters should re-register as early as possible if needed .

If You Encounter Problems at the Polls

If you have a valid voter registration and complete a Statement of Residence Form for address issues, you should receive a regular ballot under Texas Election Code Section 63.0011 . If officials require a provisional ballot, promptly follow up after Election Day to provide proof as instructed, noting that a voter has six days after the election to present additional information to the voter registrar . “Do not walk away,” said Bledsoe. “If you are pushed to a provisional ballot, finish the process

Historic East Austin Neighborhoods host forum for City Council, AISD candidates

African American Cultural Heritage District Neighborhoods to hear from candidates



(AUSTIN, TX) - The neighborhoods of the African American Cultural Heritage District—including Robertson Hill, Swede Hill, Homewood Heights, Rogers Washington Holy Cross Historic District, Chestnut, Blackland and other neighborhoods—will hold a candidate forum for AISD Trustee District 1 and At-Large candidates and District 1 City Council candidates on Saturday, October 3, 2026. The forum will begin at 1 p.m. and will be held at the Yellow Jacket Conference Center, 900 Thompson Street (Eastside ECHS at L. C. Anderson Campus).

The forum will begin with the AISD Board candidates, followed by the District 1 Austin City Council candidates. Candidates will each have 15 minutes to introduce themselves and their platform and then take questions from the audience with the remaining time.

and provide the follow-up documentation within the deadline.”

Mail-In Voting: Proceed Early and Carefully

Mail-in ballots are no longer handled with preferred status by the U.S. Postal Service and are more likely to be delayed, so voters should plan early and, if possible, consider lawful in-person delivery on Election Day and to factor into their decision the difficulties with ensuring that your mail in ballot is counted. Texas law requires mail ballots be returned to the early voting clerk in the official carrier envelope by mail, common or contract carrier, or in person by the voter on Election Day only, with acceptable ID, and delivery must be received by an election official who records the voter’s information . “If you bring your mail ballot in person because of mail issues, there is a narrow window on Election Day and you must deliver it to the correct official with proper ID,” Bledsoe cautioned.

For Voters in “Suspense” or Who Have Moved

Voters should determine whether they are in suspense status and, if so, update their address and keep a copy of the Change of Address Form . If address change cannot be effectively completed in advance, a Statement of Residence Form should allow voting a regular ballot for a new residence within the same county, and a “limited ballot” may be needed if the new residence is in a different county .

Call to Action

Bledsoe concluded, “This election will decide whether the everyday Texan’s voice continues to matter. Verify your registration today, make your plan to vote, and help your neighbors do the same. The integrity, affordability, and quality of life in our communities depend on it.”

If you need assistance with provisional ballot follow-up or related voting issues, contact the Lonzo Kerr or Linda Lewis of the Texas NAACP at 512-985-9151 and/or the Lawyers’ Committee at 866-OUR-VOTE .

ATTENTION!

FY27 Tax Rate Adoption Notice

CITY OF AUSTIN ADOPTED A TAX RATE THAT WILL RAISE MORE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS THAN LAST YEAR'S TAX RATE.

THE TAX RATE WILL EFFECTIVELY BE RAISED BY 3.5 PERCENT AND WILL RAISE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS ON A \$100,000 HOME BY APPROXIMATELY \$15.04.

EBENEZER
THIRD-BAPTIST CHURCH

YOU'RE INVITED!

SUNDAY

10:30 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE

In person or YouTube Live

8:45 A.M.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In person or via Zoom

WEDNESDAY

7:00 P.M.

MIDWEEK PRAYER SERVICE

Via Zoom* *Zoom link: ebenezer@ebc3austin.org

Rev. Dr. Nathan J. Robertson, Jr., Pastor

1010 East Tenth Street • Austin, Texas 78702

512.478.1875 • www.ebc3austin.org



Your Community.

Your Power.

AustinEnergy.com/PublicPower