TACEO

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY ELECTION OFFICIALS

Voter List Maintenance in the 90 Days Before a Federal Election

What Texas counties may do, what federal law pauses, and the evidence standard that governs every voter registration review and cancellation.

FEDERAL MORATORIUM BEGAN

August 5, 2026

90 days before the federal general election. New systematic removal programs stop — 52 U.S.C. § 20507(c)(2).

TEXAS REGISTRATION DEADLINE

October 5, 2026

Counties keep registering voters and processing address updates right up to it. Voters on suspense should update their address by this date.

ELECTION DAY

November 3, 2026

Individualized action on specific records — death, disqualification, voter requests — continues throughout.

SYSTEMATIC VS. INDIVIDUALIZED: THE LINE FEDERAL LAW DRAWS

✓ Continues through Election Day

- Processing new voter registration applications
- Processing voter-initiated address updates and corrections
- Cancelling a record at the voter's own request
- Cancelling a confirmed deceased voter's record
- Cancelling after a final felony conviction, absent restoration of rights
- Cancelling after a final judgment of total mental incapacity
- Finishing notice-and-response processes already properly underway before August 5
- Investigating individual eligibility questions and challenges
- Correcting clerical and data-entry errors

✗ Paused until after the election

- New list-wide removal programs of any kind
- New bulk canvasses or mass mailings to identify address changes across the roll
- New systematic database comparisons run as a general removal program
- Cancelling on a weak match without the required notice and response period
- Cancelling based on unverified third-party data
- Removing a voter solely because that voter is on the suspense list

THE EVIDENCE STANDARD: 1 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 81.6

STRONG MATCH

Cancellation permitted

Deceased: last name and full nine-digit SSN and date of birth all match the death record.

Duplicate: first and last name plus full SSN; or plus a Texas DPS-issued license, ID, or election identification certificate number; or plus the last four SSN digits and date of birth.

→ The county may cancel the registration.

WEAK MATCH

Notice and investigation first

Any lesser combination — for example, first and last name plus date of birth, or a DPS-issued number standing alone.

The county sends written notice and the voter has an opportunity to respond, generally 30 days, before any action is taken.

→ A weak match can never, on its own, remove a voter.

Why outside data comparisons cannot substitute for this process: every strong match pathway in Texas rule requires a Social Security number or a Texas DPS issued identification number. Those fields are confidential, are not in the public voter file, and are not available in obituary databases, property records, or commercial change of address products. A list built from those sources cannot produce a strong match at most an unverified lead a county must run down against authoritative records. A downloaded snapshot of the statewide file is also out of date the day it is taken: counties process registrations, updates, and cancellations every business day.

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