

Behind the Ballot Box

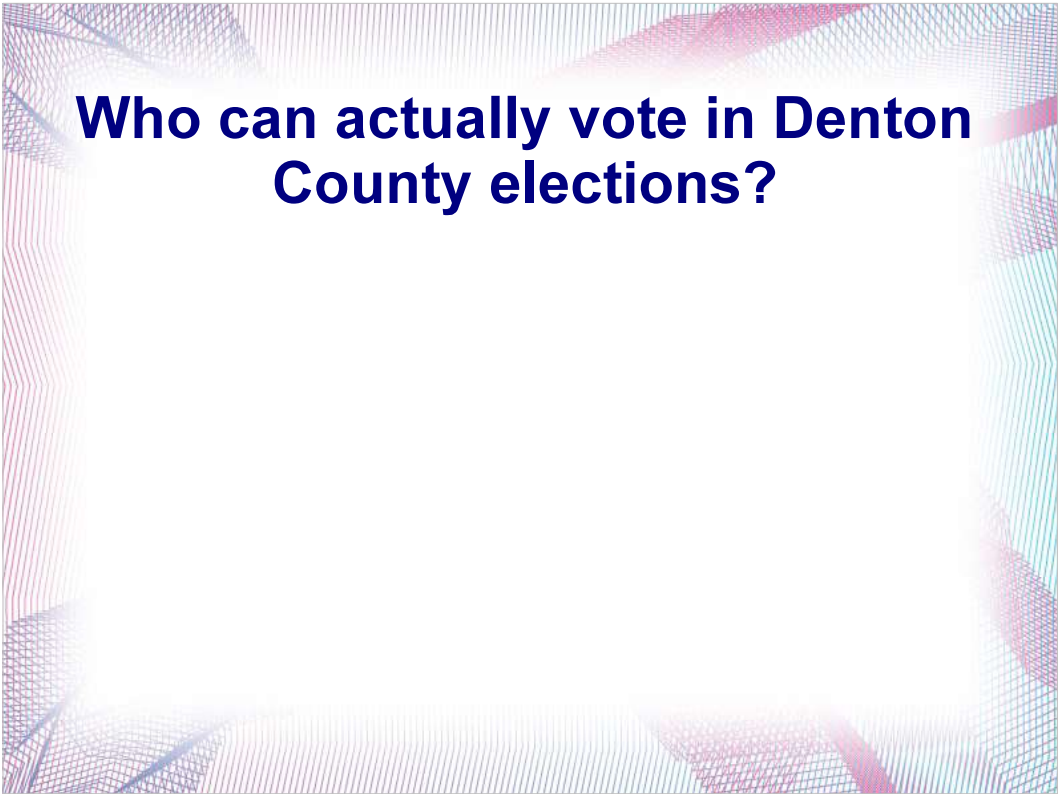


An in-depth look at what goes on
behind the scenes during an
election

Hi. My name is Christie Wood. I've been an election judge since 2016, working non-partisan municipal, party primary, Denton County, state-wide, and national elections.

My 10 years of experience working elections has given me behind-the-scenes insight into what it takes to run an election.

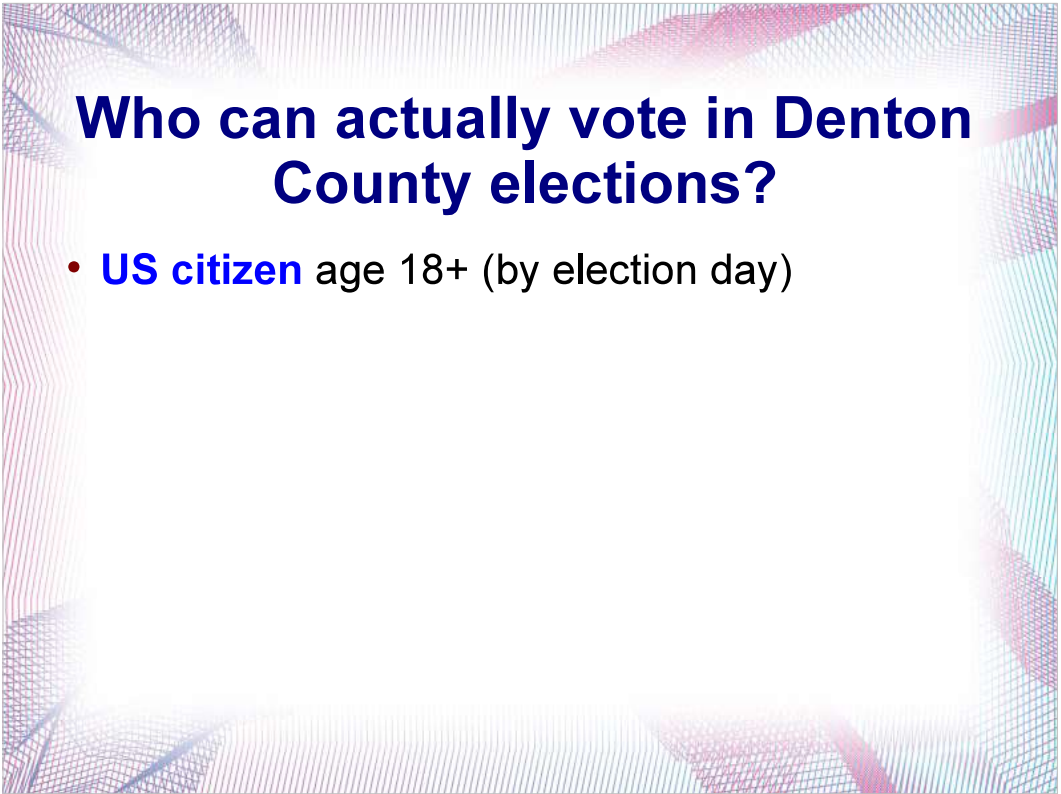
I find the experience of open and free democratic elections to be exciting; whether voting for local city representatives, school district bond elections, state-level representatives, or high-profile national elections. This presentation gives a more in-depth look at what it takes to organize and run an election here in Denton.



Who can actually vote in Denton County elections?

Who can vote, when you vote, & where you vote varies by state.

So, what are some of the rules for voting in Texas?



Who can actually vote in Denton County elections?

- **US citizen** age 18+ (by election day)

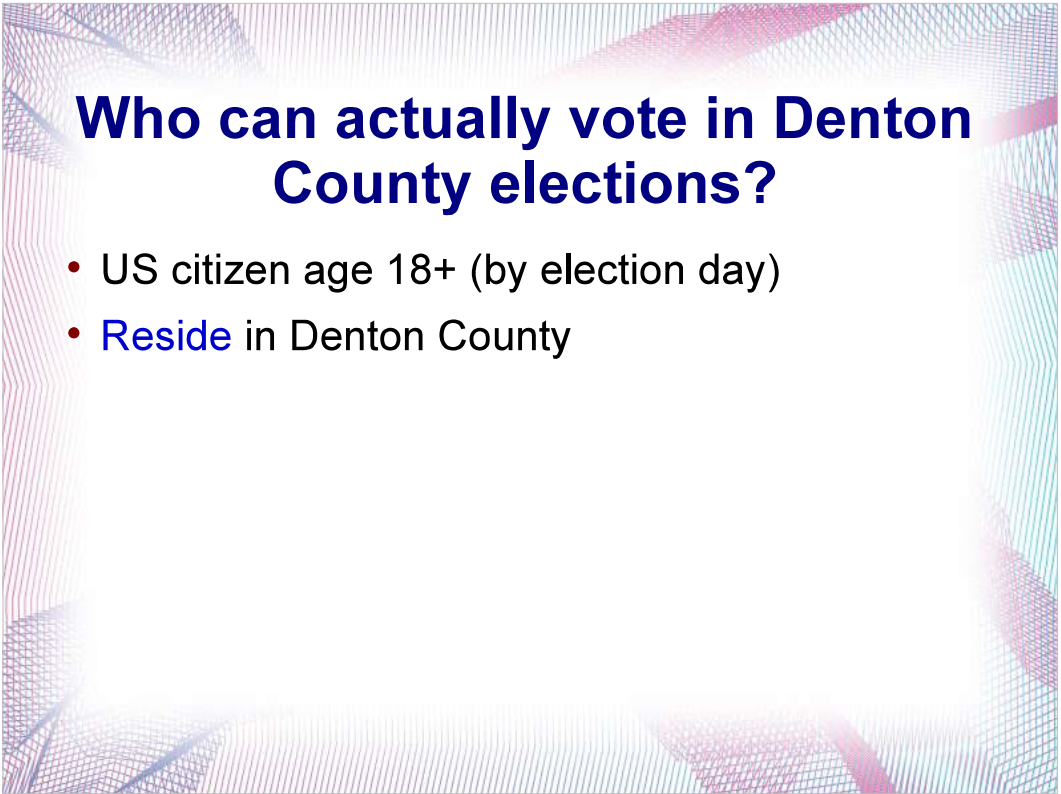
Voter registration in Texas is actually COUNTY based. There is no state-wide voter registration. When you move, you must notify the county election office.

But first you must register to vote, and to do that you must prove that you are a US citizen.

To register to vote, you must register at the county election office, or via a deputy voter registrar (DVR). These are citizens who pass a voter registrar test, and have the authority granted by Denton County Elections Administration to register people to vote.

When registering to vote, US Citizenship is established by providing a TX Driver's Licence or Personal ID issued by the Texas Dept. of Public Safety. If you do not have one of these, you use the last 4 digits of your social security number to register.

And, to vote you must be aged 18 or older by election day.



Who can actually vote in Denton County elections?

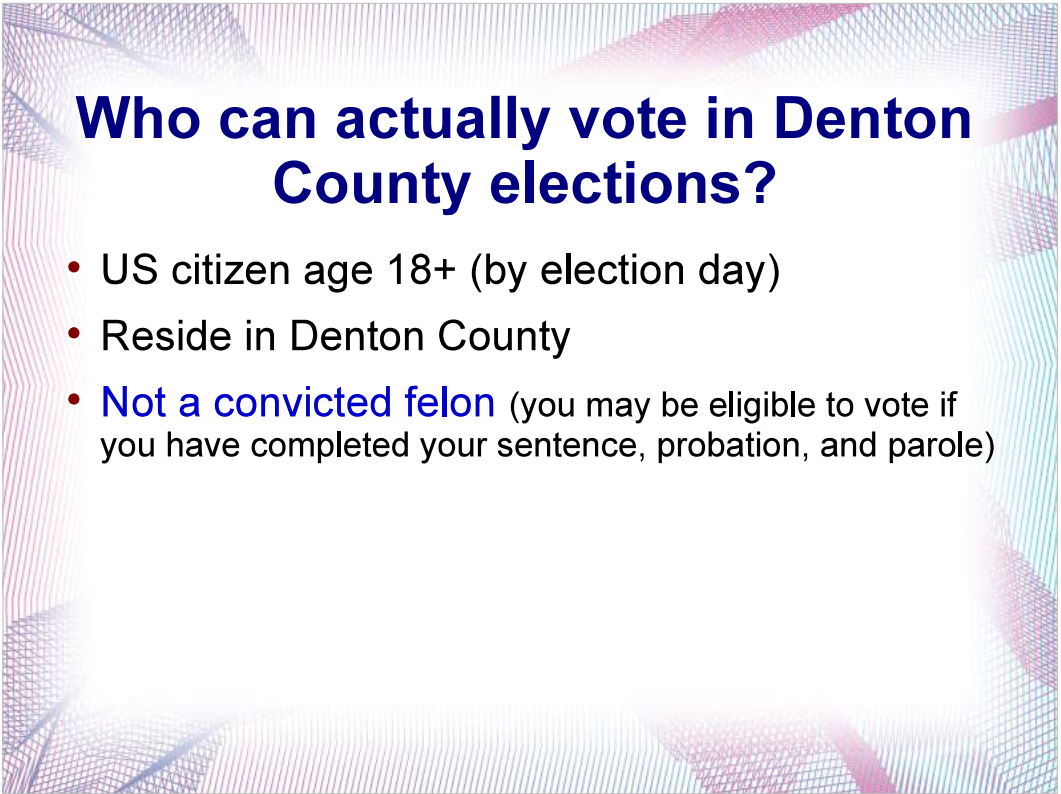
- US citizen age 18+ (by election day)
- **Reside** in Denton County

You must reside in Denton County.

This means your actual residence; not a business address or the address of a friend.

For our homeless citizens, this can be the physical address of the place where they receive mail, such as Our Daily Bread, or Serve Denton, or the US Postal Office on McKinney Street.

Being homeless does not deprive you of your right to vote.



Who can actually vote in Denton County elections?

- US citizen age 18+ (by election day)
- Reside in Denton County
- **Not a convicted felon** (you may be eligible to vote if you have completed your sentence, probation, and parole)

You must not be a convicted felon, though you might be eligible to vote if you have completed your sentence, probation, and parole.

Who can actually vote in Denton County elections?

- US citizen age 18+ (by election day)
- Reside in Denton County
- Not a convicted felon (you may be eligible to vote if you have completed your sentence, probation, and parole)
- Registered with the elections office **30+ days** prior to election

The next requirement trips up a lot of people.

You must register to vote with the election office at least 30 days prior to an election. This confounds a lot of people, especially those moving into Denton from out of state, or from another county.

Almost half of all other states allow same day registration as voting day.

But in Texas, if you register after this 30 day cut-off date, your vote **WILL NOT COUNT** in that election.

Purging Voting Roles

- Voters may be put on the “suspense list” if the County cannot verify your address (i.e. if they tried to send you a voter registration card or jury summons via mail & it was returned as undeliverable)
- “Suspense” is easily fixed by filling out a statement of residence form when you vote
- If you stay on the suspense list for 2 general elections (about 4 years), they purge your info

More than 1.2 million Texas voters are on the state's suspense list right now. Suspense means the county has tried mailing you something official, such as a new voter registration card or a jury summons, and the Post Office returns the communication as being undeliverable. Addresses with towns different from Postal address towns, such as Little Elm/Aubrey boundaries, frequently have this issue.

New voter registration cards are mailed out every other year; you should have received your new one this past February.

According to a recent Dallas Morning News report, nearly 56,000 voters in Denton County are currently on the suspense list.

You can vote with a suspense status, but you will be asked to fill out a statement of residence card, which goes back to the County Elections Office to update the address & remove you from the list.

But if you haven't voted in the last 4 years, your voter registration might have been purged. To fix this, you must re-register.

Make sure you are registered!

- DCEA sends out new voter registration cards in January of even numbered years (2026)
- Voter records are occasionally reviewed for deceased/moved/ineligible voters, and records are purged; **mistakes sometimes happen!**
- Double check your voter registration status:
www.votedenton.gov/voter-information/voter-lookup
- **Register** via VoteDenton.gov under the Voter Information tab. Download & print form; fill it out; **hand-deliver** it or mail it back to DCEA

It is very important that you keep your voter registration card safe. In extreme cases, such as natural disasters like the Hill Country flooding or hurricanes, where records are lost, this piece of paper is an official document & can be used to vote.

Voter lists are evaluated yearly, Sometimes mistakes happen.
So please

Double check your own status. Go to:

Www.voteDenton.gov & do a voter look up on yourself to verify your voter registration status.

To register to vote, go to VoteDenton.gov, look under the Voter Information tab, and download/print/fill out the registration form & hand-deliver it (recommended) or mail it back to DCEA.

Making Changes to your Voter Registration

- If info is wrong on your voter registration card, you can make changes on the back of the card and hand deliver or mail it back to the Election Office. They will issue you an updated card within 30 days.
- Name changes, address changes can be done online: <https://txapps.texas.gov/tolapp/sos/SOSACManager>
- Changing counties requires you to do a new registration at the new county. This automatically cancels your registration at the old county.
- Remember the 30 day restriction before an election!

If you notice some info on your voter registration card which needs updating, make changes on the back of the card and mail it back. You should receive an updated card within 30 days.

For simple name changes or address changes, these can be done on-line through the Texas Secretary of State's website. There is a simple link to this via Denton's VoteDenton.gov website. But it TAKES TIME.

Updating your Driver's License info DOES NOT automatically update your voter registration info.

If you change counties, you must do a new registration at the new county. This will automatically cancel your old county's voter registration.

HOWEVER: if it is within 30 days of an election, you will need to vote in your old county or via mail-in ballot!

Ballot By Mail

- Can only be requested for yourself; not for another person
- Print out request .pdf from VoteDenton.gov, fill it out, mail it in or hand-deliver it (with ID)
- Annual request
- Make sure to include both DL/ID # and last 4 of Social Security #
- Make sure to SIGN THE ENVELOPE

YOU CANNOT REQUEST A BALLOT BY MAIL FOR ANOTHER PERSON.

Ballot by Mail requests must be renewed yearly.

Go to VoteDenton.gov to request a Ballot By Mail application, which you must then print out and mail in or hand-deliver (with ID).

You must select a reason for using Ballot by Mail.

If you select "Senor 65+ or Disability" all ballots for the year will be mailed to you. Otherwise only the ballot for the specific timeframe you are unable to vote in person, will be mailed to you.

Be sure to watch the video on VoteDenton.gov on how to fill out your ballot. Make sure to include both DL/ID# & SS# on all forms, including the inside of the envelop, and SIGN THE ENVELOPE. If you leave this off or they do not match, your ballot WILL BE REJECTED.

You can change your mind and vote in person if you wish, but you must bring in the ballots mailed to you in order to cancel your Ballot by Mail request. You will fill out an additional form, then vote normally.

How many registered voters are in Denton County?

- In the 2020 Presidential election, there were 565,105 registered voters in Denton County
- As of July 27, 2026 there are **680,444 registered voters**; an **increase of 20%**
- Official estimates are for continued 3% population growth in 2026, with an estimate of 1.1 million residents

Denton County is one of the fastest growing counties in Texas, with steady 3% population growth year to year. This is about 90 new people/day.

The 2020 presidential election saw Denton County with 565,105 registered voters.

As of July 27, 2026, we're up to **680,444** registered voters; an increase of 20%.

The Elections Office is anticipating an additional 10-20K more to be registered in time for the November election.

How many actually vote?

- 56% 2024 Nov. Election Texas wide
- 68% 2024 Nov. Election Denton County
- 41% 2022 Nov. Election Texas wide
- 52% 2022 Nov. Election Denton County
- 9% June 2026 local municipal runoff election

Looking through historic data, Texans come out to vote more often for high-visibility elections like Presidential elections.

Denton County voters are more likely to vote than the state norm. But only for these high-visibility elections.

But you will notice a dramatic drop in voter turnout numbers when it comes to local elections. For instance, the June 2026 local municipal runoff election which determined who would be mayor and city councilmember of the City of Denton, was determined by only 9% of eligible voters.

I define “high-visibility” as those which generate national news & biased social media coverage; especially national television sources of news.

With fewer local news outlets to cover local and even county-wide or state-wide candidates, fewer voters know or care about these elections, and turnout rates drop dramatically.

Who conducts Elections?



- Depends on the type of election
 - Denton County Elections Administration conducts all Early Voting and most elections for local, state, and national elections
 - Each PARTY conducts their own PRIMARY & PRIMARY RUNOFF elections on Election Day
 - Each PARTY can run the election as they see fit

Who is in charge of running an election?

It depends upon the type of election.

Most elections in Denton County are run by the Denton County Elections Administration (part of the Denton County government). They conduct all Early Voting. However, political party elections, such as Primaries and Primary Runoff elections, are actually run by their respective political parties on Election Day. And since each PARTY is running their own election, the PARTY gets to choose HOW they want their election run. For instance, one party might wish to use DCEA's equipment; whereas the other party might wish to only do hand-counting of the ballots. This can create problems. We saw this first-hand with chaos in Dallas County in the recent primaries.

When is the election?

Nov. 3: State & County General Election

- Oct. 5: Last day to register to vote for this election
- Oct. 19-30: Early Voting at Vote Centers
- Oct. 23: Last day to request a Ballot by Mail
- Nov. 3: Election Day at Precinct locations
- Nov. 3: Last day for DCEA to receive domestic ballots by mail
- Nov. 9: Last day for DCEA to receive overseas ballots by mail from military

The big race for 2026 is Nov. 3rd, with early voting Oct. 19-30. You must be registered to vote by Oct. 5th for this election.

If you are voting by mail, the last day you can request to receive a ballot by mail is Oct. 23. And you must get it back into their hands (either hand-delivered to their office in Denton, or by mail) by 7:00pm on election day. Overseas military voters have until Nov. 9 for their ballots to arrive at the election office.

These late ballots become important if a race is particularly close. The results of most races are known by the day after the election.

What Contested Races are on the Ballot?

- US Senator
- TX Governor
- TX Lt. Governor
- TX Attorney General
- TX Comptroller of Public Accounts
- TX Commissioner of General Land Office
- TX Commissioner of Agriculture
- TX Railroad Commissioner
- 4 members TX Supreme Court Judges
- 3 members TX Court of Criminal Appeals
- 3 members TX 15th Court of Appeals

It's going to be a large ballot in Nov.

I'm not going to be listing the uncontested races here. Just the contested ones.

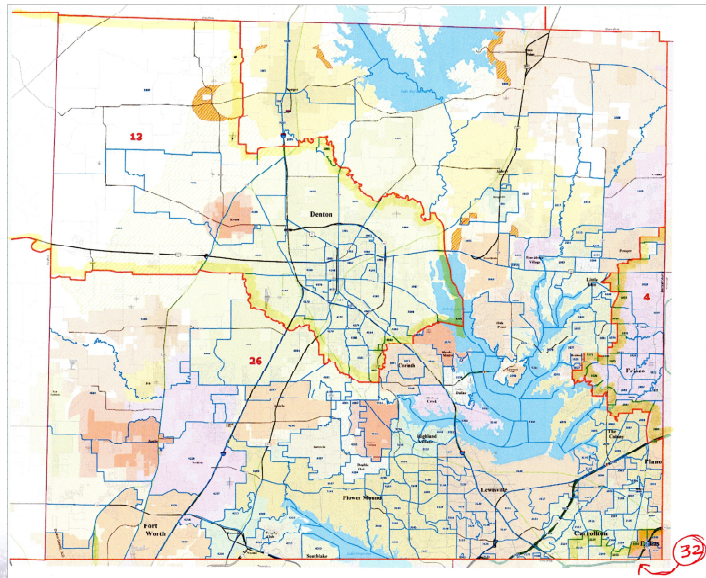
Here's a list of the Federal and State wide positions we will be voting for.

What Contested Races are on the Ballot?

- US House of Representatives
 - District 4 (East/Central Denton County)
 - District 13 (NorthWestern/Central Denton)
 - District 26 (most of Denton County)
 - District 32 (Tiny Southeastern corner of Denton)

Denton County is split into 4 different Districts for our US House of Representatives. All of them are up for election in Nov., and all are contested.

US Congressional House Districts for Denton



Denton County, and in fact, all of Texas, is heavily gerrymandered when it comes to these maps; splitting cities and towns, and curling around neighborhoods.

And the district lines were redrawn in 2025.

Most of the county is represented by District 26.

District 13, which has the City of Denton (minus Robson Ranch), extends all the way up NorthWest and includes Amarillo and all of the Panhandle.

To find out exactly which district you live in, look on your voter registration card, or visit VoteDenton.gov, look under the “Elected Officials” tab, click on “Elected Official Listings”, then click on “Who Represents Me?” and fill in your address.

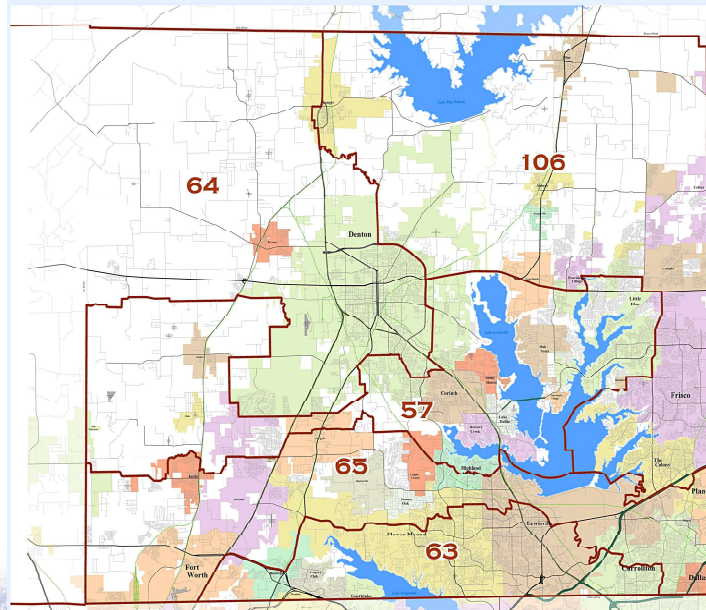
What Contested Races are on the Ballot?

- **TX House of Representatives** (Denton County)
 - HD57 (Central & South Denton)
 - HD63 (Southern Denton)
 - HD64 (West & Northern Denton)
 - HD65 (Southeastern Denton)
 - HD106 (Eastern Denton)

Denton County is split into 5 different Districts for the Texas House of Representatives; NONE of which matches any US Congressional District map.

All positions in the Texas House of Representatives are up for election in Nov., and all of Denton's are contested.

Texas House Districts for Denton



Again, these State House Districts are heavily gerrymandered, splitting cities in two, and crawling everywhere.

For instance HD65 includes Plano on the far East of the county, all the way over to the Texas Motor Speedway and parts of Ft. Worth.

HD64 includes the City of Denton, UNT, TWU, Robson Ranch, and all of Wise County.

HD106 includes half of Sanger, Lake Ray Roberts, and all the way down to The Colony.

To find out exactly which district you live in, look on your voter registration card, or visit VoteDenton.gov, look under the “Elected Officials” tab, click on “Elected Official Listings”, then click on “Who Represents Me?” and fill in your address.

What Contested Races are on the Ballot?

- Denton County Clerk
- Denton County Judge
- Denton County Commissioners Precincts 2 & 4
- Justices of the Peace (all 6 Precincts)
- District 481 Court Judge
- Denton City Council Place 1

Also on the ballot are County-wide positions; many of which are contested.

The big ones are County Judge, County Commissioners for Precincts 2 (Southeast section surrounding Lewisville Lake) and Precinct 4 (Southwest section including most of City of Denton),

All Justices of the Peace,

A District Court Judge position is contested.

And as of July 30, 2026, a replacement for Denton City Councilman for Place 1 will be on the ballot. This is due to an unexpected resignation. There will be 4 candidates for this position.

Who works an Election?

- DCEA staff
- Election Workers (also called Poll Workers)
 - Presiding Judge
 - Alternate Judge
 - Clerks
- Temporary Phone Banks at DCEA
- Political Party Election Liaison teams (volunteers)
- Peace Officers

DCEA has 20 full-time staff & 6 part-time staff positions.

During an election cycle (Early Voting and Election Day) each location has a Presiding Judge, an Alternate Judge, and one or more Clerks.

Collectively, they are called election workers, or poll workers. All poll workers receive background checks & training.

Additional workers are hired by DCEA to staff temporary phone banks for answering voter's questions & a Judge's Hot Line for resolving issues. Each party has a volunteer Election Liaison team on staff to also help during the election.

Peace officers are hired to provide security at various locations.

How many People does it take to Run an Election?

??? people will be needed
to run the Nov. 2026 mid-term elections in Denton



At least 542 people will be on-hand for the
Nov. 3, 2026 mid-term election.

DCEA staff: 20 full-time

DCEA part-time workers: 6

Anticipated #Poll Workers: 514

Peace officers: 2

I personally think this number is far too low, given the increased turnout in voters in Denton County as evidenced by the March 3rd Primary results, plus the population increase. Also, there is a lot of interest in the Talarico/Paxton race – this will bring in voters.

Volunteers or Paid?

- Election Workers are paid by the hour
 - \$14.61/hour for Clerks
 - \$15.73/hour for Alternate Judges
 - \$16.85/hour for Judges
- Election Workers are paid for training
 - \$50 for online training (Clerks only)
 - \$78 for In-Person training (mandatory for Judges & Alternate Judges)
- Extra \$25 delivery pay (Judge or designee)
- Extra \$25 for “floating clerks”

Let's not count the full-time staff or peace officers for a minute. Let's concentrate on the Election workers.

Election Workers are paid temporary employees (without benefits) of DCEA. Their pay increases are now tied to regular County government staff pay increases.

On party Primary & Primary Runoff Election Days, they are paid by their respective political parties. This pay rate is set by the party.

If you work Early Voting and Election Day, that can add up to a significant amount of money.

Something new for 2026 is a “floating clerk” which means you may be assigned anywhere in the county to work as needed. An extra \$25 is given for flexibility.

How much does it cost to run a National election in Denton?



Nov. 2025 election costs

\$2,129,254.62

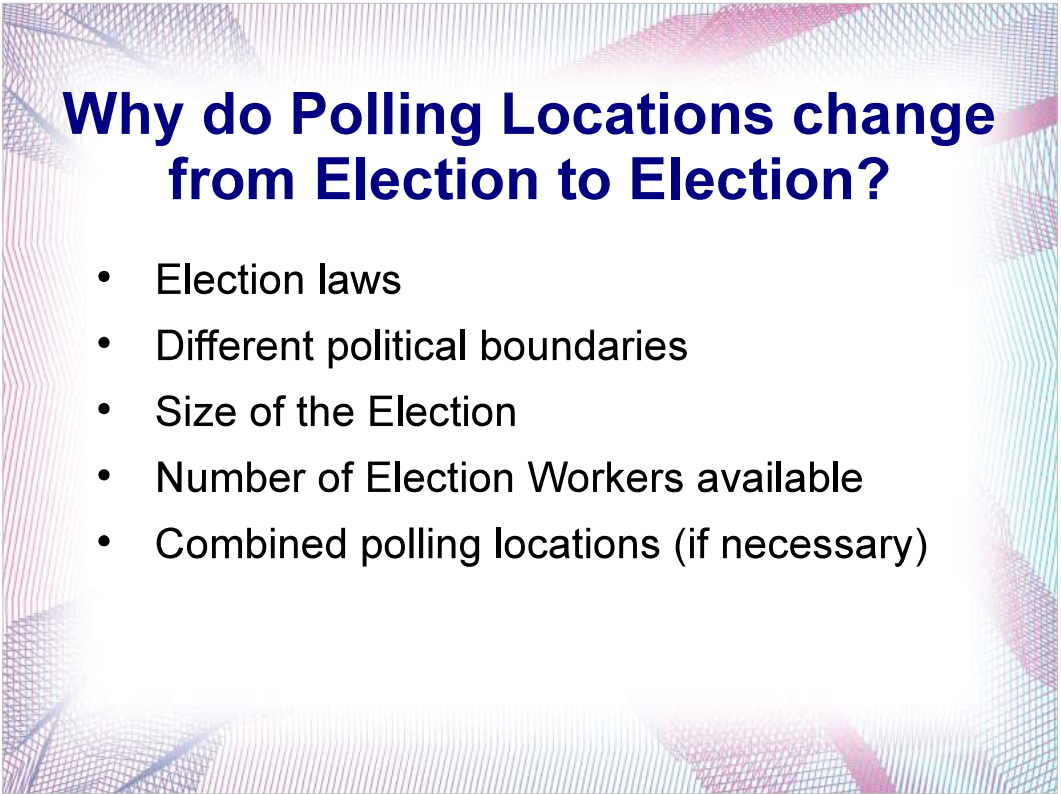
Nov. 2026 estimated costs will be

\$2 million

This includes training, election workers, part-time employees, additional hardware, software, materials, building rentals

It cost Denton County taxpayers over \$2M for the Nov. 2024 Presidential election. Estimated costs for the 2026 mid-term elections is over \$2 million dollars. This does not include regular staff salaries.

I think this figure is accurate.



Why do Polling Locations change from Election to Election?

- Election laws
- Different political boundaries
- Size of the Election
- Number of Election Workers available
- Combined polling locations (if necessary)

One of the most common complaints heard at polling locations has to do with changing the locations from election to election.

The number of locations for an Election Day is determined based upon the political boundary, anticipated voter turnout (historic counts), election laws & population increases. Each type of election has different projections.

If historical data suggests poor voter turnout, or finding enough election workers to staff all polling locations proves difficult, polling locations can be consolidated. Therefore, precincts may be consolidated differently for each election.

Why do Polling Locations Change from Election to Election?

- New locations are built
- Private locations can change their minds
- Any new location MUST be ADA compliant
- Redistricting adds new political precincts, necessitating finding new polling locations

As new subdivisions/towns are built, new public buildings are added, they become potential new polling locations. For example: the town on North Lakes recently added a City Hall with polling location.

Private polling locations, such as churches and businesses, can change their minds about being a polling location.

In all cases, ANY polling location by law must be ADA compliant. If a potential location is not ADA compliant, it cannot be used.

In 2020, Denton County was redistricted due to population growth. This added new precincts, which State Election laws require to have a polling location per precinct. It also changed existing precinct & district lines.

Texas was redistricted again in 2025, with changes going into effect in time for the March 3, 2026 primaries. Political boundaries are changing more rapidly than in the past, so it pays to double check before voting to make sure you are going to the right location on Election Day.

Polling Locations = Political Tools

Dallas County Elections

In turmoil over moving
from Voting Centers to
Precinct-based Voting

Tarrant County Elections

Heavy backlash when voters
heard they were planning
to reduce # of polling
locations

Denton County Election Administration

Fair, non-partisan, responsible, experienced
Under pressure to move to Voting Centers from
Precinct-based Voting

A distressing recent trend is for politicians to use polling locations as political tools to sway election results.

In 2025 we saw Dallas County move from vote-anywhere Voting Centers, to Precinct-based Voting on Election Day. The resulting chaos and ill-will from distressed voters resulted in multiple lawsuits, the resignation of both the Republican and Democrat County Chairs, the reinstatement of Voting Centers, and subsequent resignation of the New Republican County Chair who authorized that move.

In Tarrant County, there was new controversy over the planned reduction by HALF of the number of Voting Centers available for the Nov. election. Intense backlash from upset voters caused the Tarrant County Commissioners Court to backtrack this plan.

Denton County Election Administration, from my point of view, are extremely professional, fair, non-partisan, responsible (and responsive), and very experienced. However, even Denton is seeing pressure concerning how we run elections; given the fact that Denton still uses Precinct-based polling locations on Election Day, yet has Vote Centers for Early Voting.

How Many Locations will there be for the Election?

Early Voting: 50-60 locations

Argyle, Aubrey, Bartonville, Carrollton, Castle Hills, Copper Canyon, Corinth, Denton, Dallas, Flower Mound, Frisco, Hickory Creek, Highland Village, Justin, Krum, Lake Dallas, Lakewood Village, Lewisville, Little Elm, Northlake, Ft. Worth, Oak Point, Pilot Point, Ponder, Roanoke, Sanger, Shady Shores, The Colony, Trophy Club

Election Day: 150-160 locations

Might be different from historic locations

Denton County is a large county, encompassing parts of the Cities of Dallas, Ft. Worth, Lewisville, Denton, Carrollton, Flower Mound, Frisco, Little Elm, The Colony, Justin, NorthLake, Argyle, and Crossroads, as well as smaller suburban and rural areas.

We will have 50-60 Early Voting Centers for this election. Anticipated need for election day is 65-80 locations, so 150-160 total locations.

Do not assume where you voted last time is where you will vote this time.

I recommend Early Voting, as you may vote at any polling location.

Ballot Types

- **Regular** ballots
 - Printed on demand at the polling location
- **Mail-in** ballots
 - Voters must apply EACH YEAR to receive
 - All areas on ballot & envelop must be filled in correctly
- **Limited** ballots
 - National & State level contests only
 - Only available at DCEA during Early Voting
- **Provisional** ballots
 - How to handle people not found in the system

Denton County has a “print on demand” paper ballot system for voting at the polling location. During Early Voting, any voter can vote at any polling location, and the system will correctly print their appropriate ballot based on their voter registration info. On Election Day, it will ONLY print their precinct's ballot.

Mail-in ballots must be applied for each year with the DCEA or the Texas Secretary of State. The instructions must be followed EXACTLY in order for the ballot to be counted. DO NOT USE THIS OPTION UNLESS YOU FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY.

Limited ballots are only available during Early Voting. These are used when the voter cannot return to their registered county, but wishes to vote in national & state contests. Only the Election Office can print out Limited Ballots. However, this rule is changing so that Early Voting locations CAN handle limited ballots. This was tested during the May elections, and is working.

Provisional ballots are printed out at polling locations when there is an issue which cannot be resolved by the Election Judge and the Judge's Hot Line. The Provisional ballot has additional paperwork to help the EVBB determine whether to count the ballot or not. This is determined within 10 days after the election date, and the voter is mailed the results of their ballot submission. ALMOST ALWAYS THESE BALLOTS ARE NOT COUNTED.

Equipment at a Polling Location

- Poll Pads & their Ticket printers
- Verity Print machine & their Ballot printers
- Verity Scanner
- Verity Access Writer & its printer
- Mifi (secure encrypted local area network)
- No Internet connection



There's a lot of equipment at a polling location:

- a secure encrypted local area network just for the electronics & to communicate with the election office
- there is NO INTERNET Connection
- Ipads (at least 3) for voter checkin, ticket printing, & printing wrong location directions. These are connected real-time to the DCEA offices for messaging to the Judge.

- Verity Print machines & ballot printers
- Verity Access Writer & printer supporting ADA-compliant, secure, private voting for disabled voters
- Verity Scanner: this is the actual ballot counter & box

The Elections Team has in-person training on all this equipment. I love Verity equipment. You never hear about this in the news. It is reliable, safe, and secure.

Who is allowed **inside** a polling location?

- Election Workers (Judge, Alt. Judge, Clerks)
- Active Voters & passive family members
- Sworn in interpreters & assistants the Voter brings in with them
- Denton County Election Administration staff
- Appointed Secretary of State Inspectors or Poll Watchers
- Authorized Peace Officers, with the Judge's consent

Very few people are allowed to be inside a polling location during an election.

By law, at least 3 election workers must be present during all election hours: a Judge, an Alternate Judge, and at least 1 clerk, though usually more.

Active voters & their invited family members, interpreters, and assistants are allowed inside. But once you have scanned your ballot, you must leave.

Sometimes appointed poll watchers or Polling Location inspectors from the Secretary of State are present. Infrequently a DCEA staff member might be there to assist with equipment issues. And sometimes a peace officer is requested to be present, if there is the possibility of a threat.

The Judge has ultimate authority over how a polling location is staffed and administered.

Phone Use in the Polling Location

- No devices which can record how you vote are allowed inside the polling location
- Texas State law
- Please bring paper-based cheat sheets
- Security cameras in the room are disabled
- Exceptions made for ADA communication needs



In Texas, our ballots are anonymous. No one knows how you voted. Some states allow you to take home a copy of how you voted, but in Texas, once that ballot is inside the scanner, voting is finished.

To ensure voting anonymity, Texas state law says that any device which can record how a voter is marking their ballot is illegal inside the polling location. This includes smart phones, cameras, video recorders, Ipads, lap tops, etc.

You may use your devices up to stepping into the room.

Once inside, you will be reminded to silence & put away all devices. You can bring paper notes with you. In fact, this is encouraged.

All polling locations with security cameras in the polling rooms are required to disable them.

Exceptions are made for ADA needs such as non-vocal communication & translation. I personally have used my cell phone for both translation and for communication with deaf voters.

What happens after the polls close on Election Day?

- All voters still in line at 7:00pm get to vote
- Ballot tallies are printed & signed by election officials: 1 copy to DCEA; 1 copy left attached to the machine; 1 copy retained by the Judge
- Thumb drives on all Verity equipment is secured in a sealed bag for transport to DCEA
- Ballots are secured, sealed, & locked for transport by the Presiding Judge to DCEA
- No one except DCEA is allowed to open a sealed ballot box

It typically takes between 45 minutes up to 2 hours to close a polling location, depending upon the type of election.

First, all voters still in line at close of polls are processed, allowing them to vote. This includes provisional voters.

Ballot tallies (3 copies) are printed & signed by the Judge, Alt. Judge, a clerk, and any poll watcher present. 1 copy goes to the Election Administration. 1 copy stays attached to the equipment. 1 copy is retained by the Judge for 22 months after election.

The Verity equipment (Printers, Scanner, Access Writer) have thumb drives. These are removed & placed into a sealed bag for transport to DCEA. Once at the Elections Office, these thumb drives are secured in the EVBB room, computer read, & posted on the County's election website – giving election results. This is how the news outlets can report results in real time.

Scanned ballots in the ballot box are secured, sealed, & locked for transport. Once sealed, no one except DCEA is allowed to open these ballot boxes.

Want to Be An Election Worker?

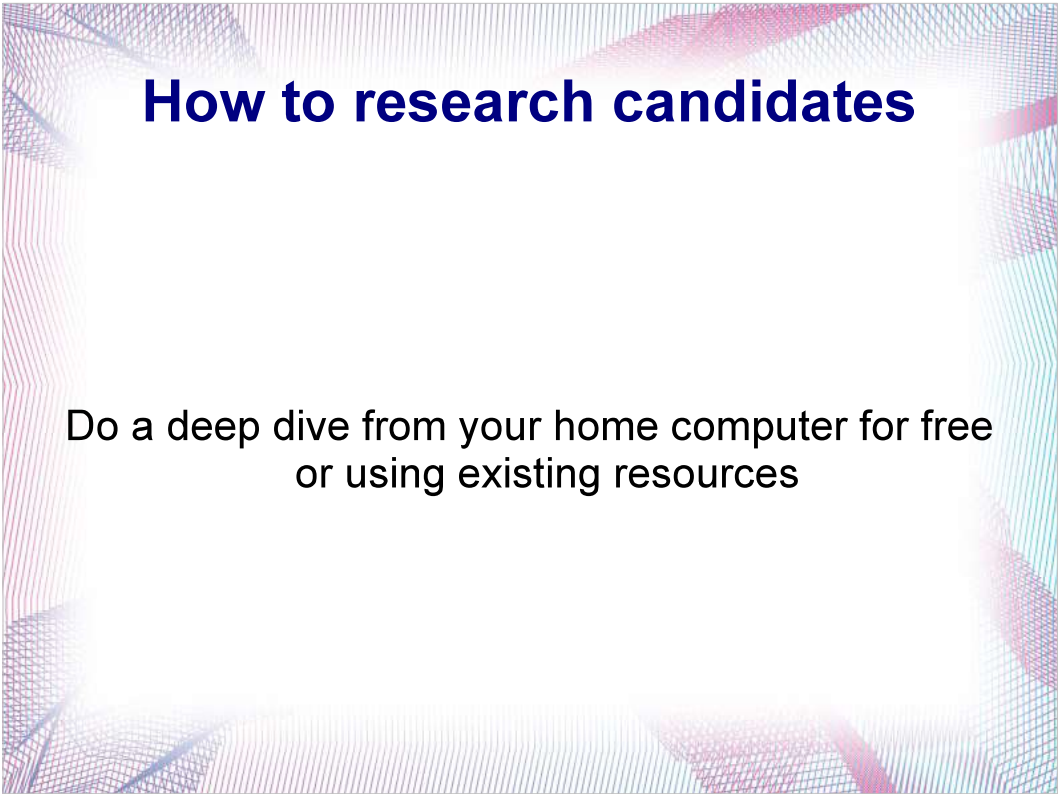
- Sign up on www.VoteDenton.gov to be an Election Worker:
<https://www.votedenton.gov/training-education/poll-worker-application/>
- If Democrat, fill out Election Worker Survey on their website
www.dentondemocrats.org/be-an-election-worker
- If Republican, fill out Election Worker Survey on their website <https://dentongop.org/get-involved/>

Given the number of Early Voting and Election Day sites (and historical data), I'm anticipating a need for at least 900 election workers for the November election.

We need you!

Become an election worker. Go to the VoteDenton.gov website and sign up with their poll worker application. Then fill out the appropriate Election Worker Survey for your chosen political party.

If you align as an Independant, I suggest you use the Democratic Election Worker survey, as the DCEA sends "Independant" poll worker applications to the Denton County Democratic Party.



How to research candidates

Do a deep dive from your home computer for free
or using existing resources

And now a quick guide on how to research candidates

How to research

- Who/what is on your ballot
- Responsibilities of each political office
- Issues important to you
- Issues important to the candidate
- The candidate's experience
- Your information sources

The research steps you will need are:

Who is on your ballot.

What are the responsibilities of the office?

What issues are of importance to you?

What issues are of importance to the candidate?

What is the candidate's experience?

And how to gather reliable, non-biased information.

What's on the ballot in next election

- When is the next election? -- Ballotpedia.org
- Search for Sample Ballot Lookup Tool
- Enter the address where you are registered to vote, hit View my ballot.
- It will show you the date and subject (election, ballot questions) of the next election in your area.

Jane Scholz, former Associated Press reporter and political journalist now living in Denton, recommends using Ballotpedia.org to start your research.

Enter your address, and View your ballot.

This will show you the date and type of election in your area, as well as the candidates and their answers to prepared questions.

Responsibilities of the political offices on the ballot

- Federal offices: search “duties of..” each office in Ballotpedia
- Texas state offices: Go to the Texas Secretary of State’s website at sos.state.tx.us, select Candidates
- Select the most recent Candidates Guide for Federal, State, District or County offices

If you are looking to find out the requirements and duties of a political office, say...Texas Agricultural Commissioner...Jane recommends using the Texas Secretary of State's website. For Federal offices, such as US Senator, she recommends using Ballotpedia.

This is important when researching candidates, as you want to know if the candidate actually has the background appropriate for the job.

Issues important to you for each office

- Once you understand the duties of the offices that will be on your ballot, make a short list of issues that each is responsible for that are most important to you
- Federal offices would be international relations, fed. Income taxes, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, national defense
- For TX state officials, issues might include sales & property taxes, education funding, Medicaid, women's health, voting rules, utility cost and regulation
- For city or county officials, your important issues might include property taxes, streets & roads, zoning laws, direct services you receive from the city or county, voting rules (county).

Now we get to issues of alignment between what issues are of importance to you, and what issues are important to the candidate.

Make sure you understand the limits of what the office can and can't do. Don't expect international trade & war issues to be talked about by a candidate outside of the Federal offices. But some issues, such as health care, voting rights, education funding, span multiple offices; and candidates should address them.

Issues important to the candidate

Find out what each candidate says he/she wants to do and their background

- Google each candidate to find their website
- Search for the candidate's Facebook page
- Look them up on X, BlueSky or other social media site

The best place to find out what issues are important to a candidate, is the candidate's own website. This is the place where they will list issues or priorities, and hopefully, will provide you with in-depth analysis. It is also a place to discover their background, work history, experience in the political arena, and endorsements.

Another popular platform for candidate issue information is on their Facebook page.

A lot of candidates also do postings on popular social media platforms such as X, BlueSky, Instagram, Reddit, etc.

Use the library

- For the Denton Public Library, get a library card, then go to the library website: <https://library.cityofdenton.com/>
- Use your library barcode number as your username. Go to Online Library, select Research Tools, select News. Or from Online Library, select News and Magazines
- This gives you free access to a wide range of reliable publications curated by the library. You may need to log in to some of these sources individually

Call the library if you need help

Your local library is the primary source for reliable, curated publications. Most libraries have online research tools available to you, simply by using your library card to log on.

This is free. It is curated. And if you need assistance, the librarians are extremely happy to help you in your research.

Read What the Candidate Says

Best **subscription** sources for candidate info:

- Dallas Morning News
- Austin American Statesman
- Fort Worth Star Tellegram
- Denton Record-Chronicle
- Houston Chronicle

If you wish to use subscription sources for what the candidate says, Jane recommends the following sources:

Dallas Morning News

Austin American Statesman (particularly for Texas state issues)

Fort Worth Star Tellegram

Denton Record-Chronicle

Houston Chronicle (again, for Texas state issues)

Read what the candidate says

Best **free** sources of info:

- TexasTribute.org
- KERA.org
- Associated Press: <https://apnews.com/hub/Texas>
- The Border Chronicle (immigration issues):
www.theborderchronicle.com/
- League of Women Voters Guide: Vote411.org/Texas

If you are wanting to use FREE source of info, Jane recommends the following:

TexasTribute.org (non-partisan but leans Democratic)

KERA.org (public media)

Associated Press website, which has a section on Texas

The Border Chronicle website for immigration issues

League of Women Voters Guide (printed version) and their online in-depth version: Vote411.org/Texas

Get involved

- Check your own voter registration info via the DCEA website
- Become a Deputy Voter Registrar
- Become an Election Worker
- Become involved with your local political party of choice
- Make a plan to vote



VOTE!

Now, get involved! double check your own voter registration info via the DCEA website.

Become a Deputy Voter Registrar. Take the short online training from DCEA, and receive official voter registration forms. Help get people registered to vote in Denton County.

Volunteer to be an election worker. Start as a clerk and then perhaps become an election judge. We are actively hiring election workers right now for the Nov. election.

Become involved with a political party.

Volunteer to drive voters to the polls. Do what you can. But whatever you do, the most important thing is to have a plan to vote and encourage your neighbors to vote.