



Updated September 1, 2020 The latest info is at <https://www.congregationbethisrael.org/hazak#voting101>

Confused about voting? Not to worry! “**VOTING 101**” is for you. Let’s help Congregation Beth Israel achieve 100 percent voting among our congregants. Voting is a *Jewish* value. **Every voice, every vote!**

- This election is different:
- Safety and social distancing requirements, more voters
 - No straight-ticket voting, longer ballots

Registering to vote:

Not sure if you are registered to vote? Check your registration status here (A=Active, S=Suspended):

Texas overall: <https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do> (Try all 3 selection criteria if needed.)

Tarrant County: https://gisit.tarrantcounty.com/TCVL/?linklocation=Button_List&linkname=Voter_Lookup

Dallas County: <https://www.dallascountyvotes.org/voter-lookup/#VoterEligibilitySearch>

Denton County: <https://www.votedenton.com/voter-lookup/#VoterEligibilitySearch>

If you are not registered to vote, print out the form you will find on your county elections web site and mail it in. Note how you sign your application, because you will need this exact name information on the actual ballot. Joseph D. Rosenblum? or Joseph Daniel Rosenblum? **Take a photo of your signature** on your application so when you sign your ballot it will match.

Mail-in ballots:

1. Anyone who will be 65 on the day of the election can apply to vote by mail.
2. Anyone who has a disability that prevents them from going to the polls can apply to vote by mail.
3. Anyone who will be outside the county where they are registered to vote on election day, and during the period for early voting, can apply to vote by mail in the county in which they are registered.
4. Go to your county elections administration web page to apply for a mail-in ballot. For **Tarrant** County: http://access.tarrantcounty.com/content/dam/main/elections/EV/mail_ballot_application.pdf.
For **Dallas** County: <https://www.dallascountyvotes.org/wp-content/uploads/ABBM-5-15f-English-1.pdf>
For **Denton** County: <https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/forms/5-15f.pdf> and mail to
701 Kimberly Drive, Suite A101, Denton, TX 76208
 - You can request an application be sent to you by mail (if you don't have a printer) at this website: <https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/vrrequest/bbm.asp> This will take longer so start now.
5. The deadline for the application for a mail-in ballot to be **received** is Oct. 23 but the elections office emphasizes that **you should not wait till the last minute**.

Early voting schedule:

Tuesday, Oct. 13 through Saturday, Oct. 17: 8 a.m. -5 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 19 through Friday, Oct. 23: 8 a.m. -5 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 24: 7 a.m. -7 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 25: 11 a.m. -4 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 26 through Friday, Oct. 30: 7 a.m. -7 p.m.

Election day:

Election Day is **Tuesday, November 3**. Tarrant County voters can vote at **any** polling place in the county from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Before early voting begins, a listing and map of all polling places will be available on the elections websites for [Tarrant County](#), [Dallas County](#), and [Denton County](#).

Avoiding long lines: Lines are likely to be long on election day, so vote early or by mail if you can. The first and last days of early voting are likely to be busy, so avoid those days. The first Saturday and Sunday of early voting are likely to be low-turnout days and good days to avoid lines.

Making your vote count:

- 1. Sign the envelope:** As many as 20 percent of people who vote by mail do not sign the envelope their ballot goes into. This automatically disqualifies the vote. Furthermore, your signature must match your name as it is written on your mail-in ballot request. **Sign your mail-in ballot** and make sure your signatures match. (This is why you take a photo of your signature on your mail-in application.)
- 2. Returning your mail-in ballot Method #1:**
Make your selections and sign the envelope.
The mail-in ballot may require extra postage. Add an extra stamp on the envelope. This is just a suggestion - Your vote is worth two stamps!
Do not wait till the last minute to send in your mail-in ballot. Send it in well before the deadline to make sure it is not held up in slow mail.
- 3. Returning your mail-in ballot Method #2:**
Make your selections and sign the envelope.
Drop it off in person at the Tarrant County Elections administration office (for Tarrant County voters): **2700 Premier Street, Fort Worth, TX 76111.** [map](#)
You must deliver it yourself and **bring a photo ID** that matches the name on your voter registration card *and* your signature on your mail-in ballot application. **Parking is limited.** You can deliver your ballot anytime after you receive it; this is a change from past procedure because of Covid-19.
- 4.** If you have a mail-in ballot and decide to vote in person, **take your mail-in ballot with you to the polls.** Tell the poll-worker you want to vote in person, and follow the poll-worker's instructions. **Photo ID needed!** You may need to forfeit your mail-in ballot at the polling location to ensure that your in-person vote is not classified as "provisional." This is a safeguard to prevent a voter from voting twice.
- 5.** There is **no straight-ticket voting.** You need to vote separately for each office. The down-ballot elections are important, too, so be sure to take the time to consider all the offices on the ballot. The party affiliation is listed on the ballot for each candidate.
- 6.** Know the candidates you are going to vote for **before** you get to the polling place. You're not allowed to look at your cell phone, so don't record things there.
- 7.** For those voting in person in Tarrant County, unless you voted in the primary earlier this year, you will be using a new machine. When you finish making your selections, you will be asked to review your vote. **Be sure to review your vote on the machine.** This is the time to correct any errors. Once you print out your ballot, it is too late to make changes.
A paper version of your ballot will print out after you finish voting. **Don't** walk off with it. You need to **feed the paper record into another machine** before you leave the polling place.
- 8.** You must bring a **photo ID** with you when you vote in person. Texas driver's license with photo, US military ID with photo, Texas handgun license with photo, and US passport are among the acceptable forms of ID. Bring a photo ID on which **your name exactly matches your name on your voter card**, if possible. If your voter card says Joseph D. Rosenblum, then bring an ID that says Joseph D. Rosenblum, not Joseph Daniel Rosenblum, if possible.

Staying safe:

Bring your own mask and hand sanitizer to use after you vote.

Questions? Contact Stuart Yarus 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. at 817-656-5896 or email: dfwuug@gmail.com

Many thanks to RAC-Texas (a project of the Religious Action Committee of Reform Judaism) for support on ways to vote safely. <https://rac.org/take-action/rac-your-state/rac-tx>