



**FROM: DALLAS COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT
TONI PIPPINS-POOLE, ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR, CERA, CCPA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017

DALLAS COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO RECENT CONCERNS REGARDING BALLOT-BY MAIL

PLEASE DISBURSE AS MANY TIMES AS POSSIBLE

The Dallas County Elections Department (DCED) has received concerns from elected officials and citizens regarding voters receiving Absentee Mail Ballots that they had not requested. Dallas County Elections Administrator, Toni Pippins-Poole said:

We take these allegations very seriously. The integrity of the voting process is our utmost concern. The issue in question has been referred to the District Attorney's Office. The Department is cooperating fully with the District Attorney's Office, and due to the ongoing nature of the investigation, we are not able to comment any further.

WHAT THE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT IS DOING:

The DCED will review all mail-in-ballots and the mail-in ballot request forms. We are currently researching complaints and inquiries from voters who have received ballots through the mail that they did not request. We are reviewing each mail-in ballot that arrives at our office for authenticity, and will take steps to ensure that these voters do not lose their right to vote.

DCED has met with the proper authorities, and they are assisting with the investigation. We are committed to working with law enforcement and the community to resolve this issue.

WHAT SHOULD VOTERS DO?

- Voters should contact the Elections Department if they have received a mail ballot and did not request one. To report your complaint a voter can do any of the following:
 1. Call (214) 819-6359; or
 2. Email your complaint to dallascountyvotes@dallascounty.org; or
 3. Fax your complaint to (214) 819-6303.
- If a voter received a mail-in ballot and did not request one, the voter should keep the mail ballot; please do not dispose of it.

- Voters can cancel the mail-in ballot and vote in person in (2) ways:
 1. Surrender your mail-in ballot at the polls during early voting or on election day,
 2. Surrender your mail-in ballot to the Elections Department at 2377 N. Stemmons Freeway, 8th floor, Dallas, Texas 75207. We will cancel and adjust our files so that the voter can vote in person.
- If a voter needs to cast a provisional ballot due to the voter having disposed of that ballot, a special process will be put in place that follows the Texas Election Code.

Pippins-Poole assures the public that, “I will make sure that everyone’s actual vote counts. Fraudulent ballots will be identified, and the perpetrators prosecuted.” Again if anyone has a complaint or information related to receiving a ballot by mail that they did not request, please contact the Dallas County Elections Department at (214) 819-6359; by email at: dallascountyvotes@dallascounty.org; or fax your complaint in to (214) 819-6303.

VOTERS CAN GET MORE INFORMATION FROM DALLASCOUNTYVOTES.ORG

An Absentee Mail Ballot Complaint Form can be obtained at:

<http://www.dallascountyvotes@dallascounty.org/wp-content/uploads/ENGLISH-Ballot-by-Mail-complaint-Form.pdf>

NOTE: To vote by mail, you must first apply for a ballot. The Dallas County Elections office does not send out applications or ballots without a specific request from the voter. We must receive your application no later than the close of business, 11 days before Election Day for a regular Ballot-by-Mail. For the May Joint Election on May 6, 2017, the deadline to receive an Application for Ballot-by-Mail is April 25, 2017. Much more information about Absentee Voting is found on our website at:

<http://www.dallascountyvotes@dallascounty.org/absentee-voting/>.

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