

## Cheryl E. Johnson, PCC Assessor and Collector of Taxes

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## **Voter Certificates Arriving Soon**

Due to late receipt of Census data, redistricting at every level of government was delayed which resulted in postponement of production and mailing of voter certificates for millions of Texas registered voters. In excess of 213,000 Galveston County voters will begin receiving certificates this week but should be aware of some generic coding included for parts of Clear Creek (S160), Dickinson (S110) and Texas City (S180) and all of Hitchcock (S110) ISDs.

"Rather than not mail at all to voters in these areas, I followed Secretary of State Advisories and updated the codes for these four school districts rather than send certificates with an incorrect district," stated County Tax Assessor Collector and Voter Registrar Cheryl E. Johnson. "In total, over 65,000 voters will receive certificates with the generic codes. Each is welcome to visit the GCTO website under the Voter Registration tab to view maps of the new school district boundaries, locate their area of residence and note the specific district or call or email the Voter Registration Department after February 1 for specific district information. It is unknown at this time whether certificates will be remailed upon completion of redistricting."

Only active voters are permitted to be included in the biennium mail out according to State law. This means if you have moved and failed to update your address, you could be included on the list of voters "in suspense" and will not receive a new certificate. This does not disqualify anyone from voting but addresses must be updated in order for the status to be updated.

"Please review your voter certificate and make note as changes were made to State Representative, State Board of Education, County Commissioner, county election, cities of Galveston and Hitchcock and previously named school district precincts or districts," stated Johnson. "It is my understanding that County Commissioners will be updating Justice of the Peace/Constable precincts and local entities are considering updates including College of the Mainland, the cities of Texas City and La Marque and Galveston ISD later this year."

Remember that the deadline to register to vote or update name or address information effective for the March 1st Primary is January 31, 2022. Voter registration applications are available at the Voter Registration Department in the Galveston County Courthouse, all Galveston County Tax Office branches (Galveston, League City, Santa Fe and Texas City) and satellite offices at Friendswood City Hall, 910 S. Friendswood Drive and 946 Noble Carl Road in Crystal Beach. You may also download an application at <a href="www.galcotax.com">www.galcotax.com</a> (under the Voter Registration tab) or call (toll free 888-976-2280) or email (<a href="mailto:galcotax@co.galveston.tx.us">galcotax@co.galveston.tx.us</a>) and we will send an application to you.

You may also visit the Texas Secretary of State website at <a href="https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do">https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do</a> to determine whether you are registered to vote. Update address information if you have moved anywhere in Texas online at <a href="https://txapps.texas.gov/tolapp/sos/SOSACManager">https://txapps.texas.gov/tolapp/sos/SOSACManager</a> or download an application from the same site at <a href="https://vrapp.sos.state.tx.us/index.asp">https://vrapp.sos.state.tx.us/index.asp</a>.