

## Inquiring Minds Want To Know



### **Q: Why does my polling place seem to change with every election?**

See **TEXAS ELECTION CODE, CHAPTER 43. POLLING PLACES**

At <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/>

A: Polling places change for a number of reasons.

1. It depends on whose election it is as to what locations are used. If it is the Primary or a Primary Runoff, then the Democratic and Republican Parties choose the locations they want to use. They may choose to share the same location or have them at different locations from one another. If the election is for a City and School, they will choose their locations. The General Election in November locations are approved by Commissioners Court.
2. Polling locations can change because the location is no longer available to us. These reasons range from construction, prior reservation by another individual or group or they no longer want to be used for elections anymore. Since schools are public buildings, the Texas Election Code requires them to make their building available for elections. However, sometimes construction can prevent that from happening. Privately owned buildings like churches, recreation centers etc. can deny our request to use them.

### **JUST THE FACTS:**

Before a polling location can be used, a request must be submitted to the Department of Justice in Washington. This submission must be made 60 days prior to the election for their approval. The Department of Justice insures that no voter is disenfranchised by using that polling location.

Polling Locations must have handicap accessibility by providing handicap parking, unobstructed pathway to the entrance of the building from the parking lot and handicap assessable doors to enter and exit the building.

For more information go to <http://votetexas.gov/voters-with-special-needs/> for additional information on the Services Available to Voters with Special Needs in Texas.

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