

# The

# FORUM



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**Escapees Mail Service Newsletter**  
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## POLITICAL EDITION

### Voting News!

We have some important voting related dates coming up soon that you need to be aware of and there are several constitutional amendments on the ballot this time. Descriptions of these proposed amendments can be found here: <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/2007novballotlang.shtml>

Don't let your vote go uncounted! Be sure to carefully complete your absentee ballot application and allow plenty of time for mailing.

### Nov. 6 General Election

<b>Sept. 7</b>	First day to apply for ballot by mail
<b>Oct. 9</b>	Last day to register to vote
<b>Oct. 22</b>	First day of early voting
<b>Oct. 30</b>	Last day to apply for ballot by mail (must be received, not post marked!)
<b>Nov. 2</b>	Last day of early voting

**Important note:** Absentee ballot must be received in the county Clerk's mailbox no later than Nov 6. regardless of when it is postmarked in order to count. Mail early!!! Applicants can start calling for applications now, but don't mail them in before Sep 7.

### Applying for Your Absentee Ballot

You can request a ballot application from the county clerk's office (See "Voter Resources" below), pick one up from the club office, or download one from [www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us)

### Filling Out Your Application

If your legal residence is Rainbow's End but you do not own or lease a specific lot, your Residence Address line would be Rainbow's End, Livingston, TX.

The Mailing Address line would contain your personal mailing address (\_\_\_ Rainbow Dr., #\_\_\_, Livingston, TX 77399-\_\_\_)

If you own or lease a lot, use your 9-1-1 address as your Residence Address.

It is very important that you fill out your application for a ballot carefully and completely. There are eight critical boxes that must be completed:

- 1. Name**
- 2. Residence Address** (the same one you used on the residence line of your voter registration)
- 3. Type and Date of Election** (example: Primary/March 06)
- 4. Party Preference** (You MUST select a party if voting in a primary.)
- 5. Reason for voting by mail** (out of county traveling)
- 6. Special Instructions For Mailing Ballot** (Most of you would probably indicate "Address outside of the county.")

7. **Mail My Ballot To** (When you are voting absentee, you can not have your ballot sent to any address in the county in which you are registered unless you are 65 or older or disabled.) Escapees Mail Service members who are traveling out of the state may have their ballots sent to the following address:

Your Name  
c/o Escapees RV Club  
PO Box 1578  
Shepherd, TX 77371

8. **Sign Here** (Make sure you sign your application.)

**Including your phone number will allow the county clerk to contact you if needed.**

Each year, a number of applications for absentee ballots are being returned to the applicants due to errors or omissions. It is very important that you properly complete and sign the application form. Check your application for the following common errors before sending it in:

**Incomplete Information**

Please carefully read the instructions included with the application. Make sure that all required information is included. Forms that are missing even a single required item will not be processed.

**Signature does not match**

Make sure that you sign your name exactly as it is shown on the application. Signatures that do not appear to match will cause the form to be rejected. If your full name is Mary Elaine Smith, do not sign it "Mary Smith" or "Mary E. Smith."

**No registration number**

Your voter registration number must be included and must be correctly entered.

**Return address not allowed**

If you are under the age of 65, your ballot cannot be mailed to any address within Polk County. You must either have the ballot mailed to you at your current location, or use the Shepherd, TX, address for forwarding. Any application that requests that the ballot be mailed to an address within Polk County will be rejected. The only exception to this rule is for persons over age 65 or disabled persons.

**The most common causes for returned applications are:**

1. Signature does not match.
2. Incomplete or missing information.

**Voter Resources**

Polk County ballot applications fax .. 936-327-6874

Polk County Clerk's Office ..... 936-327-6804

Polk County Republican Party ..... 936-327-8683

Polk County Democratic Party ..... 936-327-5910

Polk County Libertarian Party ..... 936-685-4992

**On-line Resources**

Escapees voter info: [www.escapees.com/voterinfo.asp](http://www.escapees.com/voterinfo.asp)

Texas voter info: [www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter)  
[www.politics.com/tx.htm](http://www.politics.com/tx.htm)

Republicans: [www.texasgop.org](http://www.texasgop.org)

Polk Co. Republicans: [www.polkcountygop.org](http://www.polkcountygop.org)

Democrats: [www.txdemocrats.org](http://www.txdemocrats.org)

Libertarians: [www.tx.lp.org](http://www.tx.lp.org)

General local news: [www.EastTexasNews.com](http://www.EastTexasNews.com)

**Safe travels,**



**Angie Carr, Executive Director**

**and the entire Escapees Mail Service staff!**