



MEMORANDUM

TO: Candidates for the 2016 City Council Election

FROM: Jannette Goodall, City Clerk

DATE: May 6, 2016

SUBJECT: Requirement to be a registered voter in order to run for election

During the 2015 Legislative Session, House Bill 484 amended Section 141.001 of the Texas Election Code to provide a new requirement that **a candidate must be registered to vote in the territory from which the office is elected as of the filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot.** House Bill 484 was subsequently codified as Subdivision (6) under Section 141.001 of the Texas Election Code.

Section 141.001(6) requires a candidate to be registered to vote in the territory from which the office is elected on the date described by Section 141.001(5). Section 141.001(5) states that a candidate must "have resided continuously in the state for 12 months and in the territory from which the office is elected for six months immediately preceding the following date: (A) for a candidate whose name is to appear on a general primary election ballot, the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot." Information on the amendment can be found at the Secretary of State's Elections webpage at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/laws/hb484-faq.shtml>.

The deadline for filing an application for a place on the ballot for the November 8, 2016 City of Austin General Election is Monday, August 22, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. Any candidate filing for a place on the ballot is required to be a registered voter in the district for which he or she is running, by August 22. To allow sufficient time to meet this deadline, please be aware that it may take the County Voter Registrar's Office up to 30 days to process a voter registration application so that you are listed as a registered voter.

Any citizen interested in running for City Council who is not currently a registered voter in the district for which he or she is running should submit a voter registration application to the appropriate County Voter Registrar's Office. Any candidate who is a registered voter is encouraged to confirm his or her voter registration information to ensure that the voter registration information is current and accurate. Information on becoming a registered voter can be located at:

Travis County: <https://tax-office.traviscountytexas.gov/voters/voter-registration>

Williamson County:

<http://www.wilco.org/CountyDepartments/Elections/VoterRegistration/tabid/592/language/en-US/Default.aspx#>

Hays County: <http://www.co.hays.tx.us/voter-registration-ballot-by-mail.aspx>