

Ballot By Mail FAQ

(Paducah ISD May 2, 2026 Bond Election)

Who Can Vote by Mail?

In Texas, you may vote early by mail if you are a registered voter and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- You are 65 years of age or older;
- You are sick or have a disability;
- You expect to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day;
- You will be away from your county of residence on Election Day and during the entire early voting period; or
- You are confined in jail but are otherwise eligible to vote.

Annual vs. Single-Election Applications

Annual Application

Voters who are 65 years of age or older, or who have a disability, may submit an Annual Application for Ballot by Mail (ABBM). Choosing the annual option means you will automatically receive a mail ballot for every election held during that calendar year. Annual applications may be submitted starting January 1 of a calendar year and **no later April 20, 2026**.

How Annual Applications Work in Paducah ISD Elections

Annual ABBM applications are typically filed with the county clerk or county elections administrator. Paducah ISD is conducting its own election on May 2, 2026, and the District has appointed its own early voting clerk for the election.

However, voters who have already filed an annual ABBM with the county clerk do not need to submit a new application to receive a ballot for this election. Under the Texas Election Code, the county clerk is required to provide the District's early voting clerk with a list of voters who have annual applications on file, along with copies of those applications. The District's early voting clerk must then send a ballot by mail to each eligible voter on the list.

In practical terms, this means that if you are 65 or older or have a disability, and you have already submitted an annual ABBM to the Cottle County Clerk for the current calendar year, you should automatically receive a mail ballot for any Paducah ISD election held that year without taking any additional action. If you believe you should have received a ballot but did not, contact the Paducah ISD (see contact information at the end of this FAQ) or the Cottle County Clerk's office to confirm that your annual application is on file and that your information was included on the list provided to the District.

Single-Election Application

Voters who do not qualify for the annual option may submit an application for a single specific election. These applications may be submitted starting January 1 of the calendar year in which the election occurs and no later than the 11th day before Election Day. If the 11th day falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline moves to the first preceding business day. **As such, the deadline for the May 2, 2026 election cycle is April 20, 2026.**

Key Deadlines

The following table summarizes key deadlines:

Action	Deadline
Submit BBM application	No later than April 20, 2026
Return voted ballot by mail (USPS)	Must be postmarked by 7:00 PM on Election Day (May 2, 2026) and received by 5:00 PM the next business day (May 4, 2026)
Return voted ballot in person	Election Day only, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM, at the early voting clerk’s main office
Return voted ballot by carrier (FedEx, UPS, etc.)	Must be received by 7:00 PM on Election Day (May 2, 2026)
Annual BBM application window	January 1 through April 20, 2026

How to Apply for a Ballot by Mail

Step 1: Obtain an Application

Download the official Application for Ballot by Mail (ABBM) from the Texas Secretary of State’s website. Applications are available in both English and Spanish.

Step 2: Complete the Application

Fill out all required fields on the application. Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are statutorily required. Be sure to include your printed name, date of birth, address, and the reason you are eligible to vote by mail.

Step 3: Submit the Application

Submit your completed application to the early voting clerk. The Paducah ISD early voting clerk’s contact information is listed at the end of this FAQ.

Applications may generally be submitted by:

- Regular mail (USPS)

- Contract or commercial carrier (FedEx, UPS, USPS Express/Priority)
- Fax or email (a mailed copy must also be received within four business days)
- In person by the individual voter at the early voting clerk's office

Returning Your Voted Ballot

Once you receive and complete your ballot, you must return it in the Official Carrier Envelope provided to you. There are three ways to return your ballot:

Option 1: U.S. Postal Service

Mail your ballot using regular residential USPS mail. The ballot must be postmarked by 7:00 PM on Election Day (May 2, 2026) and must be received by 5:00 PM on the first mail delivery day after Election Day (May 4, 2026).

Option 2: In-Person Delivery on Election Day

You may hand-deliver your ballot to the early voting clerk's main office on Election Day (May 2, 2026) only, between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM. You must present an acceptable form of photo identification. Only the voter may deliver their own ballot in person.

Option 3: Common or Contract Carrier

You may send your ballot via a private courier service such as FedEx or UPS. The ballot must be received by 7:00 PM on Election Day (May 2, 2026). If the carrier's receipt mark shows a time before 7:00 PM on Election Day, the ballot may be received by 5:00 PM on the first mail delivery day after Election Day (May 4, 2026).

Voter Identification Requirements

If you return your ballot in person on Election Day, you will need to show an acceptable form of photo identification. Acceptable forms of ID are established by Texas law and include a Texas driver's license, Texas Election Identification Certificate, Texas personal identification card, U.S. passport, U.S. military ID, or Texas handgun license. Visit www.VoteTexas.gov for the most current list of accepted IDs.

Overseas and Military Voters

U.S. citizens who are active-duty military, their spouses and dependents, or who reside overseas may use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to request mail ballots for all elections in which they are qualified to vote. The FPCA is valid for one calendar year and must be resubmitted whenever a voter changes their mailing address.

Key return deadlines for these voters differ from standard timelines: ballots from civilians abroad must be received no later than the 5th day after Election Day (May 7, 2026), and ballots from military voters must be received no later than the 6th day after Election Day (May 8, 2026).

Important Notes

- A voted ballot that has no postmark must be received by the early voting clerk by 7:00 PM on Election Day (May 2, 2026).
- If you submit your application by fax or email, you must also mail the original application, and it must be received within four business days of your electronic submission.
- Only the voter may deliver their own ballot in person on Election Day.
- Temporarily disabled voters may submit an application for a specific election at any time in the year of the election, but no later than the close of regular business (or 12:00 noon, whichever is later) on April 20, 2026.

Paducah ISD Early Voting Clerk's Contact Information

For questions about Paducah ISD elections, ballot by mail, or any other voting-related inquiries, please contact the District's early voting clerk:

Name: Irene Blount

Official Mailing Address: PO Drawer P, Paducah, TX 79248

Physical Address: 810 Goodwin, Paducah, TX 79248

E-mail Address: iblount@paducahisd.org

Phone Number: 806-492-3524

Fax Number: 806-492-2193

Website: <https://www.paducahisd.org/>