

STAN STANART

COUNTY CLERK

Recording the Major Events of Your Life

For Immediate Release November 7, 2011 Contact: Hector de Leon

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COUNTY CLERK URGES VOTERS TO "OCCUPY THE POLLS TO VOTE" "THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY 'REALLY' LOOKS LIKE"

Houston, TX –Harris County Clerk Stan Stanart reminds registered voters that Tuesday is their final chance to cast votes in the November 8, 2011 Joint Election. "Harris County, let's 'OCCUPY THE POLLS' to vote. I invite every eligible voter to 'OCCUPY' your Election Day voting location for a few minutes on Tuesday and let your voice be heard. Study the issues and the candidates, THEN VOTE! This is what Democracy REALLY looks like," stated Stanart, the Chief Election Officer of the county.

Registered voters can expect to vote on 10 amendments to the Texas Constitution, and depending on where a voter is registered to vote, vote for the City of Houston Mayor, City Council positions, and many other candidates in an election in which over a dozen political subdivisions in Harris County have items on the ballot.

As of the close of the early voting period, 49,669 persons had been processed to vote and 8,676 had returned their voted mail ballot to the County Clerk's office.

Important Election Day Information:

- On Election Day, <u>voters must vote at the polling location designated for their precinct in which they are registered to vote.</u>
- Voters may visit <u>www.harrisvotes.com</u> to find their Election Day polling location, and view a personal sample ballot. Voters may also call (713) 755-6965 for more information.
- Election Day Polling locations will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.
- Any one of the following documents is acceptable identification for voting purposes: A Voter Registration Certificate; a driver's license or personal identification card issued to the person by the Department of Public Safety or a similar document issued to the person by an agency of another state, regardless of whether the license or card has expired; a form of identification containing the person's photograph that establishes the person's identity; a birth certificate or other document confirming birth that is admissible in a court of law and establishes the person's identity; United States citizenship papers issued to the person; a United States passport issued to the person; Official mail addressed to the person by name from a governmental entity; a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter; or any other form of identification prescribed by the Secretary of State. (Texas Election Code, Title 6, Chapter 63)
- At the request of the Office of the Texas Secretary of State (SOS), a handout regarding the possible change in the voter qualification process in 2012 will be provided to voters after they check-in to vote or as they exit the poll. The SOS drafted the message on the handout and they are requiring all 254 Texas counties to distribute it.