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## Election Identification Certificates

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding Texans in advance of the upcoming primary election that Election Identification Certificates (EIC) are available at all Texas driver license offices for individuals in need of proper identification required to vote in elections in Texas. The 2014 primary election in Texas is March 4, with early voting from February 18 - 28. The last day to register to vote in the 2014 primary election is Monday, Feb. 3, so hurry and get out there to register. However, the DPS stated that most Texans already have the proper photo identification required to be eligible to vote. If a Texas resident already has any one of the following, they will not be eligible to apply for and receive an EIC...

- Texas driver license – unexpired or expired less than 60 days at the time of voting
- Texas personal identification card – unexpired or expired less than 60 days at the time of voting
- U.S. passport book or card – unexpired or expired less than 60 days at the time of voting
- Texas concealed handgun license – unexpired or expired less than 60 days at the time of voting
- U.S. Military identification with photo – unexpired or expired less than 60 days at the time of voting
- U.S. Citizenship Certificate or Certificate of Naturalization with photo

If you are a resident who does need to apply for an EIC, you must visit a driver's license office and fill out an Application for Texas Election Certificate. In order to qualify for the EIC an applicant must meet the following criteria...

- Bring documentation to verify [U.S. citizenship](#) and [Identity](#)
- Be eligible to vote in Texas (Bring a valid voter registration card or submit a voter registration application through the Texas Department of Public Safety)
- Be a Texas resident
- Be 17 years and 10 months or older

The EIC is free of charge to qualifying applicants and is valid for six years. There is no expiration date for an EIC for citizens 70 years of age or older. The EIC can only be used for the purpose of voting in an election and may not be used as personal identification. For further information regarding the requirements, exemptions, and process for obtaining an EIC, please visit the Texas DPS website, [here](#).

Visit Representative Huberty online [here](#).

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## End of Course Exam Scores on the Rise

The implementation of House Bill 5 is an ongoing process, but results gathered from students in the Class of 2015 are very positive. End of Course Exam pass rates have increased greatly since last school year. This is a significant step in ensuring that all of our students receive the best possible education in Texas. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced last week that approximately 309,000 students in the Class of 2015 have taken all or most of the end-of-course (EOC) assessments required for graduation. Of that number, approximately 76 percent of students - who are currently in their junior year of high school - have already passed the assessments they have taken and are on track to graduate under requirements set by the Texas Legislature in HB 5.

Texas Commissioner of Education Michael Williams had this to say, "We should be proud that the majority of high school students in Texas continue to successfully complete the end-of-course assessments now required for graduation. With fewer assessments and greater flexibility provided to school districts under House Bill 5, Texans should expect those numbers to continue to improve." The latest statewide summary reports may be found on the TEA website [here](#).

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## Texas State Guard - MEMS

Across the country, members of the U.S. Armed Forces and State Guards are increasingly being mobilized to respond to natural and man-made disasters. Military and civilian authorities now see an urgent need to provide additional and improved emergency management training for troops deploying into disaster areas. In response to these challenges, the State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS) developed a specialized military Emergency Management qualification program for the U.S. Armed Forces and State Guards. The program specifically prepares military personnel to effectively operate and function in local or state wide military Emergency Management mobilizations.

The SGAUS Military Emergency Management Specialist Academy (MEMS Academy) offers professional qualification as a Basic, Senior and Master Military Emergency Management Specialist and conferral of appropriate military skills badges and patches. Individuals with MEMS qualification will gain the knowledge, skills and abilities to effectively manage a comprehensive emergency management plan and will achieve operational understanding of basic tenets in emergency management, including mitigation, preparedness, emergency response and recovery.

On Saturday, January 25th, Representative Huberty, who also serves as a Major in the Texas State Guard, was honored to receive the skill badge for his qualification in Basic MEMS during the Texas State Guard Leadership Conference in Austin, Texas.

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## Free Application for Financial Student Aid (FAFSA) - Now Available Online

FAFSA forms are now available online at [https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/fafsa?locale=en\\_US](https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/fafsa?locale=en_US) for students planning to attend college in the 2014-2015 school year. You can apply as early as today. Applicants are encouraged to obtain a blank copy of the form to complete, prior to actually submitting the application. Applicants may obtain a free copy of the FAFSA form online, from a school counselor or from a financial aid office. It is best to complete the application by hand in entirety before submitting online, to prevent mistakes.

These grants and loans are awarded on an "as-needed" and "first come, first serve" basis. It is encouraged that applications be submitted as soon as all of the required information is available. The application period will remain open through the school year, but it is encouraged that they be completed in advance of the academic term to allow the best options for each applicant. Similarly, the College Scholarship Service (CSS) profile form can also be completed early, using estimated 2013 information.

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## More Power on the Way to Houston

Houston is the second largest city in the United States and the population is continuing to grow every year. With the increase in population, demand for energy is on the rise and concerns have been intensified regarding the reliability of the aging power plants in Houston. A proposal to bring in renewable energy from around the state to help feed Houston's energy needs is on the horizon. In a recent report, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) stated, "New generation additions in the (Houston) area have not kept pace with load growth."

Various power transmission companies, including CenterPoint Energy, which serves the Houston area, submitted proposals for new lines. The Electric Reliability Council will review the proposals this spring, then select options for further environmental and routing reviews which will likely take several months. The new lines could help relieve higher electric consumer prices that have resulted from existing lines running at full capacity in carrying power to Houston from power plants north of the city. New transmission lines also could help ensure reliability as some Houston plants that are more than 40 years old require additional downtime for maintenance and often times must shut down altogether.

More information regarding wind power and new energy upgrades for Houston can be found [here](#). You may also follow energy grid conditions around the state on ERCOT's website [here](#).

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## Governor Perry Statement of "The State of the Union"

This week President Obama addressed the nation in the only speech required of the President by the United States Constitution. It was his sixth State of the Union address and in the speech he explained how he would be expanding the powers of the Executive branch and using those powers to the fullest extent in an attempt to circumvent Congress. Texas Governor Rick Perry had this to say in a press release concerning the President's speech.

"The strength of our Union is in our states, not Washington, and Texas has shown that the way to economic prosperity and significant job growth is through individual freedoms and the free market. [On Tuesday], we saw a president with the same old agenda and no real idea on how to govern. Americans expect and deserve more from a president than continually broken promises and unfunded platitudes."

To read the press release in its entirety as well as many other press releases, please visit the Office of the Governor's website [here](#).

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### Upcoming Events

#### Friday, January 31st & Saturday, February 1st

Humble ISD BBQ Cook-Off - <http://www.humblerodeo.com/bbq%20cook-off.html>

Humble Civic Center Arena

#### Saturday, February 1st

Lake Houston YMCA Bridgefest - <http://www.ymcahouston.org/links/lakehoustonbridgefest.pdf>

#### Monday, February 3rd

Last Day to Register to Vote for the March 4th Primary Election - visit [www.HarrisVotes.com](http://www.HarrisVotes.com) for more info

#### Friday & Saturday, February 7th & 8th

Humble ISD Rodeo - [www.humblerodeo.com](http://www.humblerodeo.com)

Humble Civic Center Arena

#### Tuesday, February 18th - Friday, February 28th

Early Voting for the March 4th Primary Election - visit [www.HarrisVotes.com](http://www.HarrisVotes.com) for more information

#### Sunday, March 2nd

Texas Independence Day

#### Tuesday, March 4th

Primary Election Day - visit [www.HarrisVotes.com](http://www.HarrisVotes.com) for more information

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