

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's



Capitol Report



Early Voting Begins for 2016 Presidential Race

With both the Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary over, the attention now turns to the South. Although Texas' primary is not until March 1, early voting kicks off today, Tuesday the 16th, and runs through Feb. 26th. It is popular opinion that the results of these two first presidential contests of the race provides early momentum for those that do well and can be very crucial to early voting in the following primaries. The recent fiery debates among presidential candidates may have created more interest in voting this presidential cycle, and even contribute to increased early voter turnouts.

Texas enables residents to vote early in two ways: showing up in person during the prescribed early voting period or by voting by mail. Any registered voter can vote early in person, while there are a few stipulations to voting early by mail.

You may vote early by mail if:

- You will be away from your county on Election Day or during early voting
- You are sick or disabled
- You are 65 years of age or older on Election Day
- You are confined in jail but eligible to vote

When arriving at a polling location to vote today remember to bring an acceptable form of photo identification such as: Texas driver license, Texas Election Identification Certificate, Texas personal ID card, Texas license to carry a handgun, U.S. military identification card, U.S. citizenship certificate, U.S. passport.

"Exercise your civic duty and vote today! As citizens you can make a difference and it is up to the general public to choose leaders that encapsulate ideologies and characteristics most valued. As Franklin D. Roosevelt once said 'A government can be no better than the public opinion that sustains it.' Remember this when heading to the polls today," stated Rep. Roberto Alonzo.



A Brief History of Presidents Day

Presidents Day is intended to honor all the American presidents both past and present. Both President's Day and George Washington's birthday are always celebrated on the third Monday of February. However, Presidential historians say the actual date of George Washington's birth is February 11, 1732. A change in the calendar system 20 years later shifted all dates 11 days ahead, making Washington's birthday February 22. In 1879, Congress made Washington's birthday an official federal holiday. It was the first federal holiday to celebrate an individual's birth date.

In 1968, Congress passed the Monday Holidays Act, which moved the holiday to the third Monday in February. Many lawmakers pushed to call it Presidents' Day to include Abraham Lincoln, which is actually February 12. Texas is one of the few states that chose not to retain the federal holiday title and renamed the state holiday President's Day."

"It is important that we take this time to reflect on the presidents of the past and honor their contributions to this nation. During this crucial time of selecting a new president, it is essential that we remember and draw upon the accomplishments of past leaders," stated Rep. Alonzo



SkillsUSA, Dallas chapter, visited the Capitol last week. This non-profit Youth organization brings together educators, administrators, corporate America, and government to produce well-rounded, quality-trained young adults. SkillsUSA teaches the importance of developing leadership skills, positive attitudes, and pride in workmanship.