

Early voting dates, mail-in ballot rules

DANIEL WALKER
VERNON RECORD

There will be lots of chances to vote in this year's General Election.

County Clerk Jana Kennon said her office was petitioned by the local Democratic Party to have extended Early Voting hours. Enough signatures were obtained that new hours have been added.

In addition Governor Greg Abbott has extended Early Voting to run for three weeks, instead of the normal two week-period. While there will be three weeks of Early Voting, each week will have different hours, and one includes weekend hours.

Early Voting for the November 3 General Election began Tuesday, October 13. The Early Voting location is the Forum Room at the Auditorium.

For voting Tuesday thru Friday, Oct. 13-16 the early voting hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, Early Voting is available from 7 a.m. till 7 p.m. On Sun-

day, Oct. 18, Early Voting is available from 12 noon until 5 p.m.

On Monday through Friday, Oct. 19-23, Early Voting is from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

On Monday through Friday, Oct. 26-30, Early Voting is from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

MAIL-IN BALLOTS

The last day that a person can apply for a ballot by mail is Oct. 23, 2020.

Kennon said that for the November General Election, a person can walk their ballot into the Wilbarger County Clerk's Office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. instead of mailing it in, if they choose.

They must present an ID and sign a signature roster. The voter can only deliver their own ballot.

If they will call 940-552-5486, the County Clerk employees will do a curbside pickup on the east side of the courthouse.



Sheriff presented award

The Sons of the American Revolution, Quannah Parker #67 Chapter was honored to present the SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to Sheriff Bill Price on Saturday, Oct. 10. Sheriff Price has spent 28 years serving Vernon and Wilbarger County, six years with the Vernon PD and more than 21 years with the Wilbarger County Sheriff's office. Presenting

the award were President Kim Ditmore and Dr. Darrell Monday. Dr. Monday nominated Sheriff Price for the prestigious award. Attending with Sheriff Price was his wife, Katrina and their daughter Kinzey. The Sons of the American Revolution is a lineage society which focuses on Patriotism, Education and Historic Preservation.

Cornyn, Hegar hold senate debate

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and his Democratic opponent, MJ Hegar, butted heads Friday evening in a debate over a host of timely issues — the coronavirus pandemic, race and policing, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

As the two appeared together in Austin, Cornyn repeatedly bashed Hegar as a puppet of Democratic leaders in Washington, D.C., suggesting her views are too liberal for Texas. She in turn challenged him to train his attacks on her and argued he has lost touch with the state after 18 years in the Senate.

On the pandemic, Cornyn touted the early coronavirus relief package that he supported in Congress and lamented gridlock over more recent proposals, while Hegar suggested it is "time for him to step aside" and let people like her negotiate aid.

Both candidates were asked if they would support another "national lockdown" if there is another coronavirus surge. Cornyn said he does not, Hegar said yes.

Cornyn said he does not "believe that we need any lockdowns" going forward, citing damage to the economy and emphasizing personal responsibility. Hegar responded by suggesting Cornyn was giving short shrift to science and saying, "Yes, I think we need to partner with public health experts."

Asked if they support a national mask mandate, Cornyn said he did not, saying the United States — as well as Texas — is a "big, diverse place."

"We don't need the government to fill the void that we should fill ourselves by acting responsibly at the local level to keep each other safe and to get this economy growing again," Cornyn said.

Hegar did not give as precise of an answer but agreed that "different parts of Texas are different" and called for a "national strategy that takes science and objective metrics into consideration."

On law enforcement — the two clashed most bitterly when Cornyn suggested Hegar wants to "defund the police." Hegar denied that.

Hegar backed renaming Fort Hood, while Cornyn did not. Asked about marijuana decriminalization, Cornyn said he wanted to see more research about the drug's impact on young people's brains, while Hegar flatly said she supported decriminalization.

There was also ample sparring over the energy

industry, pivotal to oil-rich Texas.

After Hegar talked about securing energy jobs for the future, Cornyn shot back: "If MJ's worried about jobs, then she would not be advocating a carbon tax that would destroy the jobs of hundreds of thousands of workers out in West Texas and around the nation."

Hegar disputed that she has pushed for a carbon tax but was cut off by a moderator while seeking to elaborate. During a July candidate forum, Hegar was asked about a carbon tax and said, "I stand with the League of Conservation Voters and the Sierra Club who support it but understand that it's not a silver bullet, that we actually do need to be taking a more holistic approach."

Perhaps most notably on energy, Hegar said she does not support a ban on fracking, a question she did not respond to as decisively while she was running for her party's nomination. "I do support investment in clean, renewable energy that gets us to a place where we don't need fracking," she added.

In another throw-back to the Democratic nominating process, the moderators showed Hegar a Wednesday quote from her runoff opponent, state

Sen. Royce West, saying she has "not called me to ask for my support." Hegar replied that it was not her style to pursue such endorsements.

"A lot of people express frustration that I don't engage in politics as usual," Hegar said. "Personal endorsements tend to come with quid pro quo that I believe are a big part of what's broken in politics."

CORNYN LEADS IN POLL

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn leads Democratic challenger MJ Hegar by 8 percentage points in his reelection bid, according to the latest University of Texas/Texas Tribune Poll.

The poll found 50% of likely voters in Texas prefer the Republican incumbent, while 42% favor Hegar.

In the state's presidential race, where President Donald Trump is leading former Vice President Joe Biden 50%-45%,

Senate wants another Covid aid vote in October

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday that he's scheduling a procedural vote on a GOP COVID-19 relief bill next week, saying aid to hard-hit businesses shouldn't be held up by gridlock involving other aid proposals.

The Kentucky Republican says the first item of Senate business when the chamber returns next Monday will be a procedural vote on a scaled-back aid bill. Democrats filibustered a GOP-drafted aid bill last month and recent talks on a larger deal fell apart this past weekend.

Local farmer partners with non-profit in St. Paul donation

Wilbarger County farmer Christie Lehman, directed \$2,500 to St. Paul Lutheran School Board through America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Bayer Fund.

Celebrating its 10th year, America's Farmers Grow Communities partners with farmers to support nonprofit organizations strengthening rural communities. The program offers farmers the chance to direct a \$2,500 donation to a nonprofit of their choice. It has awarded more than \$33 million to over 8,000 nonprofits across rural America.

"A better life is Bayer's goal. Farmers are invested in their communities, they root for their neighbors, and they know when and where there is a need," said Al Mitchell, Vice President Corporate Engagement, Bayer. "Farmers are one of

America's best resources, which is why Grow Communities partners with them to direct donations to the organizations they are passionate about and that make a positive impact and a better life in communities."

Started in 2010, the America's Farmers programs, sponsored by the Bayer Fund, have been dedicated to partnering with farmers to strengthen rural communities. The programs provide funding for ag scholar-

ships, nonprofit donations and school STEM grants. Since inception the fund has awarded over \$50 million to rural communities. For more information visit AmericasFarmers.com.

The Bayer Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where Bayer customers and employees live and work by providing funding for good and nutrition, education and community development projects.



A word of sincere appreciation and gratitude to many family members and friends for the prayers, visits, cards, kind words, food, flowers and memorials during our time of sorrow. A special thanks to Pastor Steven Brummett, to Dr. Travis Lehman and Dr. Deshawn Stewart, the staff of Wilbarger General Hospital and emergency room, the staff of Vista Living of Vernon, the special ladies that cared for our Dad, and to Otis Smith and Sullivan Funeral Home staff.

We pray God will bless and keep you always.

The Edward Kieschnick Family

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

FM 2073 & FM 2074 VERNON, TX

'German Sausage'

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 17
10 AM - 2 PM
AT ZION CENTER**

Ring \$12.00
Bulk 1.25# \$6.00



STAY IN YOUR CAR - DRIVE THRU SERVICE