

Early Voting in Texas' Top 15 Counties

This chart shows patterns in voter registration and early voting in this year's general election in the biggest counties in the state. Registrations are up, with exceptions in Dallas and Nueces counties, and both the numbers and percentages of Texans voting early rose in each of the big counties. We show how President **George W. Bush** performed in each of these counties four years ago and then what his early vote totals should look like on Tuesday night. When the state starts posting numbers, early vote numbers will go up first (that's often shown in the returns as "with 1 precinct counted") and you'll be able to glance at Bush's actual totals versus these projections. The projections are simply the early vote totals for each county multiplied by Bush's percentage share of the vote in 2000. If he's got more than we list here for a given county, he's doing better there than four years ago. Lower numbers would indicate a decline from four years ago.

COUNTY	REGISTERED VOTERS			EARLY VOTING			PERCENT EARLY VOTING			2000 Bush total vote	Early votes times Bush's 2000 share
	2004	2000	Change	2004	2000	Change	2004	2000	Change		
Harris	1,937,072	1,886,581	50,491	436,896	252,083	184,813	22.6%	13.4%	73.3%	54.3%	237,235
Dallas	1,231,291	1,248,325	(17,034)	346,729	233,635	113,094	28.2%	18.7%	48.4%	52.6%	182,379
Tarrant	918,656	851,104	67,552	305,666	200,079	105,587	33.3%	23.5%	52.8%	60.7%	185,539
Bexar	908,466	871,783	36,683	274,786	201,588	73,198	30.2%	23.1%	36.3%	52.2%	143,438
Travis	584,949	572,429	12,520	217,428	135,494	81,934	37.2%	23.7%	60.5%	46.9%	101,974
El Paso	371,856	352,359	19,497	96,420	66,402	30,018	25.9%	18.8%	45.2%	39.7%	38,279
Collin	369,412	296,171	73,241	153,566	77,104	76,462	41.6%	26.0%	99.2%	73.1%	112,257
Denton	321,700	274,386	47,314	116,632	64,056	52,576	36.3%	23.3%	82.1%	69.6%	81,176
Hidalgo	269,811	244,668	25,143	61,790	40,490	21,300	22.9%	16.5%	52.6%	37.9%	23,418
Fort Bend	254,364	202,706	51,658	83,965	40,214	43,751	33.0%	19.8%	108.8%	59.6%	50,043
Montgomery	214,098	183,958	30,140	70,023	45,296	24,727	32.7%	24.6%	54.6%	75.9%	53,147
Nueces	201,707	202,443	(736)	53,031	43,275	9,756	26.3%	21.4%	22.5%	51.3%	27,205
Williamson*	200,344	NA	NA	77,142	NA	NA	38.5%	NA	NA	67.8%	52,302
Galveston	185,911	176,888	9,023	64,714	43,725	20,989	34.8%	24.7%	48.0%	54.2%	35,075
Jefferson	165,174	166,238	(1,064)	54,164	49,725	4,439	32.8%	29.9%	8.9%	46.4%	25,132
Lubbock*	NA	154,157	NA	NA	36,246	NA	NA	23.5%	NA	73.7%	NA
TOTAL	8,134,811	7,684,196	450,615	2,412,952	1,529,412	883,540	29.7%	19.9%	57.8%	55.6%	1,341,601

*Williamson County made the top 15 list in 2004, replacing Lubbock County

NA=not available

Source: Texas Secretary of State