

CAUSE NO. DC-26-03805

KARDAL COLEMAN, IN HIS CAPACITY	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
AS DALLAS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC	§	
PARTY CHAIR	§	
	§	
Plaintiff/Petitioner	§	
	§	
vs.	§	DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
PAUL ADAMS,	§	
IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY	§	
AS THE DALLAS COUNTY ELECTIONS	§	
ADMINISTRATOR	§	
	§	
Defendant/Respondent	§	<u>162nd</u> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PLAINTIFFS' EMERGENCY PETITION TO EXTEND VOTING HOURS

1.00 Polling Place Confusion.

The rules for the 2026 Primary Election on March 3, 2026, required voters to cast ballots in their assigned precincts on election day. Unlike primary elections held since 2019, countywide voting is not permitted. This change resulted in tremendous confusion on election day and voters trying to figure out where to cast their ballots have caused the Dallas County Election Department's website to crash. Check in poll books utilized in the polling locations were not updated with the correct voting locations which also resulted in voters going to incorrect locations. Further, the Secretary of State website was not updated for the correct election day polling places, so voters who accessed this website were sent to the wrong locations. Hundreds of voters have been turned away before noon when they did not appear at their designated voting precinct. See Exhibit 1—Dallas Morning News article at 2:30 P.M. This confusion necessitates the extension of

voting hours in Dallas County, Texas for an additional two hours (9:00 P.M.) on March 3, 2026. Unless polling hours are extended as requested, voters in Dallas will be deprived of their right to vote in the 2026 primary election.

2.00 PARTIES

2.01 Kardal Coleman is the Dallas County Democratic Chair. This Petitioner is a natural person residing in Dallas County, Texas, and is a registered voter in Dallas County.

2.02 Defendant Paul Adams is a voting official within Dallas County, Texas. He is the chief elections officer for Dallas County. He is a natural person residing in Dallas County, Texas. He may be served with process at 2377 N. Stemmons Freeway, Suite 820, Dallas, TX 75207, or wherever he may be found.

3.00 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

The relief sought is authorized under the Texas constitution and the statutes of this state. This court has jurisdiction to issue such relief. Venue is proper in this County because these matters arise in Dallas County, Texas, and all parties to this litigation are Dallas County residents.

4.00 ADDITIONAL TIME REQUESTED

Section 302(c) of 42 U.S.C. §15482(c), the Help America Vote Act of 2002 has specific procedures which allow state courts to issue orders extending poll-closing times due to inclement weather or other conditions. In addition, this Court has authority under *Democratic Party v. Scott*, 215 F.Supp. 3d 1250 (N.D. Fla, 2016) and *Obama for America v. Cuyahoga County Board of Elections*, 1:08-cv-562-PAG (N.D. Ohio, March 4, 2008) and the Texas Elections Code to grant the relief sought. TEX. ELEC. CODE § 85.005.

Under Texas law, local authorities have authority to enforce Election Code provisions. *Mi Familia Vota v. Abbott*, 977 F.3d 461, 462-63 (5th Cir. 2020).

5.00 RELIEF REQUESTED

Petitioner respectfully requests an Order of this Court requiring that polls Dallas County be kept open and that the hours for voting be extended from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on March 3, 2026. Petitioner also seeks such other and further relief to which he may be justly entitled, including an order suspending the requirements of Texas election code 85.067 concerning posting of polling hours. This petition is supported by the Affidavit of Toni Pippins Poole, former Dallas County Elections Administrator, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Charles 'Chad' Baruch

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Attorneys for Petitioner, Kardal Coleman

Dallas County Democratic Chair

Certificate of Conference

On March 3, 2026, Petitioners conferred with Paul Adams, Dallas County Elections Administrator, and Mr. Adams confirmed that he agrees to the relief sought in this petition.

/s/ Robert L. Tobey

Robert L. Tobey

STATE OF TEXAS

§

COUNTY OF DALLAS

§

Antoinette Pippens aff
AFFIDAVIT OF TONI PIPPENS POOLE

Before me, the undersigned notary, on this day personally appeared Toni Pippens Poole, the affiant, a person whose identity is known to me. After I administered an oath, affiant testified as follows:

- Antoinette Pippens aff*
1. "My name is Toni Pippens Poole. I am over eighteen years of age, competent to make this affidavit, and capable of testifying to the matters stated herein. The facts stated in this affidavit are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.
 2. I serve as the Elections Director for the Dallas County Democratic Party (DCDP). In that role, I oversee election operations coordination, support election judges, and monitor issues affecting voters in Dallas County.
 3. On Election Day, March 3, 2026, I received numerous reports from Democratic election judges, poll workers, and voters regarding widespread confusion about assigned polling locations.
 4. Throughout the morning and into the early afternoon, the Texas Secretary of State's voter lookup tool contained incorrect polling location information for certain Dallas County voters. Voters who relied on the Secretary of State's website were directed to incorrect polling locations.
 5. The Secretary of State's website did not initially contain a warning regarding these inaccuracies. A warning banner advising voters to verify their polling location was added only later in the afternoon, after many voters had already been misdirected.
 6. Additionally, electronic pollbooks inside Dallas County vote centers displayed incorrect polling location information for certain voters. As a result, voters appeared at locations where poll workers, relying on the pollbook information available to them, informed those voters that they were not at their assigned precinct polling location.
 7. Based on reports from multiple locations across Dallas County, hundreds of voters were turned away or instructed to travel to different polling locations due to inaccurate polling location information reflected in official systems.
 8. Further compounding these issues, Dallas County Elections Department (DCED) did not notify election judges of these systemic polling location discrepancies until approximately three (3) hours after issues were first reported from the field.
 9. During the morning voting period, the Dallas County Elections website, which provides polling location lookup information, was unavailable for approximately twenty (20) to thirty (30) minutes. During this outage, voters were unable to independently verify their assigned polling locations.
 10. These combined failures — inaccurate information from the Secretary of State's website, incorrect polling location data in electronic pollbooks, delayed notification to election judges, and temporary unavailability of the Dallas County website — created substantial

confusion and impeded voters' ability to cast a ballot in the March 3, 2026 Primary Election.

11. It is my understanding based on reports received throughout the day that these issues disproportionately affected voters attempting to vote during peak morning hours.

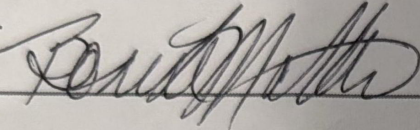
Further, affiant saith not.

~~Toni Pippens Poole~~ ^{app} Antoinette Peppins-Poole

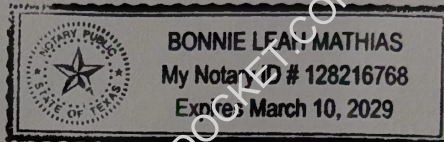
Antoinette Peppins-Poole
Toni Pippens Poole

Antoinette Peppins-Poole ^{app}

SWORN TO and SUBSCRIBED before me by Toni Pippens Poole on this 3 day of March, 2026.



Notary Public in and for
The State of Texas



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'We're seeing chaos.' Hundreds turned away at Dallas County polls amid switch to precincts

Voters used to casting a ballot at any location were surprised Tuesday to be redirected to their precinct, a change prompted by the county GOP.

By **Tracey McManus**

Staff Writer

Mar. 3, 2026



Updated 43 minutes ago



5 min. read

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EXHIBIT

1



First time voter Brandy McIver (center left) is directed to a different polling location as she tries to vote at Oak Lawn Branch Library on Primary Election Day, Tuesday, March 3, 2026, in Dallas. JUAN FIGUEROA / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hundreds of voters were turned away from Dallas County polls before noon Tuesday when they arrived at their typical voting sites but were rerouted to their assigned polling place due to a switch prompted by the county Republican Party.

The GOP's decision to hold a separate primary from Democrats this year required precinct-based voting on election day, a change from the countywide voting system in place since 2019 that allowed residents to vote at any center regardless of their address.

The switch surprised and frustrated residents who stopped to vote on their way to work or between errands only to be redirected elsewhere — an outcome

predicted by county officials and voting rights activists who feared the GOP's arrangement would disenfranchise voters.

Estelle Voisin arrived at University Park United Methodist Church before work at 8:30 a.m. where navigators deployed by the county to assist amid the confusion looked up her registration on an iPad and directed her to a school 10 minutes away.

"They're making it more difficult for us," said Voisin, a Democrat. "They're eroding every single right that makes America, America and one of those is voting."

Shannon Fitzgerald, a navigator at the church, said she had to redirect 48 people to different polling sites within just the first two hours of polls being open. Fitzgerald said one was a woman who stopped to cast a ballot on her way to the airport but had to give up her vote because she didn't have time to make a second detour before her flight.

By 9:30 a.m. at Oak Lawn Branch Library, more voters were redirected to other polls than were able to cast a ballot on site, said David Fisher, the site's Democratic election judge. In that time Fisher said 69 people had voted but workers rerouted more than 70 to other places.

"They're confused like, well I voted here in the past," Fisher said.

One of those was Keith Idell, 77, a Republican who is used to voting at the Oak Lawn library but was instructed by navigators in green shirts that he had to head 1 mile away to Esperanza Medrano Elementary School.

At first, Idell said he thought: "Why do I have to travel around the city just to find someplace else to vote, screw it." But Idell said he values voting as a way to "get the right people representing us in government," so the retiree headed to the elementary school to try again.

More than 200 Republican precinct chairs voted in September to hold separate primaries this year. Republican Party chair Allen West declined to comment Tuesday on confusion unfolding on election day. He previously said precinct-based voting "reduces the opportunity for fraudulent activity," although research shows voter fraud is exceedingly rare in the U.S.

Democratic Party Chair Kardal Coleman confirmed hundreds of voters had been affected by the change by Tuesday afternoon, an outcome he tried to avoid by pushing for a joint primary.

But state law only allows countywide voting on election day if both parties agree, leaving all voters affected by the Republicans' decision.

He worried the problem will only worsen later in the day when voters are fighting with rush hour traffic after work to make it to the correct polling location.

“This is not just disenfranchising Democratic voters, this is disenfranchising everyone and this is a problem that we didn't need,” Coleman said. “Now we're seeing chaos ensue on election day.

Residents should confirm their polling place before heading out to vote by using the Dallas County [Elections Department's interactive tool](#) or calling 469-627-8683.

The separate primaries also require different check-in tables, workers and voting machines for each party within shared locations. Red and blue arrows direct voters to opposite sides of the room inside the polls, meaning voters accustomed to casting a ballot with privacy have to publicly announce their affiliation.

The Commissioners Court in January allocated \$1 million on a voter outreach campaign to push home mailers and advertisements alerting residents to the changes.

But as of midday, the county was seeing 50% to 90% of the people arriving at locations that traditionally have the highest turnout as universal voting centers being redirected to their precincts, said County Commissioner Andrew Sommerman.

Sommerman said many voters can only carve out small amounts of time in their day to cast a ballot, so he feared having to reroute them to other locations will result in suppressing the vote.

“If the goal of the Republican Party was to make voting more difficult, they have succeeded this day,” said Sommerman, a Democrat.

A little before 8 a.m., Glenda Amaya was in the Irving City Hall parking lot, getting back into her pickup to head to her third polling place of the morning. Amaya, 41, started at an Irving fire station, where a poll worker redirected her to another site on Story Road.

“But I was stubborn. I was like, ‘No, I can go to City Hall and go vote,’” she said. “But no, I can't.”

The trips to two extra voting sites added about half an hour's delay to her morning plans, Amaya said. But still, she was determined to cast a ballot.

"I feel like something's got to change," she said. "I know three, four years ago wasn't great, but this is not great, either."

At Samuell Grand Recreation Center in East Dallas, Gayla McGinnis, 66, appeared flustered as she exited the building and hurried back to her car around 9:30 a.m..

"This is where I vote every time," she said, after being told inside that she was in the wrong place.

She was supposed to be at work but now had to head back toward home to vote. It had taken some time for poll workers to discern her correct voting location: Bayles Elementary School, a 10-minute drive from the recreation center.

The same thing happened to Myra Gee, 33. She had been hoping to be "in and out" to vote. Now she also had to commute to Bayles Elementary to cast her ballot.

Gee felt lucky that her remote job is flexible enough to give her that extra time. She knows that's not the case for everyone.

"I can imagine for other voters who maybe don't have that privilege, it can certainly be a challenge — or just discourage people in general," Gee said. "They say, 'Uh, I made it all the way over here. Now I have to go somewhere else. Just forget it.'"

Staff writers Silas Allen and Lauren Caruba contributed to this report.

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