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CERTIFIED TO VOTE! NEW BLUE VOTER CARDS DELIVERED!

AUSTIN, ---Approximately 533,000 registered voters in Travis County will receive new voter certificates by mail starting today. The content of the new certificates look exactly like the old ones and include the following:

1. Blue is the new color, replacing the current orange certificate that expires 12/31/09
2. A state-issued identification number, VUID, appears in the upper left corner.
3. "Date of birth" now appears as "year of birth".

"Two years ago federal and state laws changed what voters see on their certificate," said Travis County Tax Collector and Voter Registrar, Nelda Wells Spears. "In the upper left corner of the certificate, the state issues the 'VUID' number, which stands for Voter Unique Identification. When voters move within Texas, the state keeps track of where to add or cancel a record."

Spears estimates 14% of the first-class mailed certificates (74,000) will be returned as undeliverable because the voter has moved and did not update their address. If a voter moved and provided a forwarding address at the post office, a follow up letter goes out from the tax office requesting an address update. If the voter fails to respond, the record is placed in a suspense file. While this action does not prevent voting, it may cause a delay at the polling place on Election Day. Address updates can be made online if the voter has moved within the county. Find the link at www.traviscountytax.org.

Anyone who did not receive a voter certificate and needs to update address may download the form at www.traviscountytax.org or call 854 9473 anytime to order by mail.

See <http://www.traviscountytax.org/goNews.do#voters> for voter registration statistics and a sample voter certificate.