

Public Information Requests for ABBMs or Rosters

NEW LAW: House Bill 2559 (85th Legislature, RS, 2018) amended Section 86.014 to provide that a **copy** of an ABBM, including an Annual ABBM, becomes public information on the first business day after the election day of the **FIRST** election for which the application is valid (as opposed to prior law, which provided the copy was not available until the last election for which the ABBM was valid).

The **original** ABBMs are not available for public inspection until those materials are delivered to the general custodian of records after the election. [§ 86.014].

However, note that the information pertaining to a voter who has been entered onto the Roster for Early Voting by Mail must be made available for public inspection on the **earlier** of the day following the day the EV Clerk receives the ballot from that voter, or on the next business day after election day. See Section 87.121(f) & (h). There is an exception to this general rule that allows the voters themselves to review the Roster at any time to verify that their own information is accurate. The information on the Roster for Early Voting by Mail includes the by-mail voter's name, residence address, voter registration number, precinct number, the date the ballot was mailed to the voter, and the date the EV Clerk received the ballot back from the voter, if applicable.

References

Ingram, K. (2018). *Election Advisory No. 2018-09*. Retrieved from Texas Secretary of State: <https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/laws/advisory2018-09.shtml#8>