

# Chapter 19 Funding & Voter Registration Postage



# Chapter 19 Overview



Legislation passed in 1966 established Chapter 19 funds after the poll tax was declared unconstitutional.



Upon enactment of the legislation, funds were originally deposited in the county treasury.



In 1987, Chapter 19 of the Texas Election Code was amended to require SOS to approve requests submitted by Voter Registrars prior to reimbursement.



# Chapter 19 Overview



Chapter 19 funds are issued to counties to help defray costs in Voter Registration offices.

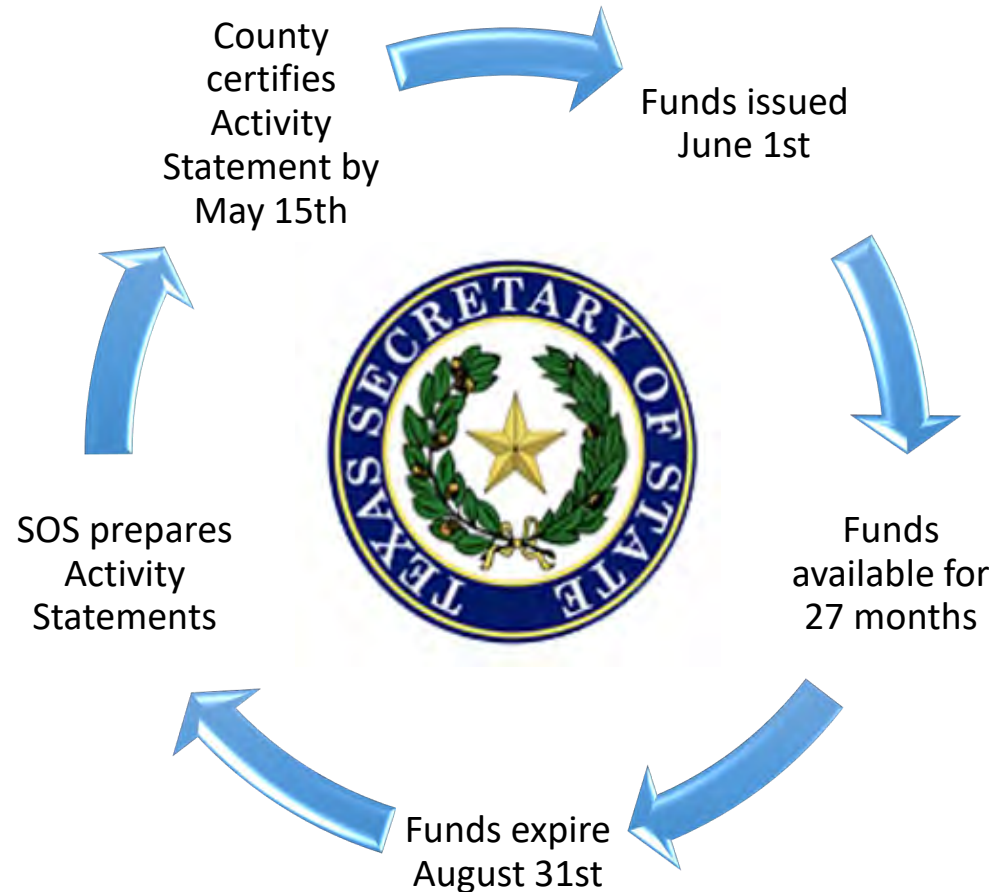
Allotments are based on reimbursable changes to Voter Registration lists.



Purchases are made at the county level, then a request for reimbursement is submitted to SOS.



# Chapter 19 Allotments



# Chapter 19 Overview

Comptroller imposes a deadline prior to August 31<sup>st</sup> for any documents or transactions for expiring appropriations.

To utilize funding that is set to lapse, all funding requests must be submitted to SOS prior to August 31<sup>st</sup>.



# Chapter 19 Overview

Remember:  
Commissioners Court may not consider  
the availability of Chapter 19 funds in  
adopting the budget.



# New Legislation Affecting Chapter 19

HB 1217 amended Section 85.005 of the Texas Election Code, effective September 1, 2023, by removing the population bracket, and applying extended early voting hours to all counties regardless of population size.



As a result, HB 1217 allows for a county with a population of less than 55,000, to use Chapter 19 funding to defray the cost to the county of keeping the polling places open.

Texas Administrative Code Rule §81.13 (4) in Response to HB 1217:

In elections where the county clerk is the early voting clerk and the commissioners court has not created a county election administrator, costs must be in consultation and agreement between the county clerk, or the county officer to whom election duties and functions have been transferred as defined in §31.091(1), Texas Election Code.



# Chapter 19 Overview

Requests for reimbursement must meet at least one of the following requirements:

Increase the number of registered voters.

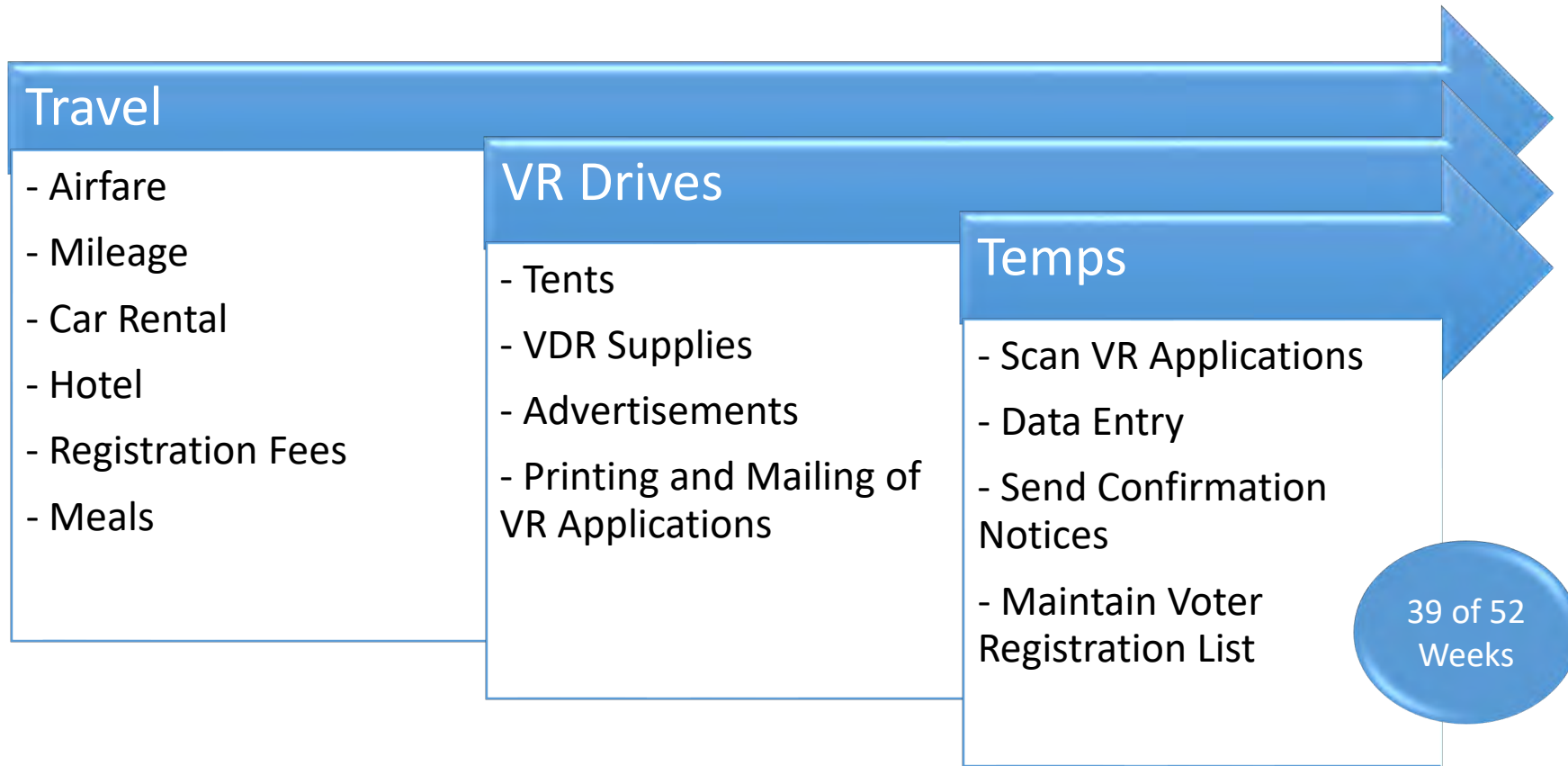
Maintain or report an accurate list of registered voters.

Increase efficiency of the Voter Registration office through the use of technological equipment.

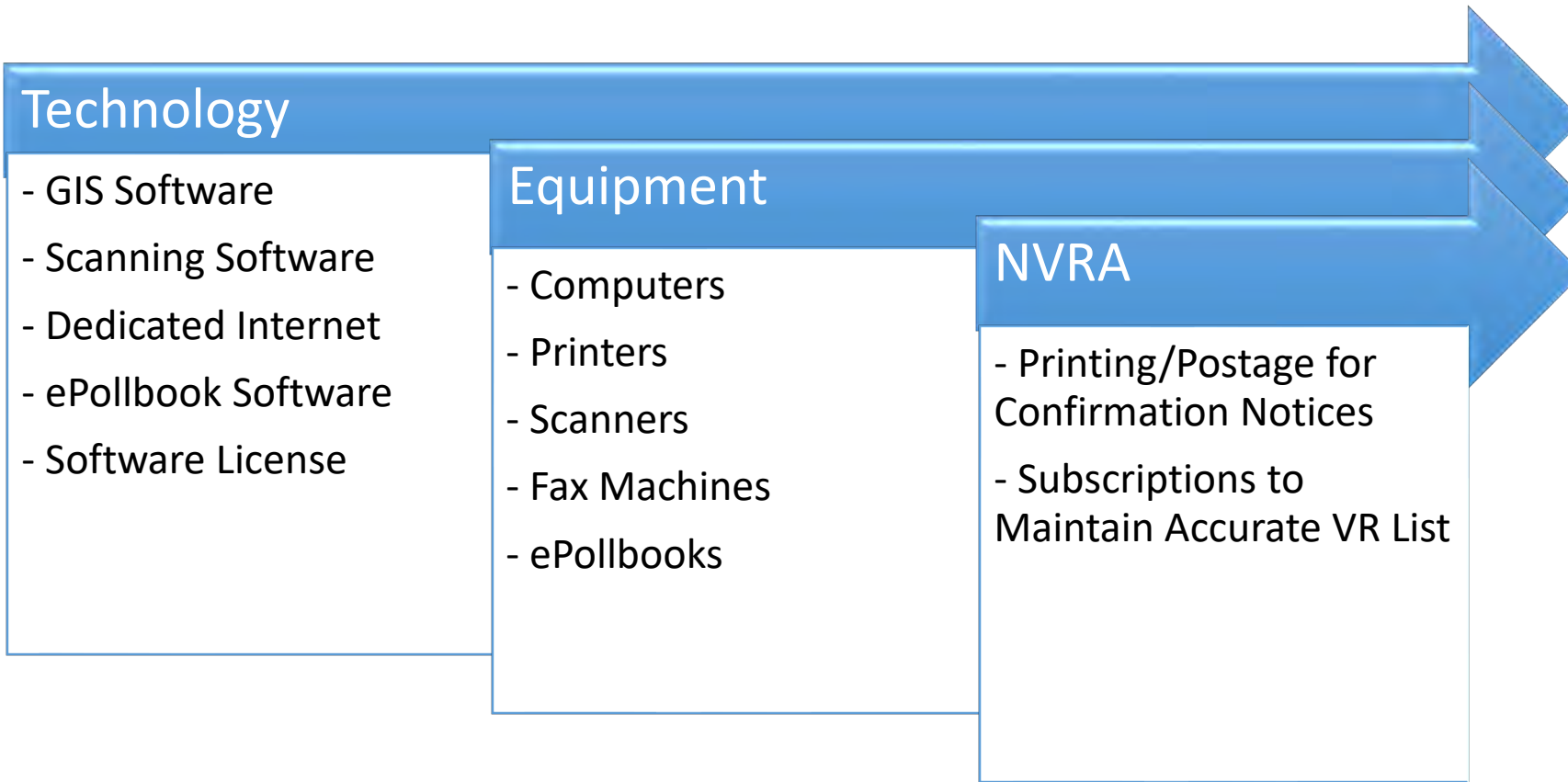
If the registrar's county has a population of less than 55,000, defray the cost to the registrar's county of keeping the polling places in the county open during the early voting period.



# Chapter 19 Reimbursable



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# Chapter 19 Non-Reimbursable

Food  
items not  
related to  
travel

Office  
Furniture

Chapter 19 funds  
may not be used  
to fund the  
normal day-to-day  
operation of the  
VR office

Duties  
required  
by law

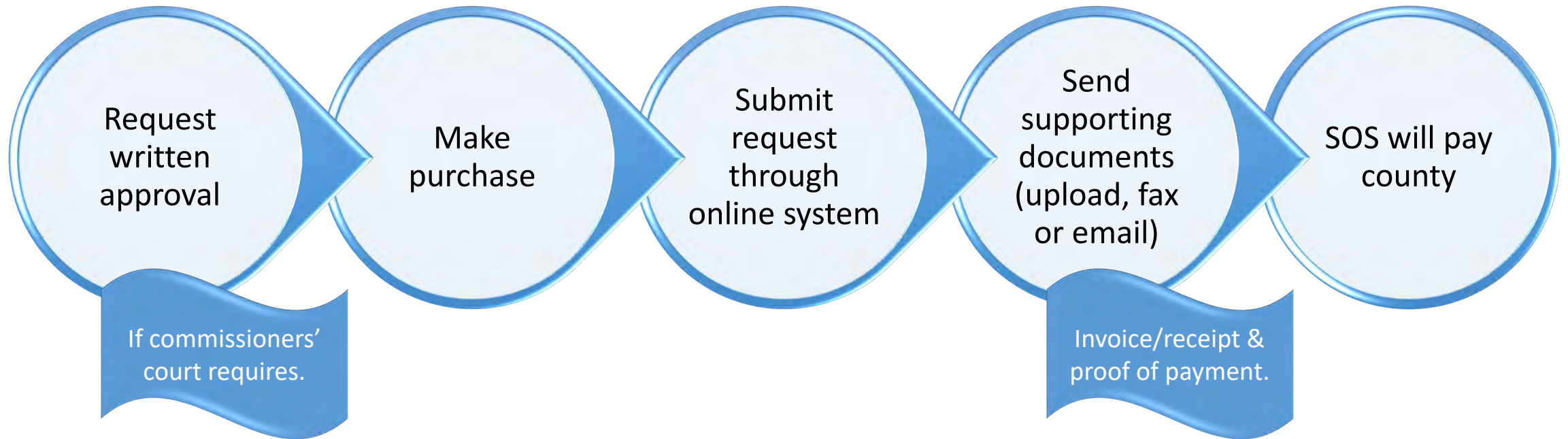
Permanent  
Employees

VR drives  
promoting a  
particular  
candidate

Promotional  
Items



# Requesting Reimbursement



# Requesting Reimbursement

Purchase, Temporary Personnel, and Travel reimbursement requests must be submitted to the Secretary of State within twelve months.

Change to Texas Administrative Code Rule §81.15 (b):  
Chapter 19 requests must be received within twelve (12) months of payment to vendor or prior to the deadline described in paragraph (a), whichever comes first.

