

**PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL AND COMELEC BRINGS OVERSEAS VOTING
CLOSER TO FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN TEXAS**



Consul General Gunther Sales (center), flanked by COMELEC Commissioner Noli Pipo (fourth from left) and COMELEC Commissioner Aimee Ferolino (third from right), were joined by Filipino American community leaders at the Town Hall Meeting on Overseas Voters' Registration

HOUSTON, Texas. The Philippine Consulate General in Houston and the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) concluded a three-day Regional Information and Education Campaign on Overseas Voters' Registration from 31 July to 2 August 2026, reaching hundreds of Filipino Americans and newly arrived Filipino educators ahead of the 2028 Philippine National Elections.

A COMELEC delegation led by Commissioner Aimee Ferolino and joined by Commissioner Noli Pipo, along with officials from the COMELEC Office for Overseas Voting (OFOV), traveled to Houston for a series of activities promoting the country's shift to internet voting and encouraging eligible Filipinos to register before the elections.



Newly-arrived Filipino teachers participating in the J1 Cultural Exchange Program with COMELEC Officials and Consul General Gunther Sales (center) at the special Town Hall Meeting on Overseas Voters' Registration

The Consulate and COMELEC held two town hall meetings. One gathered 56 Filipino American community leaders on 31 July, and another brought together 61 newly arrived Filipino educators in the J-1 Cultural Exchange Program on 2 August. Attendees learned about COMELEC's preparations for 2028 and shared feedback on their past voting experiences.

At the community leaders' town hall, Consul General Gunther Sales underscored the stakes for Filipinos in Texas. "The participation of Filipinos in Texas in our elections accomplishes two things at once," he said. "It strengthens your voice in the selection of our leaders, and it carries the perspectives and the contributions of this community into the wider national conversation on Philippine nation-building."

The campaign also featured a program at Fiesta Ko Sa Texas, a Filipino cultural festival held on 1 August that drew an estimated 1,500 attendees from across the state, including San Antonio, Dallas, Austin, Killeen, and Lubbock. There, Commissioner Ferolino and the COMELEC team briefed the community on internet voting for overseas Filipinos.



Eligible Filipinos wait their turn during the Overseas Voters' Registration at the Fiesta Ko Sa Texas event at Bayou City Event Center

"Overseas voting has gone online, and eligible voters can now expect greater convenience in casting their ballots," Commissioner Ferolino said, encouraging Filipinos in Texas to take advantage of the improved process.

The Philippine Consulate General in Houston reaffirmed its commitment to working with COMELEC and Filipino American community organizations to expand voter registration across its six-state jurisdiction — Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas — so that every eligible Filipino can take part in the 2028 elections.

Filipino citizens abroad who wish to register or verify their status may visit COMELEC's Office for Overseas Voting website (<https://www.comelec.gov.ph/?r=OverseasVoting>) or the Consulate's registration desk. Updates on upcoming registration activities in Texas and the other states under the Consulate's jurisdiction will also be posted regularly on the Consulate's official website and social media accounts.

Overseas voter registration remains open until 30 September 2027.



Officials from the Philippine Consulate General in Houston and COMELEC join eligible Filipinos registering at the Overseas Voters' Registration at the Fiesta Ko Sa Texas event at Bayou City Event Center