



# Countywide Polling Locations In Dallas County What would it take?

**DALLAS COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT**  
**JULY 2, 2019**

# AGENDA

2

1. What are Countywide Polling Locations?
2. State Pre-Requisites for Participation.
3. State Requirements for Implementation
  - ▶ Notice of Intent
  - ▶ Participation requirement: establish Vote Center Advisory Committee
  - ▶ Participation Requirement : Public Hearing.
  - ▶ Participation Requirement : Application Process
4. Establishing Countywide Polling Locations
5. Getting the word out, Promoting Vote Centers
6. Events & Tasks for Timeline Consideration



# What are Countywide Polling Locations?

3

- ▶ Countywide polling locations are also known as Vote Centers.
- ▶ The use of Vote Centers must be approved by the Texas Secretary of State.
- ▶ Vote Centers are Election Day polling locations where any registered voter may vote.
- ▶ They offer convenience of Early Voting, but on Election Day.



# Benefits of Election Day Countywide Polling Locations

- ▶ Provides a more streamlined voting process;
- ▶ Should allow poll workers the capability to bring election returns in sooner;
- ▶ Potential to increase voter turnout by eliminating the requirement to vote at a specific location;
- ▶ Should provide increased voter access to polling locations;
- ▶ Can therefore provide improved efficiencies in time and human capital related to election training, payroll, improved voting process and experience for voters at polling locations;
- ▶ Can provide voters with consistent voting locations so they know where to go vote;
- ▶ Eliminates the printing of bulky paper pollbooks;
- ▶ Fewer provisional voter due to voters being at “the wrong” polling location on election day.





# State Pre-Requisites for Participation

5

1. Exclusive use of direct recording electronic (DRE) voting systems at all polling places.
  - Purchased Electronic Poll Book from Tenex
2. Implementation of computerized voter registration list (e-pollbooks) that allows instantaneous verification that a voter has not already voted at another polling place.
  - Purchased Express Vote and DS200 from ESS
3. Commissioners Court must meet and hold a public hearing to inform and solicit opinions from voters, minority organizations, and other interested parties and approve vote center plan.



# Participation Requirement Notice of Intent

6

1. File notice of intent to Participate in program.
  - ▶ Complete SOS form and signed by Elections Administrator.
  - ▶ Sent March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019
  - ▶ Court Briefed for approval on March 5, 2019



# Participation Requirement

## Establish Countywide Polling Places Advisory Committee

7

### Committee Members consisted of

- ▶ Citizen Elections Advisory Committee (CEAC)
- ▶ Party Chairs
- ▶ Members from local political subdivisions like Cities and ISD's
- ▶ Organizations that represent minority voters such as;



# Participation Requirement

## Committee Members consisted of

Citizens Advisory Committee
Community Members
Dallas Eagle Forum
African American LGBT Organization
Citizens Matter
Daughters of Thunder
LULAC - Director for National Education Svc
Rowlett Community
Disability Rights Texas
Exec. Director Impact House
Korean American Professional
League of Women Voters
Media-Univision Mgr. of Community Empowerment
NAACP
National Federation of Blind Dallas Chapter
Elections Poll Worker
Political Party Chair - Democratic Party
Political Party Chair -Libertarian Party
Political Party Chair- Republican Party

City of Addison
City of Coppell
City of Dallas
City of Desoto
City of Garland
City of Grand Prairie
City of Irving
City of Richardson
City of Rowlett
City of Balch Springs
City of Duncanville
DCCCD
ISD – Richardson
ISD- Irving
ISD- Dallas
ISD- Garland ISD



# Advisory Committee Objectives

- ▶ Establish criteria and guidelines to be used for selecting vote center locations, and recommendations regarding the number of locations used. **COMPLETED**
- ▶ Assist in establishing a communication plan that will be developed to notify voters of Vote Center and the change of polling locations. **COMPLETED**
- ▶ Establish criteria that should be used in choosing Election Day Judges and Alternate Judges according to Texas Election Code Section 32.002. **COMPLETED**



# Committee Meetings

- ▶ Committee met the following dates I;
  - ▶ April 11, 2019
  - ▶ May 9, 2019
  - ▶ May 30, 2019
  - ▶ June 20, 2019

Had four meetings and made the following recommendation

- ▶ Reviews the 117 MPCT that share 58 locations for consolidation.
- ▶ Determined 16 Early Voting sites are located within one block to one mile of Election Day Sites.
- ▶ Provided recommendation on ways of getting the word out to voters regarding Vote Center access.

# Participation Requirement

## Public Hearing

11

Designed to solicit input from

- Voters
- Political Parties
- Other Political Organizations
- Members of the Minority Communities
- Members of Disabled Community
- Representatives of Political Subdivisions



# Application Process

12

Application to participate must be submitted to SOS by deadline for specific election. August 22, 2019

- ▶ Detail specifics for implementation of plan and request approval.
- ▶ Explanation of methodology used to select:
  - ▶ Countywide polling locations.
    - ▶ A statement that all joint election participants and Party issues have been resolved.
    - ▶ Vote Center Plan polling places must be utilized by all participating political subdivisions voting on uniform election day.
  - ▶ Election Judges and Alternate Election Judges selection.
    - ▶ Commissioners Court must apportion the number of judges for countywide polling places in direct proportion to the percentage of election precincts located in each county commissioners precinct won by each party in the last gubernatorial election.



# Selecting Vote Centers

13

## Recommended Criteria for selecting Countywide Polling Locations by Vote Centers Advisory Committee

1. Large meeting room to house election equipment
2. Internet capabilities and reception
3. ADA Accessibility
4. Large parking lots
5. On city transportation bus routes
6. Consolidation review
7. Allow political signs and electioneering
8. No concerns of security and children



# Potential Sites for Vote Centers

14

Methodology that will be used to select the countywide polling locations. There are at least two options:

- ▶ Dallas County will initially maintain coverage of all (100%) election day locations for two (2) election cycles to compare election data, turnout, staffing and other factors to determine how best to consolidate existing number of polling locations; or
- ▶ Adding 17 Early Voting Location not generally used on Election Day.



# Appointment of Elections Judges and Alternates

15

## Criteria that will be used;

- ▶ Assignments based on voting history of last gubernatorial election using proportional bases according to Sec. 32.002 of the Election Code.
- ▶ County chairs shall submit a list of names of persons eligible for appointment as election judges to the court commissioners court.



# “Getting the Word Out”

16

- ▶ The announcement of Dallas County will utilize Vote Centers will be posted on the Dallas County Elections webpage at [www.dallascountyvotes.org](http://www.dallascountyvotes.org) and Elections Department Social Media accounts.
- ▶ Announcements of vote centers will also be posted on other websites:
  - ▶ Dallas County, Cities, School Districts, College Districts and political parties
- ▶ Public Service Announcements – Newspaper, Radio, and TV Advertising;
- ▶ Publicize brochures and flyers to inform community of the vote centers and its benefits;
- ▶ Post in Political and Community Organizations website;
- ▶ Host community meetings at each Commissioner’s District
- ▶ Digital ads on Tax Office monitors;
- ▶ Monthly press releases to over 200 media outlets;
- ▶ Explore DART advertising on Light Rail and Bus;
- ▶ Explore Water Bill inserts.





# Timeline of Events and Tasks

17

- E-Pollbook have been acquired. February,2019
- Purchase of Direct Recording Equipment (Must go through County brief, bid and purchasing processes). Upon court approval on March,2019
- Submit a Notice of Intent to Participate in Program for on or by, March 11, 2019
- Establish and convene the Vote Center Advisory Committee, March 2019
- Prepare and develop Vote Center Program Plan to submit to SOS, July 2019



# Timeline of Events and Tasks Continued;

18

- Four (4) Public VCAC meetings one in each Commissioner District, June - July
- Five (5) Public informational meetings on VCPP, June – July
- Tuesday, July 2 – Tuesday, July 9, 2019 - Continue to prepare final draft and documentation for Application to Participate in CWPP Program.



# Timeline of Events and Tasks Continued;

19

- ❑ Tuesday, July 2 – Tuesday, July 9, 2019 - Prepare Letter from County Judge requesting approval of application.
- ❑ Between July 10 – 16, 2019 - Submit Application and proposed plan to Texas Secretary of State (Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> is the deadline).
- ❑ November 5, 2019 General Election is the target election for countywide polling locations implementation.
- ❑ Deadline to submit VCPP status report to Secretary of State, December 5, 2019



# Vote Center Completion Report

## “Stay Calm and Vote On”

Dallas County Elections Department  
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