

MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 31th DAY of October, 2022, Fort Bend County Elections Commission, met at a public hearing with the following present:

**CARMEN P. TURNER
LAURA RICHARD
CYNTHIA GINYARD
BOBBY EBERLE**

**TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR
COUNTY CLERK
DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN
REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIRMAN**

A meeting of the Fort Bend County Elections Commission has been called by Chairman KP George for Monday, October 31, 2022, at 09:00 a.m., in the Commissioners Courtroom, pursuant to Texas Election Code §31.033.

When the following were heard and the following orders were passed:

1. Call to Order.

Call to Order by Honorable Carmen P. Turner at 09:01 a.m.

2. Approve minutes of meeting held on October 31, 2022.
Motion by Laura Richard to correct the spelling of REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIRMAN last name and amend dates of pervious minute:
Approved minutes of meeting held on April 26, 2022.
Approved minutes of meeting held on October 20, 2022.
Correcting Bobby Eberle last name from misspelling of (Eberley)
3. Review and analyze the Fort Bend County 2022 Primary Election Cycle and Administration and take all appropriate action.

ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION Report: (John Oldham)

- A. Noted: Sixty-six (66) tech calls were twice as many during week of Primary which attributed to new people.
- B. Noted: One (1) issue lost connectivity for kiosk at George Library – restored after a few hours with the use of IT pep link.
- C. Noted: Only electionary issues at Four Corners.
- D. Noted: Minimal amount of equipment issues.

- E. Noted: Some express votes were down and replaced a number of them yesterday (10/30/22) before the polls opened.
- F. Noted: Everything is in pretty good shape.
- G. Noted: added about 2000 registered voters last week
- Saturday received over 700 (electronic) from DPS that registered from August to September and about 150 received did not have a resident address.
 - Do not know how many of the registered voters may have to vote already.
 - Received some paper forms from the Secretary of State and from Harris County early last week.
 - Added limited ballot voters and mentioned rolls have jumped in the 1st week of early voting.
- H. DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN: Requested explanation of the DPS registered voter process once received.
- I. Response to DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN:
- Explained the registered voters are received electronically from DPS and upon receipt they are processed in the Elections office.
 - Further explained some data (ex. address) is lost in transmission on some of the registrations.
 - Poll workers issue a provisional ballot to people that think they are registered.
- J. TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR:
- Noted: Riding around the polls and checking everything.
 - Visited Four Corners on a Saturday morning and witnessed lines outside with 50-100 people.
 - Noted: Four Corners needed four (4) additional machines and received two (2).
 - Concerned about long lines and questioned why the other machines are not in use.
 - Notified Chase Wilson that ten (10) machines were broken and was fixed by him.
 - Noted: Hightower machine was down Monday and Tuesday and not able to access on a Sunday.
 - Noted: Shorter lines to maintain safety the 2nd week of early voting and Election Day.
 - Requesting to work as a team with IT for support.
 - Noted John Oldham and Chase Wilson are the only two (2) fixing the machines.
 - Noted: IT have ten (10) people on call to assist and three (3) cars.
 - Questioned: Who can program the machines?
 - Noted: Witnessed an open ballot box and being picked up by someone.
 - Requesting transparency from the Election Administration Office.
- K. Response to TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR:

- Noted: A media outlet reported incorrectly that polls opened at 11:00 am on Saturday - polls did not open until 12:00 pm Saturday resulting in people coming an hour early and waiting in line.
- Noted: IT does not have the familiarity with the system to fix and program.
- Noted: They staff and plan for poll workers to work during peak times.
- Noted: They have not had long lines and the latest polls closed at 7:02 pm.
- Noted: Hightower confirmed machine down but averaging less than 20 voters per hour.
- Noted: Elections Office responsible for program machines.
- Noted: The person seen picking up the ballot box was Lisa (Election Administration Staff) – Lisa also has the skill to fix a machine.
- Noted: Election Administration Office follow the chain of custody form according to code.
- Noted: They replace ballot boxes when there's 3000 ballots and ballot boxes are not left overnight.

L. Response from IT DIRECTOR: (Robyn Doughtie)

- Confirmed: Vehicles available to move machines.
- Noted: IT is on standby to work with the elections office
 - Four (4) Active technicians available for early voting
 - Seventeen (17) on standby ready and able
 - Twelve (12) established as active for Election Day

4. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Report: (Jahan Toliver)

- A. Received Elections Office permission to post on Nextdoor an early voting reminder that listed (location, times, and GIS map). Also, informed voters they can vote at any polling location in the county.
- B. Noted: The website is being updated every day with voting statistics.
- C. IT logged 17 services tickets since voting began on 10/24/2022 – Noted: this is lower in comparison to 2020 with the initial use of the new machines.
- D. Noted: The larger issues has been various equipment issues.
- E. Noted: IT is in a support role to Election's Office.
- F. Noted: IT is ready to assist early voting and Election Day.

SHERIFF OFFICE Report: (Sherriff Eric Fagan)

- A. Noted: Concern is security at the polling locations.

- B. Noted: The Elections Office currently pay for security at a rate of \$20 per/hr. The Sheriff's Office is willing to put a Deputy on duty to cover the polling locations for safety.
- C. Noted: The Deputy on duty will only patrol the perimeter and not the voting lines. The Sheriff suggested to have the poll workers educated to monitor the voting lines to reduce voter agitation.
- D. Offered to have a Deputy escort the Elections Office staff when transporting ballot boxes.
- E. Suggested the Chairman educate Candidates on common courtesy instead of contacting the Sheriff's office for petty disputes.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY Report: (Sunni Mitchell)

- A. Noted: Everything is going smooth.
- B. Noted: Received a few calls and the Sheriff's office was notified and sent patrols based on the calls received.
- C. Noted: Based on some calls received, Mr. Middleton (District Attorney) setup a list of investigators to route calls for immediate response if a situation arise.
- D. Noted: They are working with the Elections Office, Sheriff's Office, and IT Department.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN:

- A. Noted: Will talk to the candidates and advise to speak with their workers about being professional.

REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIRMAN:

- A. Noted: Agreed workers need to remain professional.

TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR:


- A. Noted: Concern is safety, efficient process, machines working, lines moving, and working as a team.

5. Adjournment.

The Elections Commission Meeting adjourned at 09:47 a.m. on Monday, October 31, 2022.

Moved to adjourned by Laura Richard and second by Bobby Eberle.

I attest to the accuracy of the foregoing minutes.



Carmen P. Turner, Tax Assessor-Collector
Secretary, Fort Bend County Elections Commission