

## MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 8<sup>th</sup> DAY of December 2022, Fort Bend County Elections Commission, met at a public hearing with the following present:

<b>KP GEORGE</b>	<b>COUNTY JUDGE</b>
<b>CARMEN P. TURNER</b>	<b>TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR</b>
<b>LAURA RICHARD</b>	<b>COUNTY CLERK</b>
<b>CYNTHIA GINYARD</b>	<b>DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN</b>
<b>BOBBY EBERLE</b>	<b>REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIRMAN</b>

**A meeting of the Fort Bend County Elections Commission has been called by Chairman KP George for Thursday, December 08, 2022, at 09:00 a.m., in the Commissioners Courtroom, pursuant to Texas Election Code §31.033.**

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

**1. Call to Order.**

Call to Order by Judge KP George at 09:03 a.m., Thursday, December 08, 2022.

**2. Approve minutes of meeting held on October 31, 2022.**

- Motion by Laura Richard requests that the secretary post the agenda and minutes to the Fort Bend County Election Commission.
- Approved minutes of meeting held on October 31, 2022.

**3. Take all appropriate action in response to Information Technology Department updates regarding November 2022 election support.**

- Robyn Doughtie
  - Handout a summary report of the information technology support provided during the November 2022 election to all Election Committee members.
  - Noted specific issues encountered while supporting the elections administration. (all listed in the report)
    - Several voter check-in kiosks were not configured for daylight savings time due to outdated operating systems on the voting equipment.
    - At Jones Creek (remote location) some of the voting equipment was missing peripherals such as a power cord.
    - Noted paper jams, connectivity, wait times, and inventory control.
    - At least 36 polling locations had an outdated operating system. Version 1809 from 2020, those locations were last updated in 2020.

- Noted the possibility of a major security risk if the computer/software is not updated regularly.
- Suggested booting up the machines to update software manually and automatically prior to an election.
- Noted IT has a standard practice to avoid flaws and system issues for county computers and security.
- Noted the county IT department does not handle election equipment, only John Oldham, the election administration team.
- John Oldham
  - Noted the systems were all configured the same way before being deployed. Set Windows to time service to update automatically.
  - Action Item:** Will check with the state about configuration since the software is certified by the state of Texas.
  - Noted some anomalies with the machines and decided it was the Windows Time Server, which automatically updates time.
  - Noted several computer bugs with Windows 10, resulting in close to 30 nits not automatically updating. Some updates, however, about 10:00 am, reverted without an explanation of what happened.
  - Action Item:** Working with Votech on the issue and wanting to work with IT on a solution.
  - Noted that it will be an issue in the Spring election.
  - John yielded to Lisa Railsback (technology specialist) for an additional explanation of the time adjustment process and the use of the Jar file. Lisa noted that some systems were not set to automatic. Noted: they do not check the version of the systems
- Judge KP George
  - Action Item:** Requested that the election administration office utilize the IT department as a resource since they are experts with technology and use a checklist process.
- Robyn Doughtie
  - Noted: IT-supported 63 out of 82 locations; 14 locations did not open at 7:00 am because at least all the machines were down, and at 36 locations, at least 1 system was down. It had 10-12 techs visiting each site.
- John Oldham
  - Noted: locations that opened after 7:00 am did not open later than 7:35 am. Also noted that voters were directed to nearby locations to vote.
  - Noted: he was not opposed to staying open later due to the late start; however, he would have needed a judge's order to keep the voting sites open for an extended time.
- Carmen P Turner
  - Noted: long lines at voting locations
- Judge KP George
  - Noted: over 200 voters in line at Hightower location with only two machines in use
  - Action Item:** Provide better training for election Judges. Need a better working relationship with the IT dept.
- Cynthia Ginyard
  - Noted: Hightower had 3 machines after the 3<sup>rd</sup> machine was up and running. Also noted 3 kiosks is not enough for busy locations
- John Oldham

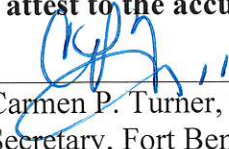
- Noted: Hightower had 149 people vote after 7:00 pm, and Cinco Ranch had 224 votes after 7:00 pm.
- Noted: plenty of voting equipment but some sites do not have enough space to place more equipment
- Bobby Eberle
  - Question concerning voter data discrepancy between SOS and Fort Bend and if that has been worked out (**Oldham response**: there are several factors there...one of the issues was one of the days that a complete file was not uploaded. “I found every one of them on the SOS site on the daily reports that we submitted. Some of the ones, about a thousand of them that were there, they were related to FPCA voters, which are not permanent many of which are not permanent registrations.”)
  - Question concerning certifying the official election results and the procedure involving the central count judge signing off. (**Oldham response**: certification is a separate function. The certification is, the deadline to do that was the last Tuesday, I guess, and that's done by the canvassing board.)
- John Oldham:
  - Noted legislation has required HASH validation should be done any time before an election.
- Laura Richards
  - Noted: For clarification, the role of the elections committee is to receive updates, ask questions, and give opinions of what is seen, but it is not the job to run the elections.

4. **Adjournment.**

The Elections Commission Meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m. on Thursday, December 08, 2022.

Moved to adjourned by Bobby Eberle and second by Cynthia Ginyard.

**I attest to the accuracy of the foregoing minutes.**

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