

FORT BEND
ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024

COUNTY COURTHOUSE 401 JACKSON ST. RICHMOND, TX 77469

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 21th Day of October 2024, Fort Bend County Elections Commission, met at a public hearing with the following present:

**JUDGE KP GEORGE
CARMEN P. TURNER
LAURA RICHARD
BOBBY EBERLE**

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

A meeting of the Fort Bend County Elections Commission has been called by Chairman KP George for Monday, October 21, 2023 at 9:05 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

Called to Order by Judge KP George at 9:05 a.m., Monday,, October 21, 2024

2. Approve minutes.

3. Receive update from Elections Administration Office

John Oldham

Early voting update

- All issues were human-related, with no equipment problems. Challenges arose primarily from having many new poll workers at the polling sites.
- We expected to reach 4,000 votes within the first two hours of early voting, the highest we've ever seen in that timeframe. This pace projects a total of 24,000 votes for the day.
- We have received 14,000 applications for mail-in ballots. Some applicants emailed them to us, and we had to respond, informing them that they must send their applications by mail.
- The number of FPCA's is significantly higher than ever before. Four years ago, we had 2,000, and now we're already at around 1,500 to 1,600.

Voter registration

- Processed about 1,000 applications last week. Additionally, we have a few thousand more that missed the cutoff deadline.
- We're seeing applications from both the Secretary of State and Harris County, and we expect even more to come in.
- Some registered voter will not get their voter card until after election due to cutoff deadline.

I T Department

- 4 IT workers are in the field for today's early voting, we will have a dozen on Election Day.
- 40% of those that's working early voting should be familiar with the process on Election Day.
- Daylight saving time and Election Day standard time has been tested. System is set up where every 30 minutes it actually verifies against the Microsoft server time.

Ballot Binds & Scanners

- Ballot binds will be changed out periodically because it holds anywhere from 3000-3500 ballots.
- Discuss replacing the DS 200 at around 10 sites where we anticipate high turnout. In November 2020, we were surprised when some locations took up to an hour and a half to close down, and we expect a similar situation-or possibly even longer delay-this time around.

Missouri City Annexation

- Discuss Missouri City annexations.
- Discuss holding a meeting with Missouri City, based on our county attorney's advice, to inform all residents about what happened and the steps we're taking to address it.
- Discuss developing solutions to address the 1,100 Missouri City voters by adjusting the poll setup.
- County Attorney Bridgette Smith-Lawson confirmed that John Oldham had been in communication with the Secretary of State, who provided guidance on what actions he could and couldn't take. This information was verified during a phone call with them.

4. **Adjournment**

The Elections Commission Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, October 21, 2024.

Motion to adjourn by Bobby Eberle with no objections noted.

I attest to the accuracy of the foregoing minutes.

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