

**TARRANT COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 7, 2019**

Heider Garcia, Tarrant County Elections Administrator, called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m. Other Citizens Advisory Committee members present were Libby Willis, Lisa Turner, Howard Shotwell, Wayne Merritt, Shirley Adams, Danna Trowbridge, Jennifer Hall, Eva Bonilla, Raul Gonzalez.

FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 16, 2019 MEETING.

Minutes from the meeting on January 16, 2019 were approved by the members present. There were no votes opposing the text of the minutes.

SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS: REVIEW OF THE RESEARCH AND DATA COMPILED BY THE ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

The following items were presented to the Committee members:

- Outline of the methodology document: this document was put together by the Elections Administrator as a sample of what is intended to be the final result of the Committee's work. It includes some of the items identified and discussed during the first meeting and will require more iterations before it can be considered a draft of a final version.
- The Committee was shown the final grid the County was split into to review the application of the methodology. It is a 3x3 grid, for a total of 9 sections that can be used for review.
- The Elections Administration showed some of the progress done regarding the data being collected:
 - a. A matrix of usage for polling places is nearly completed. This document shows, for every May and November election since 2016, when each location has and has not been used. Committee members suggest that the matrix include information from the Primary elections as well.
 - b. Maps and data on the dispersion of voters for EV locations are being prepared. This is a series of maps that will allow visualizing the precincts of residence of voters that cast ballots at every EV location.
- The Elections Administrator committed to creating a mechanisms to share all the data being collected with the members of the CAC.

THIRD ITEM OF BUSINESS: GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE METHODOLOGY FOR SELECTING LOCATIONS

In reviewing the outline of the document prepared by the Elections Administrator, a discussion started regarding the variables that should be considered when selecting locations as Vote Centers.

- Shirley Adams expressed her concerns for the problem of transportation to the polling place. From her point of view, it is important that we do not harm voters by making it more difficult to get to a location where they can vote. After some exchange of ideas, the committee agreed to reviewing the document provided and come back, on the next meeting, with proposals for item "Proximity to another site"; specifically, an answer to the question: what distance between 2 locations is close enough that it can be considered geographically redundant?
- The items regarding "Party voting" and "Minority population" are still open for being defined. Like all other criteria in the methodology, the goal is to come up with quantifiable and unambiguous criteria that can be stated as part of the methodology.
- Danna Trowbridge recommended adding the data for the past Primary elections to the matrix of usage of polling places. The other members of the Committee agreed and Elections Administrator committed to adding the data.

- Jennifer Hall reminded the Committee that the Republican Party of Texas Platform explicitly opposes countywide polling locations.
- Libby Willis expressed her desire to see some of the requests received by the Elections Administration re: not using schools for elections. The Elections Administrator made note of the request and will be compiling communications received to show the Committee.

FOURTH ITEM OF BUSINESS: DISCUSSION ON HOLDING TOWN HALL MEETINGS TO DISCUSS VOTE CENTERS THROUGHOUT TARRANT COUNTY

Heider Garcia explained to the CAC members the suggestion made by the Elections Commission about having Town Hall meetings in every Commissioner precinct, so the Vote Centers project can be presented to voters. The intent is to collect input from the public that can be factored into the methodology design. Various members of the CAC mentioned groups that they believe would have an interest in being informed on the project. The Committee agreed to:

- Officially attend as a Committee the Town Halls in every Commissioner Precinct. The schedule will be based on the recommendation of each County Commissioner for his or her precinct, and all members of the CAC will be invited.
- Heider Garcia, as the Elections Administrator, will join individual members of the CAC whenever they coordinate meetings with groups they wish to present the project to. The intent is to support the members of the CAC in collecting input from members of the groups of interest in their communities.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.