

**Approval of Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services
Between Denton County and Denton Independent School District
February 26, 2013**

SUMMARY:

This item requests the authority for the Superintendent to approve the Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services between Denton County and Denton Independent School District for the May 11, 2013 election, if submitted agreement is determined to be in the best interest of the District.

BOARD GOAL:

- IV. Parent and Community Involvement.....In pursuit of excellence, the District will:
 - a. Foster a positive and welcoming environment that encourages parent and community partnerships to achieve success for all our students
- VI. Growth & Change.....In pursuit of excellence, the District will:
 - a. Review and adjust policies and procedures effectively to address the challenges of rapid growth and changing demographic characteristics while maintaining and enhancing our strong sense of community

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

The Board granted the Superintendent the authority to approve the Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services between Denton County and Denton Independent School District on April 17, 2012 for the May 12, 2012 election.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Beginning with the May 8, 2010 trustee election, Denton County began offering a Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services to all political subdivisions that are within the boundaries of Denton County. This agreement and contract eliminated the need to contract with the City of Denton and the City of Corinth.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:

- 1) The Denton County Elections Administrator shall conduct criminal background checks on relevant employees upon hiring as required.
- 2) Voting locations will be, whenever possible, the usual voting location for each election precinct in elections conducted by each participating city, and shall be compliant with the requirements established by the ADA.
- 3) Any qualified voter of the joint election may vote early by personal appearance at any of the Denton County early voting locations. All Early and Election Day Voting will be conducted exclusively on Denton County's eSlate electronic voting system.
- 4) Denton County shall be responsible for the appointment of the presiding judge and alternate judge for each polling location per the joint election agreement and does not require additional approval. Denton County shall make emergency appointments of election officials as necessary.
- 5) Participating parties shall share a mutual ballot in those precincts where jurisdictions overlap. Multiple ballot styles shall be available in those shared polling places where jurisdictions do not overlap.
- 6) A tentative list of Early Voting Locations is included in the draft contract and is labeled Attachment B. Final lists of Election Day Voting Locations and Early Voting Locations are not included in the draft contract. Location information is scheduled to be available after the March 1st deadline to file for a place on the ballot and the March 6th deadline to notify the County of the decision to cancel an election has passed.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 1) Participating authorities agree to share the costs of administering the Joint Election.
- 2) Costs for polling places shared by more than one participating authority shall be pro-rated among the participants utilizing that polling place.
- 3) The cost for the 2012 Trustee Election was \$9,399.79.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

The District may proceed with the required notifications for the 2013 Board of Trustees Election.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

The federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 requires that any change in any “standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting” must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice for preclearance. Changes in election precincts, polling places, and various other actions require preclearance. The preclearance process will be conducted by Denton County.

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

None

ALTERNATIVES:

None

OTHER COMMENTS:

Denton County has requested the executed signature page for the joint contract be returned to their office by Friday, March 15, 2013. (This deadline is prior to the next scheduled board meeting). Frank Phillips, the Denton County Elections Administrator, will then sign the contracts and our copy will be returned by email.

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend the Board give authority for the Superintendent to approve the Joint Election Agreement and Election Services Contract between Denton County and Denton Independent School District for the May 11, 2013 election.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Debbie Monschke, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services

ATTACHMENT:

- Draft Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services
- Tentative list of May 2013 Early Voting Locations
- Signature page of contract

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____