

**Approval of Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services
Between Denton County and Denton Independent School District
September 10, 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 November 5, 2013 bond 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 February 26, 2013 for the May 11, 2013 Trustee election. On August 13, 2013 the Board approved the Order of Election for the November 5, 2013 Bond 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 the County, 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 Voting by personal appearance will be conducted exclusively on Denton County's eSlate electronic voting system. On Election Day, voters shall have a choice between voting on the eSlate electronic voting system or by a paper ballot that is scanned at the polling place using Denton County's eScan voting system. Provisional ballots cast on Election Day will be cast on the eSlate electronic voting system only.
- 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) The joint election ballots that contain ballot content for more than one joint participant because of overlapping territory shall be arranged with the appropriate school district ballot content appearing on the ballot first, followed by the appropriate city ballot content, followed by the appropriate water district ballot contents, followed by the county's general election.
- 6) A final list of Election Day locations will follow from Denton County Elections once all locations have been confirmed. Once completed, this will become "Attachment B" of the contract.

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 2007 Bond Election was \$ 19,511.25.
- 4) An amount of \$ 20,000 has been added to the 2013-2014 budget to cover the addition cost of this election.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

The County will provide the expertise and manpower required to administer the Bond Election.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

None

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 prior to Monday, October 21, 2013. This deadline is prior to the start of Early Voting.

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 November 5, 2013 election.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Debbie Monschke, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services

ATTACHMENT:

Draft Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services
Attachment “A”-Early Voting Locations Dates and Times
Signature page of contract

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____