

**Approval of Joint Election Agreement and Full Service Contract
Between Denton County and Denton Independent School District**

February 15, 2011

SUMMARY:

This item requests approval of a Joint Election Agreement and Full Service Contract for Election Services between Denton County and Denton Independent School District using all electronic ballots for both early and election day voting.

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 approved the Joint Election Agreement and Full Service Contract for Election Services between Denton County and Denton Independent School District on February 23, 2010.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Beginning with the May 8, 2010 trustee election, Denton County began offering a Joint Election Agreement and Full Service Contract 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) House Bill 2524 created the need to conduct criminal background checks on all employees that test, perform maintenance, transport equipment or perform technical support on the voting system. The criminal background checks will be performed by Denton County.
- 2) Voting locations will be, whenever possible, the usual voting location for each election precinct in elections conducted by each participating city.
- 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 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. However, in no instance shall a voter be permitted to receive a ballot containing an office or proposition stating a measure on which the voter is ineligible to vote. Multiple ballot styles shall be available in those shared polling places where jurisdictions do not overlap.
- 6) Attachment B (Early Voting Locations) is not included in the contract. There are 21 proposed Early Voting Locations; however, as of 2/11/11 not all have been confirmed.

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) If a participating authority of the Joint Election Agreement wishes to use both paper and electronic ballots on Election Day, the full cost of the paper ballot will be up to that participating authority at each polling location that is shared with other participating authorities that don't wish to have both paper and electronic.
- 4) Estimated Cost for the 2011 Trustee Election is \$12,773.78. The cost of the 2010 Trustee Election was \$12,131.28.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

The District may proceed with the required notifications for the 2011 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.

February 22, 2011 is the last date to notify Denton County Elections Department of intention to contract for election services.

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

None

ALTERNATIVES:

None

OTHER COMMENTS:

None

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval of a Joint Election Agreement and Full Service Contract for Election Services between Denton County and Denton Independent School District using all electronic ballots for both early and election day voting.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Debbie Monschke, Executive Director Administrative Services
Jo Davis, Elections/General Accountant

ATTACHMENT:

Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services
Joint Election Day Polling Locations

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____