

**Approval of Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services
Between Denton County and Denton Independent School District
April 17, 2012**

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 12, 2012 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 approved the Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services between Denton County and Denton Independent School District on February 15, 2011. The election was cancelled due to unopposed candidates.

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) Denton County shall be responsible for conducting 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.
- 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) Early and Election Day Voting Locations were not included in the contract. The Early Voting Location document (Attachment "B") is included in Exhibit "B" and the Election Day polling location document (Attachment "A") is included in Exhibit "C" of the DOJ submission from Denton County dated March 12, 2012.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 1) Participating authorities agree to share the costs of administering the Joint Election. Entities that have cancelled elections subsequent to the development of the Draft Contract are listed in Exhibit "A" of the County DOJ Submission dated March 12, 2012.
- 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 estimated cost for the 2011 Trustee Election was \$12,773.78; however the 2011 election was cancelled.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

The District may proceed with the required notifications for the 2012 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:

None

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 12, 2012 election.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

Debbie Monschke, Executive Director Administrative Services

ATTACHMENT:

Draft Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services
County DOJ Submission dated March 12, 2012

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____

Comments: _____