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Dear Mr. Underwood,

During the Summer 2019 Election Law Seminar, the State informed us that we are not compliant in all of our billing practices. For example, we are not allowed to charge flat fees for Election Services. In our effort to become compliant with the State, we have reworked our cost estimates for conducting elections.

Equipment Rental: We are allowed to charge a maximum of 10% of the purchase price of the equipment per DAY. However, we felt that number was much too high. The maximum allowable charge for a May City/School election with 2 Early Voting and 2 Election Day Vote Centers for a total of 8 days of voting would be \$75,420.00.

During the May City/School Elections, Erath County will charge a 3.75% rental fee. This amount will be \$3,535.31, unless additional equipment is required. If additional equipment is required, the amount for the rental will not exceed \$4,158.75.

County Clerk and Tax Office Staff Overtime: The second change we are implementing is to charge the entities sharing an election for the overtime that county employees accrue on election business. This time will be divided between all entities sharing the election based on the percentage of registered voters.

Percentage of Registered Voters: We are dividing the cost of the elections based on the registered voters in each district. This means that some entities will be paying for more of the election than others. For example, the City of Dublin will pay less than Stephenville ISD due to size. The next page has a Cost Estimate for a May Election, and page 3 has a chart showing the individual cost per entity based on percentage of registered voters.

How we reach a cost per entity: The Personnel Charges, Services & Supplies, and ES&S Invoices are split between all entities sharing the election. The Absentee Ballots will be divided between the entities that share a ballot. The Equipment Rental is paid for individually.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please do not hesitate to ask.

Regards,

Gwinda Jones, Erath County Clerk