

TO: Hope Andrade, Secretary of State sent via email
Ann McGeehan, Director of Elections

FROM: Sharon Rowe, Collin County Elections Administrator

DATE: December 27, 2010

RE: Vote Centers Post Election Report for November 2009

Collin County utilized 57 Election Day Vote Centers for the Special Elections held on November 3, 2009. A contract election was conducted for the Wylie Independent School District and a Local Option Election was conducted for the City of Farmersville. They were pleased that their voters had ballot access at all Election Day Vote Centers at no additional cost to them.

An analysis of turnout trends between special elections in 2005, 2007, and 2009 shows an increase in percentage turnout for the early voting time period between 2005 and 2007, with a decrease in percentage turnout for the early voting time period in 2009. This could indicate a desire by voters for convenience and flexibility in their choice of voting locations in 2005 and 2007 and an awareness of Vote Centers in 2009.

Collin County Election STATS November 5 7 9									
Year	RV	EV Turnout	EV % of RV	EV % Turnout	ED Turnout	ED % of RV	ED % Turnout	Combined EV/ED	Combined % of RV
2005	360,020	21,521	5.98%	35.6%	38,879	10.8%	64.4%	60,400	16.78%
2007	376,341	11,785	3.13%	41%	16,991	4.51%	59%	28,776	7.65%
2009	408,958	10,204	2.5%	33.3%	20,399	4.99%	66.7%	30,603	7.48%

Data Source: SOVC (Statement of Votes Cast) Reports included as Exhibits A, B, and C.

There were 162 precincts in Collin County, effective through January 1, 2009; with 163 precincts effective in November 2009. Voters were assigned to precinct specific Election Day polling places in 2005 and 2007. The following information is gathered from the VoteSafe report "Checked In By Voters" from the electronic pollbook. This information reflects the number of precincts represented by voters at each Election Day Vote Center.

Vote Center Site Code with Precincts Collin			
Site Code	Vote Center	City	# Precincts Represented by Voters
179	Ruth Cherry Intermediate School	Royse City	3
706	First Baptist Church - Lavon	Nevada	4
173	First Baptist Church - Branch	Princeton	6
163	Celina Senior Center	Celina	6
165	Texas Star Bank	Anna	6
18	Westminster Volunteer Fire Dept.	Westminster	6
167	Melissa Middle School Gym	Melissa	6
169	Community ISD Technology and Conference Center	Nevada	8
166	Blue Ridge High School Library	Blue Ridge	9
170	Cox Elementary School	Sachse	9

Vote Center Site Code with Precincts Collin

Site Code	Vote Center	City	# Precincts Represented by Voters
717	Seis Lagos Community Services Association Clubhouse	Wylie	9
20	Weston Community Center	Weston	11
11	Farmersville City Hall	Farmersville	12
716	Scoggins Middle School	McKinney	13
516	Old Settlers Recreation Center	McKinney	13
700	Benton Staley Middle School	Frisco	13
45	Country Lane Seniors Community	McKinney	14
68	Meadows Elementary School	Plano	14
714	Princeton High School	Princeton	14
172	Fire Station #7	McKinney	15
178	Prosper Community Library	Prosper	16
174	Lovejoy ISD - Spurgin Admin.	Allen	16
711	Liberty High School	Frisco	19
176	Parker Community Center	Parker	19
168	Barron Elementary School	Plano	19
704	Douglass Community Center	Plano	20
153	Wylie High School	Wylie	22
24	Mitchell Elementary School	Dallas	23
97	Valley Creek Elementary School	McKinney	23
26	Sigler Elementary School	Plano	24
182	Woodcreek Church	Richardson	25
52	Armstrong Middle School	Plano	25
604	Wylie Municipal Complex	Wylie	26
144	Murphy City Hall	Murphy	26
51	Bowman Middle School	Plano	28
506	Fire Station #5	McKinney	31
180	Suncreek United Methodist Church	Allen	32
2	McKinney Senior Recreation	McKinney	37
54	Clark High School	Plano	37
143	Shepton High School	Plano	38
78	Richardson Police SubStation	Richardson	42
171	DART Station	Plano	42
514	CCCC - Central Park Campus	McKinney	44
502	CCCC Preston Ridge Campus	Frisco	45
708	Fowler Middle School	Plano	46
181	Tom Muehlenbeck Recreation Center	Plano	49
142	Renner-Frankford Library	Dallas	51
501	Allen Municipal Complex	Allen	57
177	Plano Senior Center	Plano	58
504	Collin County Elections	McKinney	62
601	Carpenter Park Recreation Center	Plano	63
109	Parr Library	Plano	66
602	Harrington Library	Plano	73

Vote Center Site Code with Precincts Collin			
Site Code	Vote Center	City	# Precincts Represented by Voters
175	NSERL - Natural Science and Engineer Research Laboratory	Richardson	74
164	Haggard Library	Plano	77
50	CCCC Spring Creek Campus	Plano	78
603	PISD Admin	Plano	83

Data Source: Exhibits D and E

- 100% of the Vote Centers reflected voters from 3 or more voting precincts
- 56% of the Vote Centers reflected voters from 20 or more voting precincts
- 25% of the Vote Centers reflected voters from 45 or more voting precincts
- 9% of the Vote Centers reflected voters from 73 or more voting precincts
- 1.75% of the Vote Centers reflected voters from 83 voting precincts

These voting patterns seem to indicate a strong desire for flexibility and convenience in the choice of voting locations; close to shopping, work, school, and recreation.

Technicians were assigned as rovers to the Election Day Vote Centers; they processed a roll call site visit to each location prior to the opening of the polls and a scheduled pre-closing site visit to each in the late afternoon. The rovers were available throughout the day for return visits as needed to the polling place. Additional IT support staff was available in the Command Center.

Approximate wait times were posted to the website for each Election Day Vote Center in an effort to guide voters to locations with shorter wait times. An address feature was also added to the website that allowed voters to search an address and have the closest Vote Center mapped for them. ViaTech Corporation provided a bulk messaging service as a pilot program at no cost to the County. Email reminders were sent to subscribers which detailed available resources for information, see Exhibit F.

Educators and students are interested in the effects of Vote Centers on turnout. In addition to the studies performed by Robert M. Stein, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science at Rice University, Tanya Duncan, an advanced GIS student at the University of North Texas, wrote a paper on the GIS Mapping of Voter Turnout and Density at Voting Centers in Collin County, Texas for the November 3, 2009 General Election. Her paper is submitted as Exhibit G.

Election officials and voters were pleased with the Vote Center experience. Election officials did not have to re-direct voters to precinct specific polling places. Voters were especially pleased when they could vote at the Elections Office; usually the place where voters drop by for polling place information on Election Day.

Ultimately, the voter benefits from increased convenience and flexibility in the selection of a Vote Center on Election Day.