

Wednesday, November 24, 2010

Paul Miles
Staff Attorney
Sec. of State, Elections Division
PO Box 12060
Austin, Tx 78711-2060

Dear Mr. Miles,

Enclosed you will find information in regard to Vote Centers used in Madison County during the November 2, 2010 General Election.

I expect to have a few more letters of testimony in regard to the effectiveness/convenience of providing voters the opportunity to vote at any poll location. I am sending this report in without them in order to meet the deadline of December 2, 2010. I will forward the additional letters as they are received.

I have been asked if Madison County would continue to use Vote Centers. My answer is "I would be very disappointed if we did not".

I was disappointed that there was no session on Vote Centers at the last Elections Conference. Are there plans to include Vote Centers at the conference this summer.

If you need further information or documentation please let me know.

Sincerely,



Earl Parker
Election Administrator
Madison County
101 W. Main St. Rm 121
Madisonville, TX 77864



Earl Parker

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Madisonville, Texas 77864
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I. Publicity

A. Community presentations

B. TEA party: Approximately 100 people present; August 12, 2010

1. Comments : What if internet goes down; Why add more technology; keep things as they are; Where is funding coming from?

C. Republican Party: 20 plus present; August 19, 2010

1. Very little comment. Interest in allowing voters to vote at any poll place

D. Retired Teachers Association: 28 people present; September 2, 2010

1. Marva Beck, successful candidate for District 57 State Representative present

2. How does it work, not much feedback

E. Lions Club: 12 people present; September 26, 2010

1. No questions, no feedback

F. Downtown Merchants: 15 people present; October 21, 2010

1. No questions or comments

G. Three hour training of pollworkers in the use of the Votec System used in the Vote Centers. October 4th & 5th.

H. Media

1. Article in Madisonville Meteor on polling places. Planned article on Vote Center specifics did not happen because reporter was released.

2. Information about vote centers was included in Advertisement about notice of testing equipment

3. Information sent to Normangee Star

4. KMVL Radio given information on three different occasions for spot announcements

5. Information posted in the four post offices serving this area.

I. Polling Places: Announcements were posted on the doors of all eight polling places

II. Implementation

A. We chose to use all eight regular polling places as Vote Centers

B. Air cards from Verizon Wireless were purchased to use at five of the polling locations: 101; Madison County Library: 102; Midway Community Center: 203; Lakehouse at Lake Madison: 204; Elwood Baptist Church: 306; Normangee Community Center

1. Air Cards were tested and worked at all sites before making the final decision to go forward with the project

2. When setting up on the day before election all sites worked fine except for Elwood Baptist Church. Air Card could not acquire a signal. The local wireless internet service provider set up a receiver at the Church and all sites worked.

C. Polling locations at Madison County Courthouse were connected via Madison County's wireless internet. [305 and 407]

D. Precinct 408 polling location was in North Zulch Elementary School and used the wired internet service of the school

E. The software used was VoteSafe by Votec.

F. Hardware was eight Dell 11" notebooks for election day and two 15" notebooks for early voting

III. Statistics and Observations

A. Statistics

1. Comparison of elections

	2006	2008	2010	Comparing 2006/2010	
101	380	476	386	6	0.015544
102	271	403	308	37	0.12013
203	354	473	346	-8	-0.02312
204	367	556	421	54	0.128266
305	343	541	356	13	0.036517
306	351	521	402	51	0.126866
407	375	466	370	-5	-0.01351
408	529	742	655	126	0.192366
Totals	2970	4178	3244	274	

Early Votes
[includes
mail]
Election
Day

1286	2301	1753	467
1664	1877	1491	-173

2. The largest gains [+37; 102 +51; 306 +54; 204 and +126; 408 are predominately rural areas][57 voters from these precincts voted in polling locations 305 and 407, located in the county court house]
3. The smallest gains/losses [-8; 203 -5; 407 +6; 101 and +13; 305 are attached to the city of Madisonville][only one of these voters voted outside of the city, a poll worker who worked in 102 location]
4. 2006 and 2008 elections were self contained elections [Voter had to vote in his precinct polling place]

B. Vote Center Statistics [0 indicates home precinct]

Polling Place	101	102	203	204	305	306	407	408	Total Non Home pct
Library	0	8	5			2	5	4	24
Midway		0	1	21					22
Lake House	3		0	2	2			1	8
Elwood				0		1			1
District CR	2	3	4		0	9	21	5	44
Normangee						0			0
County court Room	15	7	22	13	63	21	0	15	156
North Zulch			1			3	2	0	6
Total voter who voted away from home pct.	20	18	33	36	65	36	28	25	261*

C. Observations

1. ***The statistics listed above do not include about 18-20 voters who were not processed through VoteSafe due to being inadvertently left off the voter registration roll at the time they were submitted to VoteSafe. Most of those voted in county court house.**
2. **County Court Room [central location county] had 7 or more voters from each precinct.**
3. **District Court Room [central location in county] had voters from all other precinct except 204**
4. **Library and Midway had next most voters out of home precinct. Midway had 21 voters from precinct 204. Many of pct 204 voters have to travel through Midway to get to Elwood [204]**
5. **Normangee [isolated in nw corner of county] had no voters other than 306 precinct voters**
6. **Elwood had only one outside vote. Isolated area.**
7. **North Zulch had only six outside voters. Expected North Zulch would have had more voters from precinct 306. Probably need more publicity in that area.**