



Dallas County
BRIEFING / COURT ORDER
Commissioners Court - Sep 01 2020

- Resolution
- Solicitation/Contract
- Executive Session
- Addendum

Authority for CEAC Members to Conduct Their Intended Duties

Briefing Date: Sep 1 2020
Funding Source: General Fund 120
Originating Department: Road and Bridge 2
Prepared by: JJ Koch, Commissioner
Recommended by: JJ Koch, Commissioner

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Citizens Election Advisory Committee was created by the Commissioners Court in 1989 and has been operating for a considerable amount of time without the resources that they require in order to affect their mission. The thirteen-member body is charged with the duty:

- 1) to review the general policies of the Dallas County Elections Department to ensure that all elections are conducted in a fair and legal manner;
- 2) to review the plans for each major election conducted by the Dallas County Elections Department;
- 3) to inspect, as necessary, physical facilities available to the Dallas County Elections Department for voting places, election tabulation, operation of the Absentee Ballot Board and Signature Verification Committee, and operations of the Elections Department staff;
- 4) to review all aspects of the Dallas County election system after each major election in order to evaluate the performance of staff, election officials, equipment and the adequacy of operational plans; and
- 5) to monitor the performance of Dallas County's election hardware and software, to consider recommendations for changes or improvements in the system, and to work with those state officials responsible for certifying Dallas County's election software.

By providing the members of the Citizens Election Advisory Committee access to all the elections department facilities without restriction, that body will be able to properly act as the watchdog that they were intended to be.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT:

Approval of this request supports the mission of the Citizens Election Advisory Committee and provides greater transparency in the operations of the Elections Department during this critical time.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Access cards for the thirteen members of the Citizens Election Advisory Committee will cost no more than \$130.

LEGAL IMPACT:

Prior to issuance of access to Dallas County Facilities, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office will issue an agreement with the Citizens Election Advisory Committee members limiting Dallas County liability for premises injury claims and obligating adherence to conduct guidelines (violation of which will subject the member to lose facilities access).

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN COMPLIANCE:

Approval of this order furthers the Administrative Plan by increasing transparency, thus helping Dallas County be a model governmental entity in our operations.

MOTION:

On a motion made by TBD, and seconded by TBD, the following order will be voted on by the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, State of Texas:

Be it resolved and ordered that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby provide the members of the Citizens Election Advisory Committee access to all the elections department facilities without restriction, so that they will be able to properly act as the watchdog that they were intended to be.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Original Order - 89-1160](#)

ORDER NO.: 89 1160

DATE: JUL 10 1989

STATE OF TEXAS) (

COUNTY OF DALLAS) (

BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 10th day of July, 1989, on motion made by Chris V. Senos, Commissioner District #4, and seconded by John Wiley Price, Commissioner District #3, the following Court Order was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Dallas County election system relies on hundreds of volunteers and temporary workers each year to operate complex equipment within a framework of very complicated laws and procedures, and

WHEREAS, the Dallas County Elections Department has recommended and the Dallas County Commissioners Court has approved in concept the appointment of a Citizen Election Advisory Committee to help determine election policy in the future and evaluate the performance of our election system in major elections

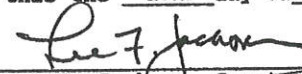
NOW BE IT THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by the Dallas County Commissioners Court that:

- 1) A Citizen Election Advisory Committee is hereby appointed with two members being nominated by each member of the Commissioners Court and with three joint appointments including the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee.
- 2) The Citizen Election Advisory Committee shall complete its duties on January 31, 1991, unless recreated by the Commissioners Court.
- 3) Staff support for the Committee shall be provided by the Dallas County Elections Administrator and the Committee may adopt such by-laws as are necessary for the effective operation of the committee, subject to the approval of the Commissioners Court.

4) The functions of the Citizen Election Advisory Committee are:

- o to review the general policies of the Dallas County Elections Department to ensure that all elections are conducted in a fair and legal manner
- o to review the plans for each major election conducted by the Dallas County Elections Department prior to submission of those plans for preclearance under the U.S. Voting Rights Act
- o to inspect, as necessary, physical facilities available to the Dallas County Elections Department for voting places, absentee polling places, election tabulation, operation of the Absentee Ballot Board and Signature Verification Committee, and operations of the Elections Department staff
- o to review all aspects of the Dallas County election system after each major election in order to evaluate the performance of staff and equipment and the adequacy of operational plans
- o to monitor the performance of Dallas County's election hardware and software, to consider recommendations for changes or improvements in the system, and to work with those state officials responsible for certifying Dallas County's election software.

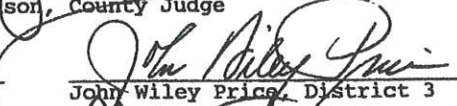
DONE IN OPEN COURT this the 10th day of July, 1989.



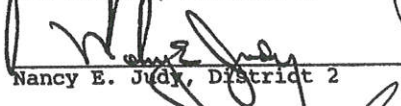
Lee F. Jackson, County Judge



Jim Jackson, District 1




John Wiley Price, District 3



Nancy E. Judy, District 2



Chris V. Sembs, District 4

RECOMMENDED BY 
Bruce Sherbet, Elections Administrator

b:coelec

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