Agenda

1. Introductions and review of VCAC Membership
2. Background on Vote Centers
3. Analysis of Dallas County Vote Center Plan
4. Discussion of the Future Utilization of Vote Centers
5. Future VCAC Meetings
   ▫ Dates / Times
   ▫ Information Requested by Members
Introductions and Review of VCAC Membership

• Dallas County Elections Department (DCED) Staff Introductions

• Vote Center Advisory Committee (VCAC) Membership
  ▫ 2019
    • Invited Members (no formal appointments by Commissioners Court)
    • 49 members from local political subdivisions, precinct officials, election workers, and community organizations
  ▫ 2023
    • Input solicited from Commissioners Court regarding replacements and additions to the 2019 membership
    • Approximately 70 members (see handout)
    • Electronic roll call
Background on Vote Centers

Texas Countywide Polling Place (CWPP) Program

• Texas Election Code section 43.007 allows counties to eliminate county election precinct polling places and establish countywide polling places (a.k.a. vote centers) for:
  ▫ General elections for state and county officers
  ▫ Each election held on the uniform election date in May and resulting runoffs
  ▫ Elections on proposed constitutional amendments
  ▫ Primary elections and primary runoff elections
  ▫ Political subdivision elections held jointly with the above elections
• A voter may vote at any vote center located within the County
Background on Vote Centers

Texas Countywide Polling Place (CWPP) Program

• Commissioners Court must initially hold a public hearing
• Secretary of State (SOS) shall select participants that meet requirements of Sec. 43.007
• County must adopt a methodology for determining where each polling place will be located, and the number may not be less than 50% of precinct polling places that would otherwise be in the county (65% in first year)
• County must provide notice to voters of any changes
• County must solicit input from organizations that represent minority voters
• County may continue program if Commissioners Court and SOS approve
• Each Commissioner’s precinct must contain at least one vote center and shall not contain more than twice the number in another Commissioner's precinct
Background on Vote Centers

Dallas County’s CWPP Program

• March 2019 – Filed notice of intent to participate in CWPP Program
• April 2019 – Formed the Vote Center Advisory Committee (VCAC)
  ▫ Met April 11th, May 9th, May 30th, June 20th
  ▫ Developed methodology for determining where vote centers would be located
  ▫ Recommended number of locations to be used as vote centers to Comm. Court
  ▫ Assisted in establishing a communication plan
  ▫ Established criteria to select Election Day Judges
Background on Vote Centers

Dallas County’s CWPP Program

- July 2019 – Commissioners Court approved application to participate
- September 2019 – SOS approved application to conduct November election as vote center election
- November 2019
  - Election conducted using vote centers
  - VCAC reviewed success of program
  - Application sent requesting establishment of permanent Election Day vote centers
- December 2019 – SOS certified that Dallas County conducted successful election and authorized County to continue to conducting elections under the CWPP Program
Background on Vote Centers

2019 VCAC Recommendations

- Criteria for selecting vote centers
  - Large room to house election equipment
  - Internet capabilities and good reception
  - ADA Accessibility
  - Large parking lots
  - On city transportation bus routes
  - Consolidation review
  - Allow political signs and electioneering
  - No security concerns
Background on Vote Centers

2019 VCAC Recommendations

• Utilize 100% of current voting locations for two election cycles (through November 2021)
• After two election cycles, “Compare election data, turnout, staffing, and other factors to determine how best to consolidate existing number of polling locations”
Analysis of Dallas County Vote Center Plan

Post-2019 VCAC Activities

• August 2021 – DCED proposed reconvening VCAC to review the program
  ▫ Based on legal advice, Commissioners Court postponed reconvening until after County redistricting
• December 2021 – Reconvening of VCAC postponed until after 2022 elections
• April 2022 – VCAC met to address expected poll worker shortages in May 2022
• January 2023 – VCAC reconvened to review the current vote center plan and potentially make recommended changes to Commissioners Court
Analysis of Dallas County Vote Center Plan

Elections Conducted Utilizing Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Election</th>
<th>Total Vote Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 4, 2019, Joint Election</td>
<td>324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 5, 2019, Constitutional Amen. &amp; Joint Election</td>
<td>466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 20, 2020, General Election</td>
<td>466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1, 2021, Joint Election</td>
<td>432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2, 2021, Constitutional Amen. &amp; Joint Election</td>
<td>443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 2022, Primary Election</td>
<td>429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7, 2022, Joint Election</td>
<td>406 (399)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 24, 2022, Primary Runoff Election</td>
<td>401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8, 2022, General Election</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Analysis of Dallas County Vote Center Plan

Advantages of existing Vote Center Model

• Voters have accepted vote center model with no complaints
• More options with low travel time for voters
• DCED has developed a reliable methodology for efficiently allocating personnel and equipment to vote centers
Analysis of Dallas County Vote Center Plan

Concerns about existing Vote Center model

1) Some voters still don’t understand ability to vote anywhere
2) Difficulty in staffing “one size fits all” elections
3) Cost of conducting “one size fits all” elections
4) Vote centers not available, suitable, or ADA compliant
Analysis of Dallas County Vote Center Plan

Concern #1 - Some voters still don’t understand ability to vote anywhere

• 2019 educational efforts weren’t adequate
• In 2022 - Dallas County responded by spending $181k in April and $605k in October
  ▫ "Vote Anywhere" awareness campaign
  ▫ Outreach included tv, radio, direct mail, billboards, and digital ads
  ▫ [Voter Center Commercial](#)
  ▫ Developed GIS Location Finder and Wait Time application to assist the public
    ▪ Early Voting Average Wait Time – 1.2 minutes
    ▪ Election Day Average Wait Time – 3.7 minutes
Analysis of Dallas County Vote Center Plan

Concern #2 - Difficulty in staffing “one size fits all” elections

- Turnout for May and November elections vary greatly

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Voter Turnout</td>
<td>% of Total</td>
<td>Voter Turnout</td>
<td>% of Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail</td>
<td>5,045</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>78,147</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EV</td>
<td>74,440</td>
<td>55.2%</td>
<td>728,888</td>
<td>78.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED</td>
<td>54,847</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
<td>118,670</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>134,820</td>
<td></td>
<td>926,518</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Total Turnout/Reg</td>
<td>9.88%</td>
<td>66.15%</td>
<td>9.63%</td>
<td>44.23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Analysis of Dallas County Vote Center Plan

Concern #2 - Difficulty in staffing “one size fits all” elections

- Recruitment of poll workers during low turnout elections is difficult
- May 7, 2022 Joint Election
  - Vote Centers reduced prior to Election Day due to recruitment concerns – 63
  - Vote Centers closed on Election Day due to lack of poll workers – 7
  - Election judges replaced 24 hours before Election Day – 81
  - Poll worker shortages on Election Day- 320
Analysis of Dallas County Vote Center Plan

Concern #3 – Cost of conducting “one size fits all” elections

• May Election - Costs are paid for by participating jurisdictions
  ▫ Joint Election Costs in 2021 went up because of:
    • New equipment utilized (new price list approved in Feb. 2021)
    • Pay increase for poll workers –$11 per hour to $16 per hour (for clerks) $18 per hour (for judges)
    • 432 Vote Centers in 2021 verses 348 polling places in 2019
    • New vote center formula to distribute costs
  ▫ DCED mitigated increased cost (projected $4.6 million, actual $2.9 million)
    • Use of analytics in worker and equipment allocations
    • Reduced reliance on vendors
    • Reduced number of temporary workers
Analysis of Dallas County Vote Center Plan

Concern #3 – Cost of conducting “one size fits all” elections

- Joint Election Costs for 2023 will continue to increase because of:
  - Pay increase for Election Day Judges from $18 per hour to $20 per hour
  - Pay for poll worker training and set up
  - County and temporary personnel cost increase
  - Polling locations price increases
  - For example, City of Richardson Election Day cost
    - 2019 Actual cost – $40,000
    - 2021 Actual cost – $62,000
    - 2023 Estimated cost – $97,000
Analysis of Dallas County Vote Center Plan

Concern #3 – Cost of conducting “one size fits all” elections

• Cost Comparison

  ▫ Unit Cost includes equipment rental, rental buildings, personnel, supply expense, service expense, postage, preparation & transportation of voting equipment, and mileage/fuel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Election</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Unit Cost</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May-19</td>
<td>352.18</td>
<td>$2,034,180.79</td>
<td>$5,775.97</td>
<td>Unit: Poll, Total: Election Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Nov-20</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>$1,831,174.49</td>
<td>$3,929.56</td>
<td>Unit: Vote Center, Total: Election Day Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-21</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>$2,075,333.67</td>
<td>$4,804.01</td>
<td>Unit: Vote Center, Total: Election Day Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-22</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>$1,388,584.93</td>
<td>$3,420.16</td>
<td>Unit: Vote Center, Total: Election Day Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** Nov-22</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>$3,157,276.72</td>
<td>$6,833.93</td>
<td>Unit: Vote Center, Total: Election Day Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** May-23</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>$2,865,591.57</td>
<td>$6,110.00</td>
<td>Unit: Vote Center, Total: Election Day Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** May-23 (Small Model)</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>$1,463,783.91</td>
<td>$5,855.14</td>
<td>Unit: Vote Center, Total: Election Day Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Personnel fees charged to CARES Act and no equipment rental fees charged.
** Estimated Cost Subject to change
Analysis of Dallas County Vote Center Plan

Concern #4 - Vote centers not available, suitable, or ADA compliant

- Certain vote centers are no longer available, and others are not reliable
  - Eliminating unavailable or unreliable vote centers should be considered
    - November 2022 - 35 unavailable locations (15 of which are permanently unavailable)
    - March 2022 - 45 unavailable locations

- Certain vote centers are not ADA compliant
  - Advocates have postponed legal efforts to challenge non-ADA compliant locations
  - Eliminating non-compliant vote centers should be considered
  - DCED is currently surveying all vote centers
    - [Vote Center Location Survey](#)
Discussion of Future Utilization of Vote Centers

Vote Center Options

- Single-model for all elections
  - Keep current number of vote center locations
  - Reduce number of vote center locations
  - Increase number of vote center locations

- Dual-model vote center plan
  - May Election (low turnout) Model
    - Reduce number of vote center locations
  - Primary & General Election (high turnout) Model
    - Keep number of locations near current levels
    - Re-evaluate questionable voting locations
    - Recruit new high-quality locations
Discussion of Utilization of Vote Centers

Timeline

• March 3, 2023 – Deadline to implement a plan for May 6 Joint Election
  ▫ Deadline for single-model vote center plan
  ▪ Tight timeline to discuss details of plan to accommodate high and low turnout elections
  ▫ Deadline for Phase I (low-turnout model) of Dual-model vote center plan
  ▪ Reasonable timeline to discuss number of locations required for low turnout elections

• August 2023 – Deadline to implement Phase II (high-turnout model)
  ▫ DCED and SMU could provide information to VCAC through summer of 2023
Future VCAC Meetings

- Dates
  - January 25, 2023, at 7:00pm (Virtual & In-Person)
  - February 1, 2023, at 7:00pm (Virtual & In-Person)
  - Date TBD - based on need

- Information Requested by Members
  - Vote Center Location Map
  - What information would you like to see?