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TARRANT COUNTY
NEWS & INFORMATION

November 2008

www.tarrantcounty.com

Elections Office offers voters on-line services

The Tarrant County Elections Office provides voters with several on-line services. Potential voters can check the status of their voter registration, view or print a sample ballot, and can find the location of their polling place for the November 4 election.

You can check your polling place by going to the Tarrant County Web Portal at *www.tarrantcounty.com* and clicking on "Tarrant Votes" logo at the top of the page. A complete list of all Election Day polling places has been placed on the main Elections Office page. You can also click on the "Look up Your Election Day Polling Place" link. Once you have been directed to the Voter Lookup page, follow the instructions on the screen to find your polling place. Or, you can go directly to *https://voterlookup.tarrantcounty.com/*.

On election night, periodic updates of results will be posted on the County's Elections Office website as the ballots are counted. To access all this information, go to Tarrant County's website at *www.tarrantcounty.com* and click on the "Tarrant Votes" banner.

Elections administration is one of the most important functions of County government. The Elections Administrator, appointed by the County Judge, Tax Assessor-Collector, County Clerk, the Democratic Party Chair and the Republican Party Chair, oversees voter registration and conducts of all federal, state and county elections. In addition, the department maintains the rolls of qualified voters, maintains the county's voting equipment, prepares election ballots, and conducts early voting. The County has approximately 967,000 registered voters and nearly 400 polling places.

Current projections indicate that between 70 to 80 percent of the county's registered voters will participate in the November 2008 General Election.

For information call 817-831-VOTE (8683).

Voters to have two voting system options

On Election Day, November 4, 2008, voters can cast paper ballots using the county's new eScan voting machines or they can use an eSlate machine to cast ballots electronically. Both voting systems will be available at each polling place, and anyone may use either system.

In March 2006 these two systems replaced the old connect-the-arrow paper ballots Tarrant County voters used on Election Day for many years.

The new paper ballot used in the eScan machines requires that a box be completely colored in with blue or black ink. When you have finished voting, take your ballot to the eScan machine and insert it into the box. If the ballot is scanned without any problems, you will see a waving US flag on screen. If there are any errors noted, please follow the directions on the machine.

The eSlate voting system allows any voter with a disability, including those who are blind or have difficulty reading or who have limited upper body dexterity, to vote privately and independently.

To use the eSlate, a voter simply turns a wheel to highlight their choice, presses the enter button to mark that choice and, after reviewing a Ballot Summary screen, presses the cast ballot button to finish voting. Voters needing assistance should press the help button once to get instruction on screen or press it twice to ask for help from a poll worker.

Remember; do not press the cast ballot button until you have finished voting and you see a waving US flag on screen. For more information, call the Elections Office at 817-831-VOTE, or visit the website at *www.tarrantcounty.com/elections*.

Fetal Infant Mortality Review
Tarrant County

Earlier this year, the Tarrant County Public Health Department brought together a panel of experts to examine more closely why infant mortality rate in the county is higher than the statewide rate.

Tarrant County's infant mortality rate from 2002 to 2004 was 6.9 per 1,000 live births compared to the state rate for the same period, which was 6.4 per 1,000 live births. This rate is one of the most important indicators of the general level of health of a community. A more in-depth analysis of infant mortality has found that most of the infant deaths are linked to poor health of the mother before pregnancy and a high number of premature births.

The mission of the Tarrant County Fetal Infant Mortality Review (TCFIMR) is to enhance the health and well-being of women, infants and families by identifying trends in the circumstances surrounding infant deaths. The trends may lead to recommendations that help improve community resources, practices, and service delivery systems.

The TCFIMR brings medical, social, and public health professionals together to examine social, economic, cultural, safety and health system factors associated with fetal and infant mortality. The process includes gathering data from medical records and conducting family interviews, which will help identify factors contributing to infant deaths.

The Case Review Team examines case summaries (which contain no individual identifying information), identifies trends and makes recommendations for community and health system changes, policy changes and public health messaging. The Case Review Team consists of physicians, nurses, nutritionists, social workers, mental health service providers and representatives from local hospitals and other community health providers.

By Spring 2009, TCFIMR hopes to collect enough data to begin the process of looking for related trends. For more information about infant mortality in Tarrant County, call 817-321-5311 or visit the Tarrant County Public Health Web site: *http://health.tarrantcounty.com*. To learn more about local agencies dedicated to reducing infant deaths in Tarrant County, visit the Babies Want to Live Web site: *www.babieswanttolive.org*.

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