

**TARRANT COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON MAY 17, 2019**

Heider Garcia, Tarrant County Elections Administrator, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. Other Citizens Advisory Committee members present were Libby Willis, Howard Shotwell, Wayne Merritt, Danna Trowbridge.

FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS: APPROVAL OF THE CORRECTIONS ON THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 14, 2019 MEETING

The document was approved by the CAC members present.

SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 9, 2019 MEETING.

The document was approved by the CAC members present.

THIRD ITEM OF BUSINESS: DISCUSSION ON THE FEEDBACK RECEIVED AT THE TOWN HALLS.

Libby Willis mentioned that she feels the transportation concern was mentioned in the events she attended. She recommends that the methodology be more detailed about how this is being factored in.

Another recurrent idea in the Town halls, according to Libby and Heider, was that wait time should be publicly available if Vote Centers are implemented, so voters can choose truly convenient locations.

The turnout of all town halls combined is estimated at some 250 people. Howard Shotwell compared it to other events in Precinct 3 and described the turnout as significant. Other members of the CAC agreed that turnout was, in most events, higher than expected.

The general opinion in the Town Halls was that Vote Centers are a widely accepted idea by those present. At the same time, there are concerns about a possible reduction of the number of locations being excessive. Heider Garcia acknowledged that reducing to the fullest extent allowed by law would cause concern among voters and stakeholders, and reminded everyone present in the Town Halls the reduction of locations and the possible financial savings were a secondary objective, the primary one being to make it easier for voters to cast their ballots.

Danna Trowbridge expressed concerns about the confusion that Vote Centers may cause voters of the Republic Party during a primary. She mentioned that republican voters are used to returning to the precinct where they voted to attend the precinct convention, and that by allowing them to vote anywhere they may think that is the place they have to return to in the evening, only to find out late in the day that that is not in fact the precinct convention they are allowed to attend. Heider Garcia acknowledged that while that may be a potential problem, in his view, it is the same problem currently faced when informing voters where they can cast their ballot, and that when a voter is not informed, the Vote Center scenario guarantees that, while they may not be able to attend the convention, at least they will be able to vote.

FOURTH ITEM OF BUSINESS: GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE METHODOLOGY FOR SELECTING LOCATIONS

Heider Garcia presented an updated version of the methodology document to the CAC members present and mentioned that it already includes all the thresholds and considerations that have been discussed in previous meetings. A companion updated file of locations that would result from the document presented was also shared with the CAC members. This file showed a list of 289 locations that would be kept and 59

that would be closed. Heider Garcia mentioned that an additional review of the 2 lists (Keep and Eliminations) was to be conducted by the Elections Administration before the next session.

Heider Garcia proposed that the CAC take a vote on the next meeting on approving the document and recommending its adoption to the Commissioners Court. The intent is that CAC members review it and, if applicable, bring specific objections to it to the next meeting.

Libby Willis suggested to add the following statement to the section referring to usage of Schools: *“except when school design is appropriate for conducting elections”*. The intent being to show that Tarrant County recognizes that in some circumstances schools are ideal for conducting elections. The members of the CAC present agreed to this change.

The CAC members agreed to hold the next meeting on June 13, 2019, at 3:30 pm, at the Elections Administration offices.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.