

**TARRANT COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON MARCH 14, 2019**

Heider Garcia, Tarrant County Elections Administrator, called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m. Other Citizens Advisory Committee members present were Florence Bruner, Libby Willis, Lisa Turner, Howard Shotwell, Wayne Merritt, Shirley Adams, Danna Trowbridge, Jennifer Hall.

**FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 7, 2019 MEETING.**

Minutes from the meeting on February 7, 2019 were approved by the members present. There were no votes opposing the text of the minutes.

**SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS: PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF TOWN HALL MEETINGS**

Heider Garcia mentioned to the CAC members that there is legislation filed (HB 4048) that would disqualify Counties in Texas with a population of more than 400,000 voters from participating in the Vote Centers program. He explained that if this bill is approved, Tarrant County may not be able to join the Vote Centers program after September 1, 2019. Given this, Heider Garcia proposed to the members of the CAC to hold the Town Hall meetings between April and May, so that the County can apply for the program in June 2019. The members of the CAC present agreed to this.

Heider Garcia explained that he would coordinate the schedule for the Town Halls with the Commissioners offices and will inform the members of the times and dates agreed upon as they are scheduled.

Shirley Adams suggested that the presentation to be used be updated to include details on: (1) the variables being considered when selecting locations for vote centers, and (2) a brief explanation of the type of new voting equipment that will be used so that the public can understand how different ballot types will be handled. The CAC members present agreed to this. Heider Garcia committed to showing a draft version of the presentation with the requested additions on the next CAC meeting.

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

Heider Garcia presented a series of files and maps to the members of the CAC. He explained that the Elections Administration had done the exercise of applying the methodology, as described so far, and had come up with the list of locations that fit the criteria for potential elimination. In the current form, the list came down to 266 locations, with a total of 82 that would be potentially eliminated. Heider also clarified that the methodology had not been applied in full, because there are some definitions that have not been elaborated by the CAC yet, such as partisan voting, e-day turnout, minority voters and population over 65. Heider told the CAC members that applying the rest of the criteria should start to bring that number up, which makes 266 the biggest reduction that can be made based on the current contents of the document. Heider also clarified that the methodology is not a mandate, and that if a location can not hold the amount of equipment required to provide an adequate level of service (e.g. limited space available), then surrounding or nearby locations that could be potentially eliminated would be kept to ensure voters would be properly serviced.

Heider asked the members of the CAC to review the list and identify sites they believe should not be eliminated, with the intent of evidencing where the selection criteria may require revisions. These potential deficiencies in the methodology will be discussed in the next meeting.

Shirley Adams reiterated her concern that transportation had to be factored in, and that she did not see it as incorporated in the current methodology. Lisa Turner reiterated her suggestion to use the Vehicle

ownership data from the US Census Bureau to address this concern, to which the members of the CAC agreed. Heider Garcia committed to exploring the option and discuss in the next meeting.

Dana Trowbridge suggested that the historical usage of a site be considered a primary factor in selecting locations. She recommends giving priority to sites traditionally used over sites that have been used less often or are newer.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45 p.m.