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November 24, 2010

Hope Andrade  
Secretary of State  
P.O. Box 12060  
Austin, TX 78711-2060

Dear Ms. Andrade,

Erath County again had the privilege of participating in the pilot program using countywide election precincts under House Bill 719 for the November 2, 2010 General Election. This was the third time Erath County used Vote Centers, and it was again very well received by our voters. Ninety-eight percent of the people surveyed like the Vote Center concept and would like for it to be used in all future elections.

Erath County voters are enjoying the flexibility of Vote Centers. This is evident at both the rural and city sites. Every Vote Center had voters from outside its true precinct lines. The majority of voters in the rural Vote Centers came from the original voting precinct as expected, but even the rural areas had voters that took advantage of the opportunity to vote at any location. The Lingleville Vote Center had 20% of its voters from outside its true precinct lines, Huckabay Vote Center had 9% of its voters from outside its true precinct lines, Bluff Dale Vote Center had 6% of its voters from outside its true precinct lines, and the Selden Vote Center had 3% from outside its true precinct lines.

The Dublin Vote Center and the Morgan Mill Vote Center are examples where Vote Centers unify a community. Voters were able to come to a single polling place to vote instead of being required to have two polling places because of precinct lines. Ninety-nine percent of the voters in both communities like the Vote Center Concept and would like to see it used in all future elections.

Vote Centers had the biggest impact on voters in the city of Stephenville. As you can see by the enclosed precinct maps, all of the Vote Centers had voters from different areas of the city. Voters took advantage of the freedom to vote at any location. In some instances voters had several Vote Centers closer to their home precinct but chose to vote all the way across town. When surveyed 67% of the voters said they selected the Vote Center closet to home but when votes cast at each Vote Center are mapped by precinct the results appear skewed. In the Texas Bank site for example, 49% of those surveyed said they chose the location because it was the closest to home but when mapped those numbers are distorted. The voter may have assumed the Vote Center

they chose was the closest to their home but in reality it wasn't. The thing of importance is that the voter has the choice to vote at any voting site they choose. Getting a true understanding of how or why the voter made that choice is difficult.

After the conclusion of the Election, the Erath County Clerk's Office spoke with several of the election judges and clerks that worked at the Vote Centers. They again supported the Vote Center concept and the online poll book system. The judges appreciated the simplicity of the electronic poll books and the speed of registration of the voter. The system easily allowed for added number of voters at the Vote Centers. When asked if they would like to return to voting by precinct they said no.

The results of Erath County Vote Center Survey for the 2010 General Election show that 20% of voters surveyed selected the voting location because of their work route, 5% because of their school route, 3% because of their shopping route, 67% chose the location closest to home and 5% chose the location because they just happened to pass by. These results are very similar to the results from the past two Vote Center Surveys.

The results of Erath County Vote Center Survey in the 2009 Constitutional Amendment Election showed that 32% of voters surveyed selected the voting location because of their work route, 5% because of their school route, 5% because of their shopping route, 36% chose the location closest to home and 21% chose the location because they just happened to pass by.

The results of Erath County Vote Center Survey for the 2008 Presidential Election showed that 19% of voters surveyed selected the voting location because of their work route, 8% because of their school route, 2% because of their shopping route, 65% chose the location closest to home and 5% chose the location because they just happened to pass by.

When comparing the results of the surveys for Vote Centers for the last three elections it is difficult to deduce a voter pattern. Each election is a different type; a Presidential Election, Constitutional Amendment Election and a Gubernatorial Election and the local races held along with each election are different as well. When the three elections are averaged, 42 % of voters surveyed selected their location because of their work route , 6% because of their school route, 3% because of their shopping route, 56% chose a location closest to home, 10% just happened to pass by.

As a comparison of voter turnout for early voting in the 2004 General Election 49% of voters voted early, 52% of voters voted early in the 2006 General Election, 58% voted early in the 2008 General Election, and 48% voted early in the 2010 General Election. Vote Centers were used in both the 2008 and 2010 General Elections. Early voting was lower for the 2010 General Election but at this point it is unclear if the use of Vote Centers had any effect on the early voter turnout.

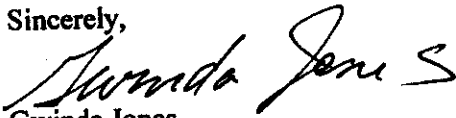
Enclosed as part of our post-election report you will find the 2010 General Election Spreadsheet that breaks down the votes cast by precinct as well as by Vote Center, 2006, 2008 and 2010 Election Spreadsheet / Vote Center Comparison, 2006, 2008 and 2010 Election Spreadsheet / Precinct Comparison, Vote Center Survey Spreadsheets, Vote Center Survey Questionnaires, Precinct Maps showing Vote Center turnout by precinct, letters of support for the Vote Center Program by stakeholders and both the Democrat and Republican Parties.

As you can see by the maps and the charts provided, Erath County voters took advantage of the opportunity to vote at the Vote Center of their choice and according to the surveys 98% of the voters like the Vote Center concept and want to see Vote Centers used in all future elections.

Erath County was pleased to again be a part of the Vote Center Program and hope to see future legislation making Vote Centers a permanent addition for all county wide elections. The voters of Erath County are becoming accustomed to using Vote Centers so it is annoying when they have to go back to voting in their true precinct. Our voters were frustrated and confused when they had to vote at their true precinct for the Primary. Erath County feels that consistency in the use of Vote Centers and polling places is important and Erath County would be in support of legislation to use Vote Centers for Primary Elections as well.

If you have any questions about the election or the information provided, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gwinda Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Gwinda Jones  
Erath County Clerk