



Diane Trautman · Harris County Clerk

Countywide Voting Centers in Harris County, TX

What are they and how do they work?

Election Day vote centers (EDVC) can be precinct-based or non-precinct based locations for voting depending on the county plan

- All polling locations are open to all eligible voters in Harris County
- All locations are located based on population density
- Prioritization is on convenience for the voter
- Vote at your neighborhood precinct location or where you work, shop or go to school
- Locations can be any existing precinct location, large or small
- Recommended plan: Leave all Election Day polling locations open including some Early Voting locations as well

Why are EDVCs better?

- Increases voter convenience and satisfaction
- Continuation of the same successful style of voting as during early vote
- Solves the confusion so many voters have about where their assigned location is on Election Day
- Reduces the costs of administering an election over time
- Increases the efficiency of collecting and counting votes
- Allows us to monitor and evaluate voter traffic on election day and use that data to make better choices on how to serve our voters

Recommended Strategy

- All current Election Day sites will remain open
 - Early Voting locations will remain open to eliminate confusion from voters who go to Early Vote locations on Election Day
 - Local communities would be consulted before any consolidations are made in future elections
- Voter education
 - Once approved, there will be a public education campaign to ensure voters know they can vote at any polling location and how to find Election Day information
- Equipment and Technology
 - At this time, there will not need to be a significant technology purchase as this type of technology has already been used on Election Day



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Plan to Educate Voters

- Post information on Harris County Clerk Website
- Post notices on Commissioner Court bulletin board
- Run ads and PSAs on Harris County TV access stations
- County Clerk Hispanic, African-American, and Asian Voter Outreach Coordinators will hold community meetings in all 4 Commissioner Precincts
- Other outreach will be done with minority organizations, disability rights organizations, Harris County Elected Officials, & Election Workers
- Use social media and telephone town halls
- Groups that were invited today help with outreach to their communities
- Host more community hearings/meetings as needed throughout the county

Harris Countywide Plan for EDVCs

- Leave all current Election Day locations open including Early Voting locations
- Look at voting patterns after a few elections to determine voter needs
- Check with community before consolidating any existing voting locations
- Start with a smaller election

Best Practices of Implementation

- Exit polls from counties in Texas that use EDVCs show:
 - Enhanced voter performance
 - Increased voter participation
 - Voters preferred EDVCs to traditional precinct-based voter locations
 - Some studies have shown a lower cost per vote cast than traditional locations

Next Steps / Action Items

- We would like to come back to Commissioner Court to ask for permission to apply to the Secretary of State on February 12 since the deadline to apply for the May election is February 18.



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Harris County Clerk Voter Outreach

Phone: 713.274.9550

Email: county.clerk@cco.hctx.net

Rodney Ellis

County Commissioner PCT 1

Phone: 713-274-1000

Email: Comm_Ellis@cp1.hctx.net

Adrian Garcia

County Commissioner PCT 2

Phone: 713-755-62200

Email: adrian.garcia@pct2.hctx.net

Steve Radack

County Commissioner PCT 3

Phone: 713-755-6306

Email: pct3@pct3.com

R. Jack Cagle

County Commissioner PCT 4

Phone: 713-274-4000

Email: commissionercagle@hcp4.net