



DIANE TRAUTMAN

COUNTY CLERK

Friday, November 1, 2019

Contact: Communications & Voter Outreach
713-274-9550

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Due to the [election advisory 2019-23](#), issued by the Texas Secretary of State Wednesday, October 23, 2019 the Harris County Central Count Plan has now changed. The Central Count Plan is established by the County Clerk's Office to outline the process and procedures for reporting results from the Central Count Station. This is required of all Texas county officials conducting elections.

This change, issued during Early Voting, will result in election night returns being delayed due to the process of now needing to bring the physical ballot boxes to the Central Count Station. Previously, the Harris County Clerk's Office had developed a plan that ensured secure election results would be delivered in a timely manner to the public.

A revised plan based off of these changes by the Secretary of State requires staff from the Harris County Clerk and Harris County law enforcement agencies to deliver mobile ballot box cards (MBBs) from each of the 757 Election Day locations to the downtown Central Count Station. The previous plan had included 10 drop off sites across the County to receive these MBBs in order to expedite the election reports.

The Harris County Clerk's Office will provide results as they are available; however, we are anticipating the complete unofficial results may be delayed due to the changes in the States Advisory and the amount of polling locations reporting. In the past, final reports were not complete until approximately 2 a.m. The Early Voting and Mail Ballot returns will be available after the polls close at 7 p.m. This change does not affect the process for voters or election workers. It just means election night results will be slower than anticipated.

The Office of the Harris County Clerk strives to make elections secure and transparent, but will comply with the Texas Secretary of State's Office for all election related decisions.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Trautman".

Diane Trautman, Ed. D.
Harris County Clerk