

**TARRANT COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON JANUARY 16, 2019**

Heider Garcia, Tarrant County Elections Administrator, called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. Other Citizens Advisory Committee members present were Libby Willis, Lisa Turner, Howard Shotwell, Shirley Adams, Danna Trowbridge, Jennifer Hall, Raul Gonzalez.

FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CAC.

All members of the committee introduced themselves and indicated who appointed them to the committee. The members of the CAC agreed to share their email addresses for all future communications.

SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS: VOTE CENTERS PRESENTATION

Heider Garcia repeated the presentation done for Commissioners Court on July 24, 2018. The presentation explains what vote centers are, it highlights certain definitions of the program in the Texas Elections Code, and summarizes the three (3) potential effects the Elections Department has identified as a result of joining the program:

1. Increase in voter satisfaction.
2. Increase in turnout.
3. Reduction of costs.

THIRD ITEM OF BUSINESS: MISSION OF THE COMMITTEE

Heider Garcia explained that he had requested Commissioners Court to create the CAC to satisfy the following requirements of section 43.007 of the Texas Elections Code:

- *(f) In selecting countywide polling places, a county must **adopt a methodology for determining where each polling place will be located.***
- *(h) In adopting a methodology under Subsection (f) or creating the plan under Subsection (g), **the county shall solicit input from organizations or persons located within the county who represent minority voters.***

The CAC was created to create the methodology mentioned in subsection (f), and to serve as the channel for collecting the public input required in subsection (h).

FOURTH ITEM OF BUSINESS: PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

Heider Garcia made a proposal to the CAC members: to divide the county in a grid, so that as the methodology is defined, the impact of applying it can be reviewed in smaller areas that are easier to handle and zoom into on paper maps. The CAC agreed to this initial approach, and requested that for a future meeting the Elections Administration prepare the following materials:

- Maps of the sections of the county defined by the grid.
- Detailed information of each location the Elections Department has on file.

The second meeting will include reviewing these materials and start developing the methodology for evaluating locations.

FIFTH ITEM OF BUSINESS: SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

After a series of proposals, the CAC agreed to plan for meeting the first Thursday of every month, each individual date to be confirmed in the meeting immediately prior depending on the availability of the CAC members. Therefore, the second meeting is agreed to be held on February 7, 2019, at 3:30 p.m., at the same venue (Elections Administration – 2700 Premier St., Fort Worth 76111).

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.