

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF FORT BEND

CONTRACT FOR ELECTION SERVICES

THIS CONTRACT made by and between Fort Bend County, a body corporate and politic under the laws of the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as "County" and the Municipal Utility District No. 174 of Fort Bend County hereinafter referred to as "Political Subdivision," pursuant to Texas Election Code Sections 31.092 and 271.002 for a November 6, 2018 election to be administered by John Oldham, Fort Bend County Elections Administrator, hereinafter referred to as "Elections Administrator."

THIS CONTRACT is subject to the written approval of the Fort Bend County Attorney and shall not be binding on the parties until such written approval is obtained. Upon written approval of the Fort Bend County Attorney and the participating parties, this CONTRACT shall be binding on said parties.

RECITAL

On November 6, 2018, the Municipal Utility District No. 174 of Fort Bend County is holding a Confirmation Election, a Election for the purpose of electing directors, an election for the purpose of approving, or disapproving, bonds, and a Maintenance Tax Election.

The County owns an electronic voting system, the Hart InterCivic eSlate and the eScan Voting System, which has been duly approved by the Secretary of State pursuant to Texas Election Code Chapter 122 as amended, and is compliant with the accessibility requirements set forth by Texas Election Code Section 61.012. Political Subdivision desires to use the County's electronic voting system and to compensate the County for such use and to share in certain other expenses connected with joint elections in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapters 31 and 271 of the Texas Election Code, as amended.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, agreements, and benefits to the parties, IT IS AGREED as follows:

I. ADMINISTRATION

The parties agree that the Fort Bend County Elections Administrator shall coordinate, supervise, and handle all aspects of administering the Election as provided in this agreement. Political Subdivision agrees to pay Fort Bend County for equipment, supplies, services, and administrative costs as provided in this agreement. The Fort Bend County Elections Administrator shall serve as the administrator for the Election; however, the Political Subdivision shall remain responsible for the lawful conduct of its election. The Elections Administrator shall provide advisory services in connection with decisions to be made and actions to be taken by the officers of the Political Subdivision.

II. LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Political Subdivision shall be responsible for the preparation, adoption, and publication of all required election orders, resolutions, notices, and any other pertinent documents required by the Texas Election Code and/or Political Subdivision's governing body, charter, or ordinances.

Preparation of the necessary materials for notices and the official ballot shall be the responsibility of Political Subdivision, including translation to languages other than English. Political Subdivision shall provide a copy of their respective election orders and notices to the Elections Administrator.

III. VOTING LOCATIONS

Voting shall be conducted in the offices of the Fort Bend County Elections Administrator located in Suite A-400 of the Fort Bend County Rosenberg Annex located at 4520 Reading Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471.

IV. ELECTION JUDGES, CLERKS, AND OTHER ELECTION PERSONNEL

Fort Bend County shall be responsible for the appointment of the presiding judge and alternate judge for each polling location in accordance with Chapter 32 of the Texas Election Code. The Elections Administrator shall make emergency appointments of election officials if necessary.

Upon request by the Elections Administrator, Political Subdivision agrees to assist in recruiting polling place officials who are bilingual (fluent in both English and Spanish).

The Elections Administrator shall notify all election judges of the eligibility requirements of Subchapter C of Chapter 32 of the Texas Election Code, and will take the necessary steps to insure that all election judges appointed for the Joint Election are eligible to serve.

The Elections Administrator shall arrange for the training and compensation of all election judges and clerks. The Elections Administrator shall arrange for the date, time, and place for presiding election judges to pick up their election supplies. Each presiding election judge will be sent a letter from the Elections Administrator notifying the person of the appointment, the time and location of training and distribution of election supplies, and the number of election clerks that the presiding judge may appoint.

Each election judge and clerk will receive compensation at an hourly rate established by Fort Bend County pursuant to Texas Election Code Section 32.091. Judges and Clerks will be compensated for actual time working at a polling place, time spent preparing the polling location prior to Election Day, and time spent attending any training classes required to successfully conduct the election. The election judge will receive an additional sum of \$25.00 for picking up the election supplies prior to Election Day and for returning the supplies and equipment to the central counting station after the polls close.

The Elections Administrator may employ other personnel necessary for the proper administration of the election, including such part-time help as is necessary to prepare for the election, to ensure the timely delivery of supplies during early voting and on Election Day, and for the efficient tabulation of ballots at the central counting station. Part-time personnel working in support of the Early Voting Ballot Board and/or central counting station on election night will be compensated at the rate set by Fort Bend County.

It is agreed by all parties that at all times and for all purposes hereunder, all election judges, clerks, and all other personnel involved in this election are independent contractors and are not employees or agents of the County. No statement contained in this Agreement shall be construed so as to find any judge, clerk, or any other election personnel an employee or agent of the County, and no election personnel shall be entitled to the rights, privileges, or benefits of County employees except as otherwise stated herein, nor shall any election personnel hold himself out as an employee or agent of the County, unless considered a county employee as determined by the Fort Bend County Human Resources Department. It is further agreed by all parties that at all times and for all purposes hereunder, all election judges, clerks, and all other personnel involved in this election are independent contractors and are not employees or agents of Political Subdivision. No statement contained in this Agreement shall be construed so as to find any judge, clerk, or any other election personnel an employee or agent of Political Subdivision, and no election personnel shall be entitled to the rights, privileges, or benefits of Political Subdivision employees except as otherwise stated herein, nor shall any election personnel hold himself out as an employee or agent of Political Subdivision, unless considered an employee of the Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 174 as determined by the Human Resources Department of the Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 174.

V. PREPARATION OF SUPPLIES AND VOTING EQUIPMENT

The Elections Administrator shall arrange for all election supplies and voting equipment including, but not limited to official ballots, sample ballots, voter registration lists, and all forms, signs, maps and other materials used by the election judges at the voting locations.

Political Subdivision shall furnish the Elections Administrator a list of propositions showing the order and the exact manner in which the proposition(s) are to appear on the official ballot (including titles and text in each language in which Political Subdivision's ballot is to be printed). This list shall be delivered to the Elections Administrator prior to the deadlines as described in section XVI. Political Subdivision shall be responsible for proofreading and approving the ballot insofar as it pertains to Political Subdivision's candidates and/or propositions.

VI. EARLY VOTING

The participating authorities agree to the appointment of the Election Administrator as the Early Voting Clerk in accordance with Section 31.097 of the Texas Election Code. The participating authorities agree to appoint the Elections Administrator's permanent county employees as deputy early voting clerks. The participating authorities further agree that the Elections Administrator may appoint other deputy early voting clerks to assist in the conduct of early voting as necessary, and that these additional deputy early voting clerks shall be compensated at an hourly rate set by Fort Bend County pursuant to Section 83.052 of the Texas Election Code.

Early Voting by personal appearance will be held at the locations, dates, and times listed in Attachment "A" of this document. Any qualified voter of the Joint Election may vote early by personal appearance.

As Early Voting Clerk, the Elections Administrator shall receive applications for early voting ballots to be voted by mail in accordance with Chapters 31 and 86 of the Texas Election Code. Any requests for early voting ballots to be voted by mail received by Political Subdivision shall be forwarded immediately by fax or courier to the Elections Administrator for processing.

Applications for ballot by mail should be mailed to the Early Voting Clerk, 301 Jackson St., Richmond, TX 77469.

Upon request, the Elections Administrator shall provide Political Subdivision a copy of the early voting report on a daily basis and a cumulative final early voting report following the election.

VII. EARLY VOTING BALLOT BOARD

Fort Bend County shall appoint an Early Voting Ballot Board (EVBB) to process early voting results from the Election. The Presiding Judge of Central Count, with the assistance of the Elections Administrator, shall appoint two or more additional members to constitute the EVBB. The Elections Administrator shall determine the number of EVBB members required to efficiently process the early voting ballots.

VIII. CENTRAL COUNTING STATION AND ELECTION RETURNS

The Elections Administrator shall be responsible for establishing and operating the central counting station to receive and tabulate the voted ballots in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code and of this agreement.

The participating authorities hereby, in accordance with Section 127.002, 127.003, and 127.005 of the Texas Election Code, appoint the following central counting station officials:

Counting Station Manager:	John Oldham, Elections Administrator
Tabulation Supervisor:	Robin Heiman, Assistant Elections Administrator
Presiding Judge:	Lisa Railsback, Equipment Technician

The counting station manager or his representative shall deliver timely cumulative reports of the election results as precincts report to the central counting station and are tabulated. The manager shall be responsible for releasing cumulative totals and precinct returns from the election to the joint participants, candidates, press, and general public by distribution of hard copies or electronic transmittals by facsimile (when so requested) and by posting to the Elections Administrator's web page located at "www.fortbendvotes.org".

The Elections Administrator will prepare the unofficial canvass reports after all precincts have been counted, and will deliver a copy of the unofficial canvass to the Political Subdivision as soon as possible after all returns have been tabulated. All participating authorities shall be responsible for the official canvass of their respective elections.

The Elections Administrator shall be responsible for conducting the post-election manual recount required by Section 127.201 of the Texas Election Code unless a waiver is granted by the Secretary of State. Notification and copies of the recount, if waiver is denied, will be provided to each participating authority and the Secretary of State's Office.

IX.. RECORDS OF THE ELECTION

The Elections Administrator is hereby appointed general custodian of the voted ballots and all records of the Joint Election as authorized by Section 271.010 of the Texas Election Code.

Access to the election records shall be available to each participating authority as well as to the public in accordance with applicable provisions of the Texas Election Code and the Texas Public Information Act. The election records shall be stored at the offices of the Elections Administrator or at an alternate facility used for storage of county records. The Elections Administrator shall ensure that the records are maintained in an orderly manner so that the records are clearly identifiable and retrievable.

Records of the election shall be retained and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of Section 66.058 of the Texas Election Code. If records of the election are involved in any pending election contest, investigation, litigation, or open records request, the Elections Administrator shall maintain the records until final resolution or until final judgment, whichever is applicable. It is the responsibility of Political Subdivision to bring to the attention of the Elections Administrator any notice of pending election contest, investigation, litigation or open records request which may be filed with Political Subdivision.

XIII. RECOUNTS

A recount may be obtained as provided by Title 13 of the Texas Election Code. Political Subdivision agrees that any recount shall take place at the offices of the Elections Administrator, and that the Elections Administrator shall serve as Recount Supervisor and Political Subdivision's official or employee who performs the duties of a secretary under the Texas Election Code shall serve as Recount Coordinator.

XIV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. The Elections Administrator shall file copies of this document with the Fort Bend County Treasurer and the Fort Bend County Auditor in accordance with Section 31.099 of the Texas Election Code.
2. In the event that legal action is filed contesting Political Subdivision's election under Title 14 of the Texas Election Code, Political Subdivision shall choose and provide, at its own expense, legal counsel for the County, the Elections Administrator, and additional election personnel as necessary.

3. Nothing in this contract prevents any party from taking appropriate legal action against any other party and/or other election personnel for a breach of this contract or a violation of the Texas Election Code.
4. The parties agree that under the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, neither Fort Bend County nor Political Subdivision can enter into an agreement whereby either party agrees to indemnify or hold harmless another party; therefore, all references of any kind, if any, to indemnifying or holding or saving harmless for any reason are hereby deleted.
5. This agreement shall be construed under and in accord with the laws of the State of Texas, and all obligations of the parties created hereunder are performable in Fort Bend or Harris Counties, Texas.
6. In the event of one of more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision hereof and this agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.
7. All parties shall comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, and codes of the State of Texas, all local governments, and any other entities with local jurisdiction.
8. The waiver by any party of a breach of any provision of this agreement shall not operate as or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach.

Any amendments of this agreement shall be of no effect unless in writing and signed by all parties hereto.

XV. COST ESTIMATES AND DEPOSIT OF FUNDS

It is estimated that Political Subdivision's obligation under the terms of this agreement shall be \$1,034.00. The Political Subdivision agrees to pay to Fort Bend County a deposit of \$630.00 which is approximately sixty (60) percent of the total estimated obligation of Political Subdivision to the County under this agreement. This deposit shall be paid to Fort Bend County within 10 days after execution of this contract. The exact amount of the Political Subdivision's obligation under the terms of this agreement shall be calculated after the November 6, 2018 election (or runoff election, if applicable), and if the amount of the Political Subdivision's obligation exceeds the amount deposited, the Political Subdivision shall pay to Fort Bend County the balance due within thirty (30) days after receipt of the final invoice from the Elections Administrator. However, if the amount of the Political Subdivision's obligation is less than the amount deposited, Fort Bend County shall refund to the Political Subdivision the excess amount paid within thirty (30) days after final costs are calculated.

XVI. RESULT OF NON-COMPLIANCE OF DEADLINES

The Political Subdivision agrees that it shall provide ballot details to the Elections Office not later than the 68th day (August 30, 2018) before the election. It is understood that if the ballot details are not provided to the Elections Office by the 61st day before the election (September 6, 2018) that the Elections Office may impose a penalty fee of \$1000.00 assessed to the total cost. It is also understood that if the ballot details are not provided to the Elections Office by the 55th day before Election Day (September 12, 2018), this contract will be declared null and void and it will be the responsibility of the political entity to conduct a separate election.

IN TESTIMONY HEREOF, this agreement, its multiple originals all of equal force, has been executed on behalf of the parties hereto as follows, to-wit:

- (1) It has on the _____ day of _____, 2018 been executed on behalf of Fort Bend County by the County Judge and the Elections Administrator pursuant to the Texas Election Code so authorizing;
- (2) It has on the _____ day of _____, 2018 been executed on behalf of the Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No.174 by its Presiding Officer or authorized representative, pursuant to an action by the Governing Body of the Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 174.

ATTEST:

FORT BEND COUNTY

Laura Richard, County Clerk

By _____
Robert E. Hebert, County Judge

ATTEST:

Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No.174

CONTRACTING OFFICER

By _____

John Oldham
Elections Administrator

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By _____

Matthew Grove
Assistant County Attorney