

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING ELIMINATION OF COUNTYWIDE POLLING PLACE
PROGRAM AND E-POLLBOOKS**

WHEREAS, Fort Bend County is currently one of the fastest growing counties in the state and country and has been participating in the Countywide Polling Place Program since 2015; and

WHEREAS, The Countywide Polling Place Program is favored by many of our voters over precinct based voting; and

WHEREAS, many of our constituents work outside the county and use the Countywide Polling Place Program as a necessary method to vote within their busy schedules; and

WHEREAS, the use of the Countywide Polling Place Program has increased voter turnout and reduced the number of provisional ballots for Fort Bend County voters; and

WHEREAS, the requirement to have precinct based voting locations in Fort Bend County, where public buildings are limited for use as polling locations in many voting precincts and private facilities are no longer willing to allow the use of their buildings as a polling site will create a significant expense and hardship on Fort Bend County and its constituents; and

WHEREAS, we have seen an influx of natural disasters and emergency management issues arise during voting that have displaced polling locations around the State rendering precinct-based voting unsuitable for use due to the limited number of public buildings in each precinct; and

WHEREAS, the use of electronic poll books was authorized by the Texas Legislature through the Texas Election Code Section 31.014 and such poll books allow voters to sign in electronically while confirming identity through official identification and confirming voters have not already voted via absentee ballot or at another polling location thus dramatically reducing voter fraud and improving wait times for voters; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of electronic poll books would limit transparency and the ability for voters, parties, and candidates to perform their own audit and reconciliation during the election; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of electronic poll books would ensure noncompliance with 87.121 of the Texas Election Code that requires that Early Voting and Election Day Voting rosters be made public by 11:00 AM the morning following the date the information was entered and would cause non-compliance with 127.131 (f) of the Texas Election Code which requires that the presiding judge of the central counting station to attest to a written reconciliation of votes and voters at the close of tabulation and post the forms to the website; and

WHEREAS, any Texas county using electronic poll books and electronic ballot marking devices are required, by statute, to obtain approval and certification from the Secretary of State to use such equipment and such certification must be re-obtained annually which confirms the security of the voting process for the public;

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County supports the use of Countywide Polling and Electronic Poll Books and believes that preserving these valuable assets provides the best opportunity for flexibility and accessibility to our voting public.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the undersigned elected officials do oppose the elimination of countywide polling places, the elimination of electronic pollbooks by the Texas Legislature.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 25th day of March 2025.

K.P. George
COUNTY JUDGE

Vincent Morales, Jr.
COMMISSIONER PCT. #1

Grady Prestage
COMMISSIONER PCT. #2

Andy Meyers
COMMISSIONER PCT. #3

Dexter L. McCoy
COMMISSIONER PCT. #4

ATTEST: _____
County Clerk, Laura Richard