

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE VOTING SYSTEM EQUIPMENT FUND

WHEREAS, in Texas local governments and county jurisdictions are the entities responsible for the acquisition of voting systems equipment; and

WHEREAS, the current voting systems equipment is at least 12 years old and experiencing significant equipment failure causing the sending of more equipment to the manufacturer in the past ten months than in the previous first 12 years; and

WHEREAS, the capacitors on the motherboards in the Judge Booth Controller equipment are burning out, there is increasing screen failure in the eSlates, and general wear and tear to cabling and pin connectors which are all problems that internal county maintenance cannot handle; and,

WHEREAS, the previous state Legislature passed a requirement ending straight party voting, a voting process on average that took less than a minute; and,

WHEREAS, with higher turnout projected in upcoming Presidential and midterm elections, a single voter will spend approximately 4-10 minutes in a booth; and,

WHEREAS, not only does the County voting systems equipment face technical failure due to wear and tear, but will need to add additional early voting sites and additional Election Day sites to compensate for higher turnout and wait times; and,

WHEREAS, the current Voting Systems Equipment of Fort Bend County is no longer manufactured requiring a comprehensive search of new equipment totaling an approximate \$9-\$15 million dollar range for 2,000 new units; and,

WHEREAS, as the population of most localities in the State of Texas continue to grow in size and population, there is a significant strain on local voting systems to continue expanding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS:

THAT ON January 29, 2019, THE **FORT BEND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**, MEETING AS A BODY IN RICHMOND, TEXAS, ADOPTS THIS RESOLUTION AND URGES THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE TO CREATE AND FUND A VOTING SYSTEMS FUND THAT PROVIDES GRANTS FOR COUNTIES TO MAINTAIN, REPAIR, AND REPLACE ELIGIBLE VOTING EQUIPMENT THROUGH A REASONABLE APPLICATION PROCESS MANAGED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE.

SIGNED, THIS 29TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2019.


Vincent Morales, Commissioner, Pct. 1


KP George, County Judge


James "Grady" Prestage, Commissioner Pct. 2


W. A. "Andy Meyers" Commissioner, Pct. 3


Ken R. DeMerchant, Commissioner Pct. 4

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk

