

Brandi Shipman
Montague County Elections Administrator &
Indigent Health Care Officer
P.O. Box 158
Montague, Texas 76251

September 8, 2015

Carlos Cascos
Secretary of State of Texas
Elections Division
P.O. Box 12060
Austin, Texas 78711-2060

RE: Countywide Polling Place Program Successful Designation

Application for Successful Designation for Countywide Polling Place Program

Montague County, Texas, hereby makes application to Carlos Cascos, Texas Secretary of State, for successful designation in the Countywide Polling Location Program as authorized under Election Code Sec. 43.007 and in support thereof gives the following information:

Montague County's current population is 19,503.

Montague County currently has 12,717 registered voters.

Montague County utilizes the Election System and Software System, comprised of direct recording electronic (DRE) voting terminals and a M100 Scanner to scan paper ballots. This system has been in place since October of 2006, and is used in every polling location both for early voting and Election Day.

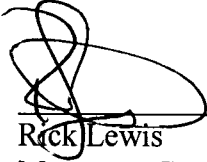
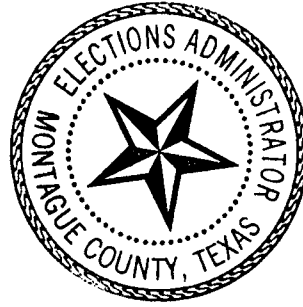
Montague County has implemented a computerized voter registration list that allows an election officer at the polling place to verify that a voter has not previously voted in the election. This system utilizing EA pollbooks has been in place since 2011 and is used in every polling location both for early voting and Election Day.

Montague County did implement the Countywide Polling Place Program with the approval of the Secretary of State's office for the November 5, 2014, General Election. That data has been submitted and the program proved to be successful by the voters of Montague County.

Signed and executed this the 8 day of September, 2015.



Brandi Shipman
Election Administrator



Rick Lewis
Montague County Judge

MONTAGUE COUNTY

POST-ELECTION VOTE CENTER REPORT- NOVEMBER 2014

Montague County utilized 10 Election Day Voter Centers for the November 4, 2014 General Election. Electronic poll books were used for voter check in at all locations and the equipment functioned exactly as it was intended. Montague County has been utilizing poll books since 2010 and the elections staff, workers and voters have experienced positive, satisfactory results in each election.

Verizon Mifis were purchased by the County and deployed along with poll books for online, real time internet connectivity. The Mifis functioned exceptionally well throughout the day at all 10 locations even with cloudy and down pours all day. Election staff was available throughout the day to answer any questions and help with any problems that may have occurred. Luckily no problems occurred with the mifis. The process of using them was covered well in training and will continue to be.

Montague County uses ES&S Ivotronic voting machines at all locations and all equipment functioned well throughout Election Day. Based on reports from other counties and their experiences when using vote centers for the first time, back up equipment was ready to deploy at a moment's notice. We only had 1 pollbook that did not want to accept voter signatures but I was able to replace with a working pollbook within 15 minutes of them calling me. Judges used the old pollbook to search voters then had them sign a backup combo sheet until the pollbook was switched out.

VOTING SITES

Sites selected were based on familiarity to voters, ease of access and adequate space availability, along with the farthest north, south, east and west points in the County.

The 10 sites used met or exceeded all qualifications and served all voters of the county. In assisting voters by phone on Election Day our goal was to route them to the most convenient vote center.

All sites were utilized by the residents of the area as was anticipated. In reviewing election data the sites in the two largest towns, Bowie and Nocona, were definitely used the most by voters that did not live in close proximity to the polling site.

All sites were marked with a vote here sign that was visible to voters.

COMMUNICATION PLAN AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

The communication plan to inform voters of the changes that occurred with the transition to vote centers proved successful.

- Direct mail flyers were sent to all Montague County households. Over 7,000 flyers were mailed and we received very few calls with questions about vote centers.
- Phone lines were available prior to and on Election Day with staff readily available for voter questions and election workers questions.
- Information was posted on the County website.
- Vote center information was posted at all former polling sites that were not open on Election Day. The notice had other locations listed.
- "Vote Here" signs were displayed at all voting centers.

Presentations were made prior to Election Day for the following groups:

Montague County Republican Women
Leadership Montague County
Montague County Commissioners Court

Since Election Day follow up have been made to the following groups:

Montague County Commissioners Court
Montague County Republican Women

In visiting with each group before and after the election the most common comments/feedback received on vote centers consisted of:

"So glad to finally be able to just go in a vote without worrying I'm in the wrong spot."
"Finally"
"This will be much easier for the voters"
"Win; win for the county and voters"

TRAINING AND ELECTION WORKERS

Training was provided for and attended by all election workers. Training covered Vote Centers, Photo ID, Poll book and Voting Machine Procedures. Most judges and alternates volunteered to work during early voting to provide additional experience.

The feedback from judges and clerks was great. Challenges they may have had will be used in future election training. Election workers and voters alike were thrilled that all voters could vote at all locations and voters no longer had to be referred to another polling site.

VOTER TURNOUT RECAP AND VOTER FEEDBACK

Montague County operated 10 vote centers for the November 4, 2014 General Election. Montague County had 11,422 registered voters in 2012 and 12,953 in 2014. Compared to the most previous like election, the overall voter turnout increased by 7.91% from 2010 to 2014 as evidenced on the attached election summary reports which shows ED and EV totals.

The success of vote centers is evident from the feedback received from election workers, the general public and members of the advisory committee. Communication received is included in this package. The elections department has verbally communicated with more individuals and those contacted all had positive comments about vote centers.

County Wide Survey Results
November 4, 2014 Election

QUESTION:	YES	NO	UNSURE	Mailout 18	Online 9
Voting Center more convenient?	51	4	2		
Do you like the concept of Vote Center?	54	3	1		
Did you vote at home precinct?	41	17	1		
Was Vote Center easy to find?	55	1			
Would you like to see this same concept continued?	51	3	3		
Did you choose this center because it was close to...?	Home 51	Work 10		Always votes 1	
How did you learn about the Vote Center?	Family 1	Found 1	City Hall 1	Newspaper 22	

"I enjoyed the experience and appreciate the convenience."

"Go back to paper ballots"

"Keep this box 14 open" 3 people said this