

OPPOSING ELIMINATION OF COUNTYWIDE POLLING PLACE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Hopkins County is currently a small, rural county in the state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, as a rural county, many of our constituents take advantage of their ability to vote on Election Day in a polling location of their choice through the Countywide Polling Place Program; and

WHEREAS, as a rural county, many of our constituents work outside the county and use the Countywide Polling Place Program as a necessary convenience to vote without having to adjust their work schedules; and

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

WHEREAS, the requirement to have precinct-based voting locations in Hopkins County, where there are no public buildings for use as polling locations in every voting precinct 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 Hopkins County and its constituents; and

WHEREAS, at the time of this resolution there are at least four pending bills which seek to eliminate electronic poll books (HB 1001), eliminate electronic marking devices (HB 1001 and SB 76), and eliminate countywide polling places (SB 77 and SB 148); 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

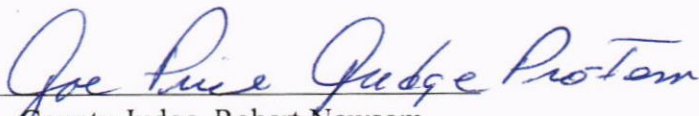
WHEREAS, the use of electronic ballot marking devices permits voters to cast their ballot with the aid of electronics on a physical ballot, the devices neither stores or tabulates ballots but allows the voter to record the vote which provides voters an additional opportunity to review their votes prior to casting and reassures the voter their ballot is recorded accurately; and

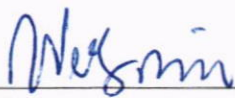
WHEREAS, any Texas county using electronic poll books and electronic ballot marking devices are required, by statute, to obtain approval and certification from the Secretary of State to use such equipment and such certification must be re-obtained annually which confirms the security of the voting process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

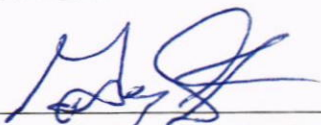
WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Hopkins County is of the opinion that regression into precinct-based voting would be a disservice to the voting community, reduce voter turnout, and could disenfranchise a large number of voters; and

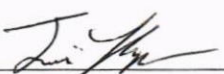
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the undersigned elected officials do oppose the elimination of countywide polling places, the elimination of electronic pollbooks, and the elimination of electronic marking devices by the Texas Legislature.


PASSED AND APPROVED this 25th day of March, 2025.

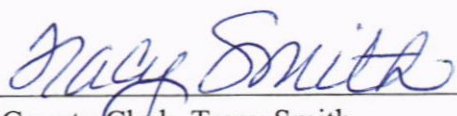

County Judge, Robert Newsom


Commissioner Pct #1, Wesley Miller


Commissioner Pct #2, Greg Anglin


Commissioner Pct #3, Travis Thompson


Commissioner Pct #4, Joe Price

ATTEST: 
County Clerk, Tracy Smith

