

DATE: July 23, 2012
TO: Commissioner's Court
FROM: Sharon Rowe, Elections Administrator
RE: Public Hearings on Vote Centers

- 1) This is to inform and solicit opinions from voters, minority organizations, political parties, political subdivisions within the county, and organizations representing voters with disabilities on the use of Vote Centers in Collin County on November 6, 2012.
- 2) This is to inform and solicit opinions from voters, minority organizations, political parties, political subdivisions within the county, and organizations representing voters with disabilities on the continued use of countywide election precincts (Vote Centers) for future elections. Section 43.007(k)(2) of the Texas Election Code allows counties to move forward in using countywide election precincts without approval from the Secretary of State once they have obtained "successful" status.

Requirements for counties to apply for successful status:

- 1) The county must have held at least one election under the program and filed its post-election report with the Secretary of State.
- 2) The Secretary of State must have received no major complaints supported by evidence in the county's election(s) using countywide election precincts.
- 3) The county commissioners court must hold a public hearing on the use of countywide precincts and provide specific written notice of the hearing to all county party chairs, local political subdivision, and affected public interest groups.
- 4) The county judge shall submit a letter to the Secretary of State applying for a determination of successful status, along with a recording or transcript of the public hearing.

Collin County has previously participated in the Countywide Election Precinct Program (Vote Centers) in November 2009, November 2010, and November 2011.