

The State of Texas



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Hope Andrade
Secretary of State

August 13, 2012

The Honorable Keith Self
Collin County Judge
Collin County Administration Building
2300 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 4192
McKinney, Texas 75071

Dear Judge Self:

The Secretary of State hereby accepts Collin County's application to participate in the countywide precinct polling place program for the November 6, 2012 uniform election date. We are accepting the County's application despite the County's failure to submit the application timely or to solicit support from the local jurisdictions and community interests groups prior to submitting the application, because a rejection of the application might result in a great disservice to the voters of Collin County.

DOJ Preclearance

Per our original memorandum, the next step in the process for participating counties is to submit the proposed changes in polling places and voting method to the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") for preclearance under Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act. In large part, the information that you submitted to our office should inform your submission. We would suggest that you make your submission as soon as possible in recognition that DOJ has 60 days to complete its review.

Final Report

The deadline for the county clerk or elections administrator to submit a report on the November 6, 2012 election is December 5, 2012. We hope that your report at a minimum will contain statements and opinions of interested parties, including persons who voted in the election, representatives of minority groups, and organizations concerned with persons with disabilities. Based on past elections, we would suggest that you stay in touch with these groups throughout the election process. While the county has the final word on polling place placement and the administration of the election, it is important that your local groups remain committed and involved in the countywide precinct election. If these groups have been involved in the project through the election period, it should be easier to gather their comments, complaints, and suggestions for your post-election report.

In addition to these statements, we would also request that your post-election report contain comparisons of voting patterns and turnout for the county between the November 6, 2012 election and their two previous elections held on a November uniform election date. An example of a voting pattern would be persons voting at the polling place near their place of employment

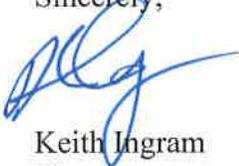
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versus voting at the precinct nearest the voter's residence. Another example would be comparing early voting to election day turnout to review whether the countywide precincts had any effect on the ratio between the two voting periods.

Again, thank you very much for your participation, and we look forward to working with you to make this program a success.

Sincerely,



Keith Ingram
Director of Elections

c: Ms. Sharon Rowe, Collin County Elections Administrator