



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 22-1817 **Version:** 1 **Name:**

Type: Discussion Item **Status:** Passed

File created: 3/4/2022 **In control:** Commissioners Court

On agenda: 3/8/2022 **Final action:** 3/8/2022

Title: Request by the Commissioner of Precinct 3 for a discussion and possible action related to the 2022 Primary Election fiasco including, an audit of the 2022 primary election, requesting the Election Commission to terminate the current Elections Administrator based on performance, ask the Election Commission to propose an immediate interim solution, request that the Texas Secretary of State monitor the Election Commission’s proposed solution, consider returning responsibility of the elections to the Harris County Clerk, consider returning responsibility of voter registration to the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector, and request that the Harris County Attorney investigate HR issues within the Election Administrator’s office.

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
3/8/2022	1	Commissioners Court		
3/8/2022	1	Commissioners Court		
3/8/2022	1	Commissioners Court		

Department: Commissioner, Precinct 3
Department Head/Elected Official: Tom Ramsey, P.E.

Regular or Supplemental RCA: Supplemental RCA
Type of Request: Discussion Item

Project ID (if applicable):
Vendor/Entity Legal Name (if applicable):

MWDBE Contracted Goal (if applicable):
MWDBE Current Achievement (if applicable):
Justification for 0% MWDBE Participation Goal: Choose an item.

Request Summary (Agenda Caption):
Request by the Commissioner of Precinct 3 for a discussion and possible action related to the 2022 Primary Election fiasco including, an audit of the 2022 primary election, requesting the Election Commission to terminate the current Elections Administrator based on performance, ask the Election Commission to propose an immediate interim solution, request that the Texas Secretary of State monitor the Election Commission’s proposed solution, consider returning responsibility of the elections to the Harris County Clerk, consider returning responsibility of voter registration to the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector, and request that the

Harris County Attorney investigate HR issues within the Election Administrator’s office.

Background and Discussion:

On March 1, 2022 the Primary Election in Harris County had many irregularities and problems that caused a significant number of voters to lose confidence in the election. These include:

- HarrisVotes.com was down the morning of March 1st, creating confusion of where to vote
- Election equipment malfunctions, including unlocked ballot boxes and issues with scanning the ballots
- The Elections Administrator did not finish the count until roughly 12:30 a.m. on March 3rd, the longest in recent history
- The early vote was not reported by the 7 p.m. deadline on March 1st
- Lack of training for elections staff (per EA precinct judges received 4 hours of training)
- Reports of voters being told they could not vote in their party primary
- Dangerous press communications including false statements by EA Longoria, including claims that parties were “stealing each other’s ballot boxes” and “there’s no damaged ballots”

Expected Impact:

Improve the operations of our county elections and improving faith in our elections system

Alternative Options:

Have a potentially catastrophic 2022 general election in November, and diminish trust in our elections

Alignment with Goal(s):

- Justice and Safety
- Economic Opportunity
- Housing
- Public Health
- Transportation
- Flooding
- Environment
- Governance and Customer Service

Prior Court Action (if any):

Date	Agenda Item #	Action Taken

Location:

Address (if applicable):

Precinct(s): Choose an item.

Fiscal and Personnel Summary			
Service Name	SFY 22	FY 23	Next 3 FYs
Incremental Expenditures (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Labor Expenditures	\$	\$	\$

Non-Labor Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
Total Incremental Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
Funding Sources (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Existing Budget			
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Current Budget	\$	\$	\$
Additional Budget Requested			
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Additional Budget Requested	\$	\$	\$
Total Funding Sources	\$	\$	\$
Personnel (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs)			
Current Position Count for Service	-	-	-
Additional Positions Requested	-	-	-
Total Personnel	-	-	-

Anticipated Implementation Date: 3/8/2022

Emergency/Disaster Recovery Note: Choose an item.

Contact(s) name, title, department: August Williams

Attachments (if applicable):