



TO: Mayor Jerry Dittrich and Members of Benbrook City Council

FROM: Joanna King, City Secretary

SUBJECT: Order November 5, 2019 General Election and Approve Joint Election Agreement

DATE: July 18, 2019

The general election for Mayor, Place 1 and Members of the City Council in Places 3, 5, and 7 is scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 2019. As in the past, the City Secretary requests that the City enter into a Joint Election Agreement with Tarrant County to conduct the election.

The advantages of joint Tarrant County for the November 5, 2019 election include:

- Tarrant County provides additional early voting polling places within the County. Benbrook voters would be able to vote early at any of these locations and not be restricted to voting only at the Benbrook location. An amendment will be made to the Order of Election to include any additional early voting sites due to joint election agreements with other political subdivisions.
- Tarrant County will provide all necessary voting equipment, obtain all polling places, obtain and trail all election officials, and obtain Justice Department submissions. In providing the equipment, the necessity of leasing the equipment from another vendor or making an outright purchase is eliminated, resulting in significant savings.

The proposed Resolution lists the Election Day polling places as designated by the Tarrant County Commissioners Court. It should be noted that Tarrant County is in the process of obtaining approval from the Texas Secretary of State to establish Vote Centers in Tarrant County. Vote Centers is a term used to refer to the Countywide Polling Place Program defined in the Texas Election Code. When a county participates in the program, voters are allowed to cast their ballots in any polling place in the county on Election Day, just like they do during early voting.

Tarrant County has applied to the Secretary of State and should receive either approval or denial by late August. If the application is approved, there is a possibility that Pct. 1021 (Benbrook Municipal Complex) and Pct. 1206 (Benbrook Fire Station) will be combined into a single precinct. The polling place location will be moved to the Benbrook Community Center (228 San Angelo). This location is currently used during the Early Voting period and also as a “voter

look-up” on Election Day. In the event the two precinct Election Day sites are combined, a Resolution will be presented listing the new Election Day polling sites located within the City of Benbrook.

The 2019 joint election agreement and contract between Tarrant County and the City will be forthcoming. The costs assessed to Benbrook will be in accordance with the total number of political subdivisions contracting with Tarrant County for the election.

Staff recommends that City Council adopt the Resolution ordering the General Election for November 5, 2019 and authorize the Mayor or his designee to execute a joint election agreement with Tarrant County.



MEMORANDUM