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ELECTION NEWS

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2010 IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

**Last Day to
Register to
Vote
Oct. 4, 2010**

**First Day of
Early Voting
Oct. 18, 2010**

**Last Day to
Apply for Ballot
by Mail
(received not
Postmarked)
Oct. 26, 2010**

**Last Day of
Early Voting
Oct. 29, 2010**

**Election Day
Nov. 2, 2010**

**TO OBTAIN A
BALLOT-BY-
MAIL
APPLICATION
CALL
713.755.6965**

Harris County receives first shipment of loaned election equipment



Houston, TX – On Monday, Sept. 20 at 11 a.m., Harris County received the first of what will be several shipments of election equipment from counties across Texas. The delivery begins the gradual gathering of equipment needed to conduct the Nov. 2nd Election in Harris County. In the wake of the fire which destroyed the County's election equipment, County Clerk Beverly Kaufman formulated a plan to conduct the County's election utilizing purchased and loaned election equipment.

"I'm pleased to report that colleagues across the state have responded to the call for assistance," said Kaufman, chief elections officer of the county. "And, I'm very thankful that the loaned and purchased equipment may enable a distribution at the 736 Election Day polling locations which meets the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) allocation formula." The County Clerk anticipates having 5,300 direct-recording electronic (DRE) voting machines for Election Day.

According to Clerk Kaufman, the TAC Election Day allocation formula requires a poll to have two DREs for fewer than 300 voters, four for 301 to 600 voters, six for 601 to 900 voters and two for each additional 300 voters. On Election Day, the County Clerk expects to deploy no less than 4 and no more than 11 voting machines per a poll with paper ballots as a back-up.

The first batch of election equipment which totals 875 pieces comes from Ft. Bend and Tarrant County. Harris County has accepted assistance offers from 14 counties and one city. Together, the assisting counties are providing 2,146 pieces of electronic voting equipment and accessories, including 399 Judges Booth Controllers (JBC) 1,104 eSlates with booths and 278 Disabled Access Units with booths. Additionally, counties are providing 4,056 booths, 1,675 ballot boxes with accompanying locks and keys.

At this point, the assisting entities include Bexar, Brazoria, Comal, Dallas, Denton, Ft. Bend, Galveston, Gregg, Grimes, Jefferson, Lubbock, Montgomery, Travis, Tarrant and Wharton County, the City of Friendswood, and Arapahoe County in Colorado.

"As we proceed with the implementation of the Election Day plan, the blessings we have received place Harris County in a position to provide voters a normal election environment. The situation is still fluid. But as always, I am steadfast in the commitment to maintain a level playing field for all stakeholders in the process and conducting an election that meets all federal and state voting standards", concluded Clerk Kaufman.

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Election Judges CORNER

Individuals who have been designated to work as Presiding Election Judges or Alternate Election Judges on Election Day, Tuesday Nov. 2, 2010 and have questions should contact one of the following Judge Coordinators:

- Harris County
Commissioner
Precinct 1
Nora Kelley
713.755.1461
judge1@cco.hctx.net

-Harris County
Commissioner
Precinct 2
John Manouso
713.755.9525
judge2@cco.hctx.net

-Harris County
Commissioner
Precinct 3
Jeanne Tilton
713.755.9529
judge3@cco.hctx.net

-Harris County
Commissioner
Precinct 4
Gerry Schroeder
713.755.1627
judge4@cco.hctx.net



Ballot-by-Mail Supervisor: Committed to her work in heart and soul

"My work is my joy", said Jennifer Ballard recently with an enthusiasm which is familiar to her colleagues and staff while explaining the ballot-by-mail process to about 20 community leaders at a meeting. Ballard is a Supervisor in the Harris County Clerk's Elections Department. Her specialty is postal balloting.

Ballard was 20 years old when she began working for the County Clerk's office in the personal records department. She left for a period of time as she married and moved to Florida. She came back as a temp in 1992 and became a permanent employee in 1996.

On her return, Ballard quickly rose through the ranks. Her aptitude for the job and contagious energy helped her gain the confidence of the Administrator of Elections.

Ballard became a supervisor in 1998. She assisted in implementing the Voter Election Management System (VEMS) which computerized the record keeping for the election's department. Prior to that all records were kept in file cabinets. She was also involved in implementing the Ballot on Demand System which automated the ballot-by-mail response process.

Ballard's efforts have resulted in helping hundreds of thousands of county voters vote by mail in a more efficient and timely manner, including helping astronauts vote from space and helping soldiers in a war zone cast their ballot.

Ballard who now guides the work of approximately 62 employees during an election cycle. Tells of the time she was away from the County Clerk's office. "I was so sad when I left. I love serving the public. The ballot-by-mail process is exciting for me and a great responsibility. It is a lifeline to the democratic process for many citizens who are experiencing hardship."

Ballard was born in Houston, graduated from Aldine High School. She has three daughters, 22, 18 and 16 years of age. She also has two grandchildren, one is 3 years old and the other is a newborn.

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Get YOUR election information

The November 2, 2010 General and Special Elections sample ballot, early voting locations, list of Election Day polling locations, ballot-by-mail applications, along with all other pertinent information that is beneficial to the elections process is available at the Harris County Clerk's Elections Division website www.harrisvotes.com.

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