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ELECTION NEWS

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2010 IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

EARLY VOTING BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE FOR THE NOV. 2010 ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE FROM OCT. 18TH TO THE 29TH.

Early Voting Hours of Operation

October 18th-22nd
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

October 23rd
7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

October 24th
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

October 25th -29th
7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Get YOUR Election Information

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

MESSAGE FROM HARRIS COUNTY CLERK



The equipment for early voting in person has been prepped. Loaned equipment has all been received along with a good portion of leased and purchased machines. Work is being conducted on a continuing basis to prepare equipment for Election Day. Those steps include acceptance testing, inventorying, assigning, loading, staging, routing and delivering over 5,000 pieces of equipment to 736 poll sites.

Meanwhile equipment training has been conducted on schedule and election schools across the county are planned beginning mid October. I look forward to seeing our judges and clerks at one of those sessions. And we'll be asking a little bit extra from our poll workers for this election. They will be introduced to our emergency paper ballots and ballot boxes with procedures outlined according to the Texas Election Code. They'll be briefed on the equipment delivered to the polling locations and learn they look a little different on first blush since we don't have enough caddies. There will be more "stuff" to attend to including privacy booths. There will be more to carry at pick up time as well as to return on election night. But when all is said and done, these extra efforts will result in a good election in Harris County. And the election staff is already working out procedures to make these added efforts as convenient on each end as possible.

So many wonderful people have already gone beyond the extra mile to make this election a normal experience for the voters. I am confident our poll workers will want to do their part to contribute as well. I think we'll all agree that Thanksgiving will be extra special this year.

-BBK

ELECTION QUICKFACTS Ballot-by-Mail Requests Comparison (as of Oct. 9)

2006	19,781
2008	49,689
2010	51,976

Early Voting Location Facts in Harris County

- There are 25 State Representative Districts in Harris County.
- By law, at minimum, there must be one early voting site per a State Representative District (SRD).
- In 2006, the last gubernatorial election there were 33 Early voting locations
- There are now 37 Early Voting locations in Harris County.
- There are 12 State Representative Districts with 2 EV sites

BRYAN SCHOUTEN: THE MAN WITH THE PLAN



As county employees unloaded hundreds of electronic voting machines off trucks at Reliant Arena recently, Harris County Clerk Beverly Kaufman declared with a big approving smile, "You are the man," to the person directing the proceedings.

"The man", Bryan Schouten was in his element as cameras representing every news entity in the greater Houston area recorded the delivery of the first shipment of loaned election equipment that would enable the conduct of the Nov. 2 election in Harris County.

Schouten was the person entrusted with the responsibility of collecting election equipment from counties who pledged to help Harris county after a catastrophic fire destroyed the County's election equipment. He is a 17 year county employee who is currently the Assistant Director of the Elections Technology Center (ETC). In his capacity, he helps oversee operations at ETC, including the prepping and delivery of election equipment for the conduct of early voting and election day.

"Getting millions of dollars worth of election equipment from point 'A' to point 'B' in a secure and efficient manner is something that is within our realm of experience", said Schouten who earned a BBA in Finance from the University of Houston. "However, in this instance there were bureaucratic and political challenges faced which were outside of my comfort zone."

Some of those challenges, he tells, included sorting through the pledges of assistance from different counties and determining which counties had equipment that Harris County could use. He also had to deal with the politics of each county. That is, once an offer of assistance was made by a county and accepted by Harris County, a formal agreement had to be completed. And, all issues surrounding each transaction had to be addressed quickly to be able to present the agreement to each county government for approval. The merchandise was scheduled for pick-up only after this process was concluded.

In all, Schouten dealt with 15 Texas counties, a county in Colorado and one city, while successfully coordinating the monumental task under extraordinary time constraints. Asked if this accomplishment was a significant moment in his life, he replied that nothing compares to the moments his girls, Aislynn and Rheanna, were born and the day he married his high school sweetheart Sara Woebkenberg.

Still, he paused and concluded, "I am thankful I have the opportunity to do my part to safeguard the democratic process in the County where I was born and raised."

–HDL

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