



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: {{24-201297}}

Agenda Date: August 15, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Office of the City Clerk

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Debbie Racca-Sittre

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Joint Elections Agreement and Contract with Bexar County Elections Department for the November 5, 2024, City Charter Election.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the City Clerk to execute a Joint Elections Agreement and Contract for Election Services with the Bexar County Elections Department to provide jointly held elections in common precincts on uniform election date November 5, 2024. Funding in the amount of \$750,000.00 is available from the General Fund FY 2025 Proposed Budget, contingent on City Council Approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Section 271.002(a) of the Texas Election Code authorizes two or more political subdivisions to enter into an agreement to hold elections jointly in the precincts that can be served by common polling places. Participation in a Joint Election with other political subdivisions allows the entities to share common expenses for voting machines, election facilities, and poll workers, thereby reducing the cost of the election for each political subdivision. It also provides for greater

convenience to voters to participate in the elections of multiple political subdivisions served by common polling places with one single ballot.

ISSUE:

This ordinance authorizes the City Clerk to execute a Joint Elections Agreement and Contract for Election Services with the Bexar County Elections Department. The Joint Election Agreement lists participating local government entities that are expected to jointly hold their election in common precincts on uniform election date November 5, 2024. All election activities shall be conducted in accordance with the Voting Rights Act, Texas Election Code, Local Government Code, and all other applicable law and are anticipated to cost up to \$750,000.

Under the Contract for Election Services, Bexar County Elections Department will: provide and certify all supplies and polling equipment; hire, train, manage, and supervise election judges and clerks for early voting and election day voting; secure early voting polling places and election day vote centers that meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements; and conduct early voting in person and by mail as well as election day voting.

Bexar County Elections Department will distribute the lists of registered voters to be used in conducting the election, as provided by Bexar County Voter Registration to the City Clerk upon request and will establish an Early Ballot Board for the purpose of qualifying mail ballots as well as a Central Counting Station for the purpose of tabulating ballots and provide for Central Count Tabulation (s). Bexar County Elections Department will be the custodian of voted ballots.

The Office of the City Clerk will manage the Joint Elections Agreement and Contract for Elections Services with Bexar County Elections Department. The City Clerk is responsible for posting public notices and advertisements in connection with the Charter Election and will receive the ballot tabulation and affidavit from the Bexar County Elections Department to prepare for canvassing by the City Council.

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance approves a contract with the Bexar County Elections Department, to provide jointly held elections in common precincts. Funding in the amount of \$750,000.00 is available from the General Fund FY 2025 Proposed Budget, Contingent on City Council Approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance authorizing an Elections Services Contract and Joint Elections Agreement with the Bexar County Elections Department for the City of San Antonio's November 5, 2024, City Charter Election.