

Subject: RE: Public Information Request (TX-DENTON-23-0859)
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 7:41:30 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Frank Phillips
To: AO Records
CC: Wally Cochran

EXTERNAL SENDER

Good morning Ms. Adhoob,

The documents you requested in your public information request (TX-DENTON-23-0859) dated September 18, 2023 can be downloaded at this secure link:

<https://share.dentoncounty.gov/receive/?thread=LEEY-DUD2&packageCode=vSHduKo2qU08gxRUfkssxCW3EJ9KHsuVZv2001EedF4#keyCode=MAXAMvceqMo1fg4cjz1D6NvlfT8zhT9rk4yJKGaMcfE>

This link will expire in 10 days.
This completes your request.

Frank Phillips
Elections Administrator
Denton County, TX
940-349-3200

From: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 6:02 PM
To: Elections <elections@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: Public Information Request (TX-DENTON-23-0859)

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Dear Public Information Officer:

Please find attached a request for records under the Texas Public Information Act.

Sincerely,

Marwah Adhoob | She/Her
Paralegal | American Oversight
records@americanoversight.org
www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

PIR: TX-DENTON-23-0859

From: Frank Phillips
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2023 9:15 PM
To: Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>; Judith Evans <Judith.Evans@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Hand Count Road Show!!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jayne Howell <jayne@jaynehowell.com>
Date: July 30, 2023 at 8:44:15 PM CDT
To: Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>, Wally Cochran <Wally.Cochran@dentoncounty.gov>
Cc: Fred Rogers <frtx@icloud.com>, Heather Moss <heather.n.moss@gmail.com>
Subject: Hand Count Road Show!!

NOTICE: This email was sent to an old @dentoncounty.com email address. Denton County changed all email addresses from @dentoncounty.com to @dentoncounty.gov in 2020. As appropriate, please notify senders of your @dentoncounty.gov email address to ensure uninterrupted email delivery as the county prepares to discontinue @dentoncounty.com, effective December 2023.

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FYI

Hand Count Road Show Coming to Denton County!

This two-hour presentation demonstrates how our county can accurately and transparently conduct a ballot hand count at the precinct level.



August 4, 2023 7:00 PM

Shepherd's House
225 Milton St.
Lewisville, TX 75057

Please Register at:

<http://ccdf-usa-dentontx.ticketleap.com/hand-count/>

Hosted by:



Denton County Citizens Defending Freedom

<https://www.counties.citizensdefendingfreedom.com/tx-denton/>



Denton County Conservative Coalition (D3C)

<https://dentoncountyconservativecoalition.com/>



Restore the Republic <https://rtrtexas.com/>



Beth Biesel
Texas Eagle
Forum

Clint Curtis
Attorney and
Computer
Programmer

Mark Cook
Cyber Security and
Network Consultant

For More Information Visit:

<https://handcountroadshow.org/>

Janet Gadd - Meeting

Search

File

Meeting

Scheduling Assistant

Tracking

Insert

Format Text

Review

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Cancel Meeting

Forward

Calendar

Teams Meeting

Send to OneNote

Contact Attendees

Address Book

Check Names

Response Options

Show As: Busy

Reminder: None

Recurrence

Categorize

Private

High Importance

Low Importance

Dictate

Immersive Reader

New Scheduling Poll

Viva Insights

View Templates

Actions

Teams Meeting

OneNote

Attendees

Options

Tags

Voice

Immersive

Find Time

Add-in

My Templates

Attendee responses: 1 accepted, 0 tentatively accepted, 0 declined.

Send Update

Title

Janet Gadd

Required

Brandy Grimes

Judith Evans

Optional

Start time

Thu 8/24/2023

10:00 AM

All day

Time zones

End time

Thu 8/24/2023

11:00 AM

Make Recurring

Location

Office

Room Finder

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—

In His Grip,

469-222-5863

From: Frank Phillips

Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 9:17 AM

To: Andy Eads <Andy.Eads@dentoncounty.gov>; Ryan Williams <Ryan.Williams@dentoncounty.gov>; Kevin Falconer <Kevin.Falconer@dentoncounty.gov>; Bobbie Mitchell <Bobbie.Mitchell@dentoncounty.gov>; Dianne Edmondson <Dianne.Edmondson@dentoncounty.gov>

Subject: Hand count articles

Just throwing these out for you information 😊

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/elections/arizona-republicans-hand-count-ballots-price-tag-errors-mojave-county-rcna97769>

<https://www.votebeat.org/2023/7/24/23803066/hand-counting-ballots-election-security-france-cyber-ninjas>

Frank Phillips
Elections Administrator
Denton County, TX
940-349-3200

From: Frank Phillips
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 9:20 AM
To: Janet Gadd <janet.gadd78@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Hand counting ballots?

How does Thursday morning at 10am work for you?

From: Janet Gadd <janet.gadd78@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 18, 2023 9:00 PM
To: Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: Re: Hand counting ballots?

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I'm available anytime next week. Thank you.

On Fri, Aug 18, 2023, 4:20 PM Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov> wrote:
Hi Janet!
Give some some dates/times that you are available and I'll bump them up against my schedule.
I'd love to have this conversation with you.
Frank

On Aug 18, 2023, at 3:08 PM, Janet Gadd <janet.gadd78@gmail.com> wrote:

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Good afternoon. Here I am again. I attend various clubs in Denton County. Everyone is talking about hand counting ballots. Is there a time you would be available for me to come in and talk to you? I'm so sick of everybody getting riled up over what other counties or states are doing or have done. The vast majority of these people who are leading the charge have never worked an election. I have become "Public Enemy #1" in these discussions. They have NO idea the work involved in securing polling locations, hiring judges and clerks, training or much else. I speak with the wisdom I've gleaned from working elections since 1980. Both on the administrative side

as City Secretary to working the polls. I have a list of questions and concerns about the information certain people are sharing. I would like to be that voice of reason to head some of this off at the pass. Lists are circulating for "Volunteers" to show up at polling locations during the Primaries to hand count ballots. Thank you in advance for your time.

--

In His Grip,
Janet Gadd
469-222-5863

From: Frank Phillips
Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 2:23 PM
To: 'Collin - Bruce Sherbet (bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us)' <bsherbet@co.collin.tx.us>
Subject: FW: Arizona Republicans wanted to hand-count ballots. Then they saw the price tag — and the errors.

From: Frank Phillips <frank.phillips65@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 3, 2023 7:46 AM
To: Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: Arizona Republicans wanted to hand-count ballots. Then they saw the price tag — and the errors.

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<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/elections/arizona-republicans-hand-count-ballots-price-tag-errors-mojave-county-rcna97769>

From: Frank Phillips
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 6:15 AM
To: Heather Moss <heather.n.moss@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Denton Co Need Ballot Hand Counters to verify mail in ballots from 2020 July 10-July 13
Denton Elections Adm

It is. She told me she was having some trouble getting counters but I'm sure she'll get a few.

On Jun 30, 2023, at 12:33 AM, Heather Moss <heather.n.moss@gmail.com> wrote:

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Is this true?

Sent from Heather's phone.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>
Date: June 29, 2023 at 10:25:52 PM CDT
To: Gmail <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>
Subject: Denton Co Need Ballot Hand Counters to verify mail in ballots from 2020 July 10-July 13
Denton Elections Adm

I am emailing to find who has time July 10 – July 13 to help hand count mail in ballots.

I have requested from Denton Elections the "Mail In Ballots" from November 2020. Approx. 30K The mail in ballots candidate results were similar to Tarrant, which I counted in January of this year, in that Biden won over Trump in the mail in ballots, but not EV or ED.

I went to the Elections office this past week to organize the boxes of ballots. Everything looks organized for the count.

I have picked the week after the 4th of July to do this hand count July 10 – July 13.

I will schedule anyone that would like to help with their availability. However, anyone that can commit to multiple days would be very helpful. If you would like to help please let me know day(s) available and times. I will schedule between 9 am - 3 pm. 4 teams of 2 people to count ballots. Then a team (4) just to count the return envelopes we have to be sure envelopes = ballots.

We will count only the Presidential race. The mail in ballots are batched, generally with 100 ballots in the batch. Approximately 18 batches in a box. We will count by splitting the batch by race (candidates) counting, record the count, rebatch, etc

****Very important to observe of MAIL IN BALLOTS - we will observe several characteristics of the ballot –**

1. Has a fold in the paper, where it would have been placed in the envelope to mail back.
2. Is the vote on the ballot typical of down ballot, or does it have anomalies; which we will track those ballots. In Tarrant we noticed many ballots with atypical voting. Looking for signs of “harvested” ballots.
3. Observe the paper stock, is it consistent. In Tarrant we did find some paper stock that was different and made note of the boxes where we found them.

If you can help with this project that would be excellent!

Also, the great news for those of us who want to “validate machine results tapes”; starting in September we can request more recent elections to “COUNT TO VALIDATE” now that HB 5180 passed and was signed by Gov. Abbott. If anyone believes the machines can be wrong; we need to be counting after every election to “validate the results tapes and thumbdrives” from the scanners.

Developing Hand Counting Teams will be a goal of mine for “Validating” elections results. I will be training the hand counting teams in the “authorized Texas Election Code” method, I call SOS Method (Chap 65). It is the only method we can use for a candidate “recount” or ballots counted after end of election day. But for validating results we can use various methods. While we are counting in Denton in July, I will have the SOS method set up to allow counters to learn that method also.
See demo video

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L7lSyTmqQRncRLu99qva0jRwK6eOkd5w/view?usp=sharing>

****AND I will be tagging along the HAND COUNT ROADSHOW when time allows to show the SOS method and our STACK and COUNT methods. There are other methods too; we need to offer ALL methods of hand counting and to just get *“hand counting to be a normal thing”!***

Thank you!
Beverly
214-415-7154

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: Frank Phillips
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 8:18 AM
To: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>; Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>
Cc: Judith Evans <Judith.Evans@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: RE: hand count of mail in ballots days requesting

Good morning Beverly,

That week is good....see you then!

Frank

From: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 10:48 PM
To: Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>; Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: hand count of mail in ballots days requesting

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Hi Frank,

I am looking at the week after the 4th holiday week to bring people to count the absentee ballots from 2020.

July 10 – July 14. Between hours of 9 to 4

Brandy mentioned the other day while I was there she will be on vacation.

Please let me know if this will work out for getting the tabulation room for that week.

Thank you,
Beverly
214-415-7154

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: Frank Phillips
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 6:13 AM
To: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>; Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>
Cc: Andy Eads <Andy.Eads@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: RE: hand count of ballots - Mail In from Nov 2020

Good morning Beverly!

I had my staff go to records and pull the boxes containing the mail ballots, so we now have them at our facility.

Just let me know when you are coming (don't forget next Monday, the 19th is a holiday so we are not open).

Frank Phillips
Elections Administrator
Denton County, TX
940-349-3200

From: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 7:47 PM
To: Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>; Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>
Cc: Andy Eads <Andy.Eads@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: FW: hand count of ballots - Mail In from Nov 2020

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Hi Frank,

I know that last month was busy after the elections so I wanted to resend my request to schedule a time to inspect the mail in ballots from November 2020. See email request below.

Please let me know some time periods that would be available in the near future.

Thank you,
Beverly
214-415-7154

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Beverly Foley](#)
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 10:11 PM
To: [Frank Phillips](#); [Brandy Grimes](#)
Cc: [Andy Eads](#)
Subject: FW: hand count of ballots - Mail In from Nov 2020

Hi,

I hope you both are doing well! I am getting back to counting ballots now that the May elections have concluded.

Is there a time that would be available for me to get the mail in ballots from November 2020 so we can hand count them. This would be a similar project like I did with the Tarrant County mail in ballots from 2020. If you could let me know some time periods in June or July I would appreciate it.

Back in March when we counted the precinct ballots that turned out pretty well with the count reconciliation.

My prior email request had that I would at some time in the near future want to count the mail in ballots from 2020.

From forwarded email.

** I do want to review the Mail In ballots from 2020 also. But I want to do those after I finish hand counting these 4 precincts.

You can let me know when a time in the future I can hand count the mail in ballots from 2020.

Also, I am very excited by HB5180 passing and having the ability after September to count ballots for elections in a more timely manner than 22 months.

I am developing hand counting teams so we can regularly count to verify paper ballots to a machine count.

Please let me know when I can schedule this project and space is available for us to use.

Thank you so much!

Beverly
214-415-7154

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Beverly Foley](#)
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 1:33 AM
To: [Frank Phillips](#); [Brandy Grimes](#)
Subject: hand count of ballots

Hi,

I am just getting back to you sorry. After being in Tarrant county for 6 weeks I needed a break.

I am hopefully wanting to do the hand counts the last week of March??? Please let me know if this is possible based on your schedule. Monday – Friday March 27- March 31

I actually have chosen 4 precincts to hand count the full election. I am using precincts that were very close in the count on election day based on location

Frisco precinct in 2020 #1052

*I say 2020 because this is due to precincts changing later in redistricting and this is the precinct in 2020

Aubrey precinct in 2020 # 1041

Carrollton precinct in 2020 #2005

Little Elm precinct in 2020 #2032

** I do want to review the Mail In ballots from 2020 also. But I want to do those after I finish hand counting these 4 precincts.
You can let me know when a time in the future I can hand count the mail in ballots from 2020

Thank you,

Beverly
214-415-7154

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: Frank Phillips
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 9:05 AM
To: Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>; Judith Evans <Judith.Evans@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Short Video explaining - hand count in Denton next Monday-Tuesday march 27-28

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jayne Howell <jayne@jaynehowell.com>
Date: March 21, 2023 at 1:14:14 PM GMT
To: Fred Rogers <frisco1036@gmail.com>, Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>
Cc: Bel Small <BelSmall330@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Short Video explaining - hand count in Denton next Monday-Tuesday march 27-28

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>
Date: March 21, 2023 at 12:36:55 AM CDT
To: Gmail <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>
Subject: Short Video explaining - hand count in Denton next Monday-Tuesday march 27-28

Hi,

I am sending out this short video, see below, I made to help explain the process for hand counting for next Monday and Tuesday in Denton. I will have in person training this Thursday and Friday at my house in Trophy Club 1-3. And/ or A zoom training on Sunday 1-3
8 Oak Village Ct Trophy Club 76262

Denton EA offices Monday 9-3 ; if you can help Tuesday 9-3, we will do more

Again the reason for hand counting to be done is ---- 1. Check 2020 ballots at several precincts in Denton for matching machine counts. No one has done that. I plan to count in other counties after May elections.

2. Show that WE CAN hand count and be as accurate as machines.

3. long shot but Rep. Toth has a bill submitted for this legislative session to get rid of machines, hand count etc. We might need to learn.

I put this short video together to show the process etc. It gives a quick idea of the process.

Video short only about 8 minutes about what we will be doing

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/CKtnlpnopHsyD8b6VuTiv0fGnDI70G4T_uBqyO2uMMLqXB0EIB4JxX3QEuIS-FrU.d3dfD2pajSwJEW7i?startTime=1679347300000

Passcode: Dh7rL^J^

Please let me know if the training times will work. In person or zoom

Thank you!

Beverly

214-415-7154

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: Frank Phillips
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 4:55 PM
To: Bobbie Mitchell <Bobbie.Mitchell@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: Re: Mellany Lamb via Jill

No ma'am

On Feb 28, 2023, at 4:16 PM, Bobbie Mitchell <Bobbie.Mitchell@dentoncounty.gov> wrote:

Will it ever stop?

From: Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 2:28 PM
To: Heather Moss <heather.n.moss@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Mellany Lamb via Jill

Hi Heather!

Thanks for sending this to me. I enjoyed our phone conversation about voter centers! I'm going to put my thoughts in red below just so you know my stance.
Frank

From: Heather Moss <heather.n.moss@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 5:49 PM
To: Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: Mellany Lamb via Jill

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Jill said that mellany is the expert.
My responses are in bold.

1. It is difficult to reconcile the voters cast ballot to their home precinct.

If it is just one more day I don't see how it could take that much longer to find the ballots. They have to look in all bags anyway.

I really don't understand this argument. It is not difficult in any way....it's a simple report. I'm assuming she's speaking in general...we don't have to look through bags to know this information.

2. To support the above, Frank Phillips testified that it took two and half days with staff to pull the 36 precincts from HD-64 when there was the recount for the Hopper-Stuckey race. That

is due to having to pull the ballots from the respective precincts from the ballots cast during Early Voting. If we still had precinct, Election Day only voting, the 36 precincts would take only a matter of minutes to pull. Not days. If you saw Frank's testimony from that Commissioners Court meeting, Dianne asked him how long it would take to count the ballots from a general election and he responded 105 days. Before countywide Early Voting, elections results were usually tallied well before midnight.

When Frank said 105 days was that to hand count each race on all ballots? When did countywide EV start?

She's misstating what I said. The short answer is I said it took two and a half days to pull and count a race that only contained 36 precincts and 1 race. If you had to pull 400,000 ballots and count 40-50 races on each ballot and 225 precincts....do the math! How long did it take them to recount Maricopa County? Months!

I mean come on....what about the meeting a month or two ago when they were casting "ballots" to appoint precinct chairs – how long did it take them to hand count those few ballots. I heard about the fiasco!

3. Alan Vera, Harris County GOP, who did the poll watcher training for the RPT before the midterms stated that countywide polling has created many issues in Harris County. By Texas law, the poll pads are to sync within 5 minutes. The fastest time that they were able to record was 32 minutes. Does this allow a person to vote in one location and rush to vote in a different location due to this time period? Also, think about at the close of the polls on Primary Election night, when as precinct chairs we need our tapes to ensure that anybody who attends our Precinct Convention had voted on Election Day if they did not vote early. Do we have to wait that much later for any attendees to perform the voter verification and that they voted in the Republican Primary?

I would like to know if that is true for Denton county. I know it takes a very long time to sync EV to the ED poll pads.

I don't know what issues she was speaking of, but were the "issues" because of countywide voting? Or, were they issues that can happen regardless of the method of voting? Our pollpads sync every 4 minutes.

So, if you are worried about a voter rushing to vote at a different voting location, what do you think happens with paper pollbooks? There's nothing to stop them then. In effect, if we didn't have poll pads to stop them and relied on old-fashioned paper pollbooks, someone could go vote at all 50 early voting sites!! They would get caught later, but the ballots are still cast and can't get retrieved....they would all count! So, this argument is a non-starter!

Move precinct conventions to a later date and the good list becomes a non-issue. It gives plenty of time to create good lists.

4. Some counties postpone their Precinct Convention for a few days. From speaking to friends in Dallas County, they said it puts the burden on the Precinct Chair to find a meeting place and that it could cost money they pay out of their own pockets. The most important issue that it reduces participation in your Precinct Convention, therefore, a possible loss of our Delegation to attend the GOP Convention.

If we move to countywide ED, I don't believe conventions will not be able to be held. That was one reason we didn't want them. However with having so many shared sites it may be better if we didn't have them that night. We have discussed this and maybe we have the PC convention on the same day as the SD convention.

This is really not an Elections Administration issue, it's a party issue, but I will say....there are over 100 counties who are vote centers now and they manage to have precinct conventions. You can never convince me that if they can do it, we can't!

5. I do understand Bobbie and Andy's perspective that the County should make every possible effort to increase voter participation, however, Early Voting has created confusion as to where to vote since the polling locations move around frequently and seem to never be the same from Early to Election Day. I told Bobbie that we have most likely increased the cost, too, from the hardware and software needs to make anywhere voting happen, since the poll pads have to be able to communicate to the Hart equipment the voter's precinct and perform the correct Ballot On Demand. We keep adding layers upon layers while costing the taxpayers more.

Which is my wheel house:

In the past we have tried to have primaries in locations that we don't have to share. When the Dems come in to same location alot of times there is not enough room for both parties. So someone has to move. Usually us. There is only one government building not big enough and we have been blessed to request it first. Since we use a lot of non government buildings it is not a guarantee that we will be able to use that facility each time. Also the EA can't always get the same locations unless they strictly use schools and government buildings, which can't refuse. I believe the confusion will continue because city, school and primaries and all have different boundaries for each election.

I think the biggest cost is because our population is growing so much and have to have so many locations. Which is more equipment and staff. But having ballot on demand one more day isn't going to cost more.

Well, saying the locations are not the same from Early to Election Day is kind of obvious. You don't have but about a fourth of the locations during early as you do election day. Also, the county is growing by 88 people a day....this means more voter precincts, which means more voting equipment, etc. It's just the cost of being one of the fastest growing counties in the United States.

Sounds like someone trying to make the case that all-paper, hand counted, etc would be cheaper. I seriously doubt it. I could write pages on the costs that nobody is thinking of because they have never done it. It's not a cost friendly as it sounds. Printing costs, delivery costs, personnel costs through the roof (who do they think is going to count 400,000 ballots with 40-50 races on them and the results have to be into the state within 24 hours....it would take hundreds of people – which creates its own security/integrity issues). There's a reason you don't have election officials asking for these things....it's because we aren't dealing in the theory of it, we live the reality of it, and know that it's not possible.

I would like to understand how it increases voter fraud?

Me too....because it doesn't!

The best way to prevent voter fraud is to have one day of voting.

That would be impossible in a county our size. Do the math....175 polling locations, 600,000 voters. If 400,000 of those show up in a presidential election that's an average of 2,285 per site....average! More populated areas would be more than that. Once you get past about 1,200 a day it becomes a problem....double that and you have lines of angry voters.

1. The Hopper-Stuckey recount provided a lot of information post election. They do not separate the ballots, but store in secured bags with unique seals that are documented. Precincts and partisan ballots are co-mingled in a bag respective to the poll location. Elections Administrative only looked through the bags to break out the 36 precinct ballots specific to the HD-64 contested Republican race. And the sort was still not "clean."

Countywide originated in Lubbock County, TX in 2008 post the 2007 Legislative Session. Denton County did not start countywide polling for Early Voting until the 2013 timeframe to the best of my knowledge.

Yes each location has a ballot bag that can not be opened unless court order ie recount. I assume that if we have vote centers the bag would contain ED as well as early and not have a separate bag. It did provide insight as I was part of it. It was very clean retrieval of ballots. Done but both attorneys watching. I was part of the group going through ALL the other bags making sure there were not any missed ballot and we didn't find ONE!

I don't know what she means about the sort was not "clean". It was actually almost perfect. I don't know what she was expecting it to be.

Also, saying Denton County did not start early voting until 2013 is totally wrong. Early voting started in 1987 in Texas at the main voting location, but expanded to early voting sites in 1991.

2. Frank stated that it would take 105 days to handcount after a general election in response to his calculation that it took two+ days to pull HD-64 ballots from the involved 36 precincts.

If we returned to precinct only voting poll sites, it would have been a matter of pulling secured bags. Not sorting through 100's of thousands of ballots.

I understand. Just a guess on his part. That was looking for specific ballots with specific races and not counting each race on every ballot.

Again, that was for ONE RACE....some of our ballots have 40-50 races on them. Add to the mix the races that aren't just vote for one, but vote for multiple.....Comparing the HD 64 to hand counting a full countywide race with dozens of races on each ballot is comparing apples to oranges. There is more than just a presidential race on a ballot!

The ballots would still have to be sorted because they have to be reported by precinct, so consolidated precincts would all have to be sorted. Even if the site had only one precinct, more than likely they also have sub-precincts which have to be sorted for reporting.

3. We have never had to sync from ED to EV in Denton County since we are provided hard copies of the EV spreadsheet and we run the tapes from the poll pads on ED to verify that people who attend their respective precinct convention 1. Voted and 2. Voted in their Party's primary. Syncing is an issue in counties that already have EV's and they are in violation of TEC due to exceeding the five-minute threshold.

We may need to have a phone convo about this one. Don't understand how this has anything to do with a voter voting twice in short amount of time

This makes zero sense to me....and I've already responded to the 5-minute threshold.

4. Participation is lost if you move the precinct convention from the precinct poll site location. People most likely will not want to drive miles away to go where the SD convention is held. You will also reduce your delegation to the GOP convention.

Wonder what the numbers are for people who go to Precinct convention and don't go to SD. I can see that many probably don't go to state unless it is local.

The counties I spoke to about precinct conventions said when they moved to countywide voting, and moved their precinct conventions to a later date, they had higher participation. They also said they would not go back to the old way. Ask yourself, if countywide voting is a bad thing why aren't all of these counties going back to precinct based voting? That includes both red and blue counties....they don't go back!

Andy Eads gave me (Mellany) his solution to this issue and IMO, it was a good solution. When there are the major elections — primaries, municipal/school board, general, open the high schools as a major polling location. A voter would go to the high school that is within the feeder pattern where their precinct resides. Plenty of space and parking, too. Tuesdays the schools would have a teachers workshop day, as to not lose state funding, if money is the argument. LISD called off school this last election, so it should not be an issue.

Election Day, handmarked and handcounted ballots is the most verifiable and fraud-free system as proven prior to HAVA ushering in machine voting. And it saves millions of taxpayer money.

This is a great solution if they call off school. It was great that the one ISD did that but others didn't. I am not a fan of using schools for the safety of the students. Also if school is in session there is not "plenty of space or parking". And you can't use schools for early voting again confusing the voters.

I think it's a great idea, but schools do not. Only LISD calls off school that day; none of the others do even after years of us asking them to do it. The answer is for the legislature to make election day a school holiday so it doesn't affect funding.

Sent from Heather's phone.

From: Frank Phillips
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 8:19 AM
To: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>; Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>
Cc: Matt Shovlin <Matt.Shovlin@dentoncounty.gov>; Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>; Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: RE: follow up #2 - paper ballots available for a hand count February 2023 project - Clarification

Good morning Beverly,

Let me know when you want to get started on this. It would be beneficial if we knew the precincts you are wanting to look at, as we will have to go to Records Management and retrieve those boxes.

Frank Phillips
Elections Administrator
Denton County, TX
940-349-3200

From: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 7:53 PM
To: Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>
Cc: Matt Shovlin <Matt.Shovlin@dentoncounty.gov>; Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>; Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: RE: follow up #2 - paper ballots available for a hand count February 2023 project - Clarification

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Hi Nancy,

Thank you for the follow up.

Yes, agree, November 2020 ballot inspection. I will want the ballot inspection for November 2020 of "my choosing".

I see your text keeps saying of "our choosing". Is this reference to me "our choosing" OR your reference to Denton co "our choosing"

Maybe you were pasting from a prior email??? But, it will be "my choosing" of the precincts.

Thank you,
Beverly Foley
214-415-7154

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Nancy West](#)

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:19 AM

To: [Beverly Foley](#)

Cc: [Matt Shovlin](#); [Frank Phillips](#); [Nancy West](#)

Subject: FW: follow up #2 - paper ballots available for a hand count February 2023 project - Clarification

Good morning, Beverly,

Pursuant to your withdrawal of your request regarding November 8, 2023 ballots (provisional and voted), please find attached herein WITHDRAWAL of Request for Open Records Decision PIR #23-076.

This concludes your request regarding November 8, 2023.

Frank Phillips will be in touch with you soon to coordinate inspection of the November 2020 ballots for 3 precincts of our choosing (new request).

Nancy West
Senior Paralegal
Denton County Criminal District Attorney's Office - Civil Division
1450 East McKinney, Suite 3100
P.O. Box 2344
Denton, TX 76202
Direct 940-349-2757
Direct Fax 940-349-5757
Nancy.west@dentoncounty.gov

From: Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 9:29 AM

To: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>

Cc: Matt Shovlin <Matt.Shovlin@dentoncounty.gov>; Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>;

Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>

Subject: RE: follow up #2 - paper ballots available for a hand count February 2023 project - Clarification

Good morning, Beverly,

Thank you for your below email clarification. With that said, our office will draft a withdrawal for an Open Records Decision to the AG's office and will email you a copy of the letter very shortly.

Additionally, by cc of this email we will ask Frank Phillips to reach out to you and coordinate the inspection of the November 3, 2020 ballots for 3 precincts of your choosing.

We will remain in touch until the completion of the inspection of the November 3, 2020 ballots/your request.

Have a wonderful weekend.

My Best,

Nancy West
Senior Paralegal
Denton County Criminal District Attorney's Office - Civil Division
1450 East McKinney, Suite 3100
P.O. Box 2344
Denton, TX 76202
Direct 940-349-2757
Direct Fax 940-349-5757
Nancy.west@dentoncounty.gov

From: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 9:32 PM

To: Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>

Cc: Matt Shovlin <Matt.Shovlin@dentoncounty.gov>; Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>;
Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>

Subject: RE: follow up #2 - paper ballots available for a hand count February 2023 project - Clarification

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Hi Nancy,

Maybe I missed this email. I apologize.

Yes, I am withdrawing request for November 2022 ballots.

I do want to inspect the November 3 2020 ballots. I want to inspect 3 precincts of my choosing.

I hope this clarifies my request.

Thank you,
Beverly Foley

214-415-7154

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Nancy West](#)

Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 1:43 PM

To: [Beverly Foley](#)

Cc: [Matt Shovlin](#); [Frank Phillips](#); [Nancy West](#)

Subject: RE: follow up #2 - paper ballots available for a hand count February 2023 project - Clarification

Good afternoon, Beverly,

I am just following up on my below email regarding clarification of your email dated January 17, 2023 (see email chain below).

At your earliest convenience, please let us know how you would like to proceed with your request.

Have a wonderful afternoon.

Many thanks,

Nancy West
Senior Paralegal
Denton County Criminal District Attorney's Office - Civil Division
1450 East McKinney, Suite 3100
P.O. Box 2344
Denton, TX 76202
Direct 940-349-2757
Direct Fax 940-349-5757
Nancy.west@dentoncounty.gov

From: Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 9:10 AM

To: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>

Cc: Matt Shovlin <Matt.Shovlin@dentoncounty.gov>; Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>;

Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>

Subject: RE: follow up #2 - paper ballots available for a hand count February 2023 project - Clarification

Good morning, Beverly,

Thank you for your below email response. With that said, to clarify, are you withdrawing your request for November 2022 ballots? If so, are you making a new request for November 2020 ballots for 3 precincts of our choosing?

Under the Public Information Act, please provide clarification to the above questions and our office will process and coordinate accordingly.

Best Regards,

Nancy West
Senior Paralegal
Denton County Criminal District Attorney's Office - Civil Division
1450 East McKinney, Suite 3100
P.O. Box 2344
Denton, TX 76202
Direct 940-349-2757
Direct Fax 940-349-5757
Nancy.west@dentoncounty.gov

From: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 10:03 PM

To: Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>

Cc: Matt Shovlin <Matt.Shovlin@dentoncounty.gov>; Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>

Subject: RE: follow up #2 - paper ballots available for a hand count February 2023 project

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Thank you for the follow-up. I would hope for a decision soon.

To make this easier, without the controversy of Paxton decision for Nov 2022, if I can request the November 2020 ballots for 3 precincts of my choosing to inspect in February

Thank you,
Beverly Foley
214-415-7154

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Nancy West](#)

Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 2:22 PM

To: [Beverly Foley](#)

Cc: [Matt Shovlin](#); [Nancy West](#)

Subject: RE: follow up #2 - paper ballots available for a hand count February 2023 project

Good afternoon, Beverly,

Pursuant to your below email request, Notice of Open Records Decision Request is attached herein.

Your request remains open.

Best Regards,

Nancy West

Senior Paralegal

Denton County Criminal District Attorney's Office - Civil Division

1450 East McKinney, Suite 3100

P.O. Box 2344

Denton, TX 76202

Direct 940-349-2757

Direct Fax 940-349-5757

Nancy.west@dentoncounty.gov

From: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, January 8, 2023 11:07 AM

To: Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>; Andy Eads <Andy.Eads@dentoncounty.gov>;

Matt Shovlin <Matt.Shovlin@dentoncounty.gov>; Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>;

Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>; Denton GOP <Brent@dentongop.org>

Subject: RE: follow up #2 - paper ballots available for a hand count February 2023 project

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Hi All!

I went through my emails today to be sure I didn't miss an email about the ballot project I want to work on in February. I did not see a response. If I missed one, I apologize.

I am attaching another AG opinion on, the election materials are public information, that someone just received in Tarrant County. Similar to opinion attached previously.

I request a reply this week. I would expect this request to be a “public information” request and those guidelines for reply apply.

If you want me to direct this request somewhere else or to someone else let me know. I have not seen anything on the website for official open records request besides criminal area.

I do specifically want the November 8th ballots (provisional and voted) available for 3 precincts I have not determined yet.

Thank you,
Beverly Foley
214-415-7154

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: Frank Phillips
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 11:31 AM
To: Heather Moss <heather.n.moss@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: SOS

Also, I was just forwarded this that "True the Vote" sent out:

Poll workers cannot open the ballot box.
For your part, just match the voters checked in to the ballots cast.
Call Liz Biesel at 214 789 8462 is a great resource for you in Denton.
Thanks for stepping up to help protect out elections.

From: Heather Moss <heather.n.moss@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 11:30 AM
To: Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: Re: SOS

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Thank you!

Sent from Heather's phone.

On Nov 4, 2022, at 11:29 AM, Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov> wrote:

Just got off the phone with Christina Adkins, legal division of the SOS. She said we are correct. We do not fall under 65.002, that we fall under Chapter 127, AND they cannot hand-count the paper ballots, or "confirm" the number of ballots in there. They need to immediately seal it and bring it in.

Frank Phillips
Elections Administrator
Denton County, TX
940-349-3200

From: Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 10:43 AM
To: 'Melissa McMartin' <mmmc_cemc_05@protonmail.com>
Cc: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>; Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>; Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: RE: Open Records - Denton County Elections Administration

Good morning, I just sent the secure link to your outlook email address. Please let me know if you received the email.

- Brandy

From: Melissa McMartin <mmmc_cemc_05@protonmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 10:33 AM
To: Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>
Cc: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>; Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>; Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: Re: Open Records - Denton County Elections Administration

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Good Morning Brandy –

I wanted to check to see if you sent the secured link to the documents this morning.

I have not received an email for the secured link at this time.

If you have, please send the secured link email to mmmc_cemc@outlook.com.

I am not sure why my Proton Mail is not working but I know that Wally and Jason have sent secured link emails to the outlook.com address.

Please provide an update at your earliest convenience.

Thank You – Melissa McMartin

From: Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>
Reply-To: Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 4:41 PM
To: Melissa McMartin <mmmc_cemc_05@protonmail.com>
Cc: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>, Frank Phillips

<Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>, Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>

Subject: Re: Open Records - Denton County Elections Administration

My apologies. In the morning, I'll send a secure link where you can retrieve the documents. It will point you to a SendSafely address where you can download everything. Please follow up if you are unable to download the documents.

Brandy Grimes; CERA, REO
Deputy Elections Administrator
Denton County Elections
[940.349.3205](tel:940.349.3205)

On Apr 19, 2023, at 4:09 PM, Melissa McMartin <mmmc_cemc_05@protonmail.com> wrote:

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Good Afternoon Brandy –

I went back and reviewed all my emails and do not see one from you.

When you resend - if you can break it up into multiple attachments in separate emails, this could be the reason that I did not receive it.

Thank you for responding back with your details.

I look forward to your emails tomorrow.

Thank You,

Melissa McMartin

From: Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>

Reply-To: Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>

Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 4:02 PM

To: Melissa McMartin <mmmc_cemc_05@protonmail.com>

Cc: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>, Frank Phillips
<Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>, Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>

Subject: Open Records - Denton County Elections Administration

Good afternoon Ms. McMartin, I sent the files over to you on 4/10. Did you not receive them? If not, I can resend in the morning.

Brandy Grimes; CERA, REO
Deputy Elections Administrator
Denton County Elections
940.349.3205

On Apr 19, 2023, at 2:55 PM, Melissa McMartin <mmmc_cemc_05@protonmail.com> wrote:

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Good Afternoon Brandy,

I wanted to check back in on my request for documents.

Please give me an update at your earliest convenience.

Thank You – Melissa McMartin

From: Melissa McMartin <mmmc_cemc_05@protonmail.com>

Reply-To: Melissa McMartin <mmmc_cemc_05@protonmail.com>

Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 at 10:42 AM

To: Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>

Cc: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>, Andy Eads <Andy.Eads@dentoncounty.gov>, Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>, Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>

Subject: Re: Open Records - Denton County Elections Administration

Good Morning Brandy –

Thank you for the update on the Open Records request.

I look forward to receiving the documents as soon as you can.

Thank You – Melissa McMartin

From: Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>

Reply-To: Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>

Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 at 9:44 AM

To: 'Melissa McMartin' <mmmc_cemc_05@protonmail.com>

Cc: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>, Andy Eads <Andy.Eads@dentoncounty.gov>, Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>, Nancy West <Nancy.West@dentoncounty.gov>

Subject: RE: Open Records - Denton County Elections Administration

Good morning Ms. McMartin,

We are currently working with the Records Management department to fulfill Beverly's request for additional ballots for her review. As soon as her request is complete, we will begin locating the documents that you have requested. This will likely be a large undertaking and will require additional time. I estimate that we will be able to provide all the documents within 10 business days after the completion of Beverly's project.

1. Brandy

From: Melissa McMartin <mmmc_cemc_05@protonmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 3:03 PM

To: Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>

Cc: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>; Andy Eads <Andy.Eads@dentoncounty.gov>; Elections <elections@dentoncounty.gov>

Subject: Re: Open Records - Denton County Elections Administration

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Good Afternoon Brandy –

I have not received a response to this Open Records Request.

Beverly and I work on this Reconciliation Project together.

Beverly will be hand counting next week at the Denton County Election Administration.

If it is convenient, the open records documents requested below can be provided to her during her hand counting.

Please let me know if providing the open records documents requested below to Beverly would be convenient for your staff.

Thank You – Melissa McMartin

From: Melissa McMartin <mmmc_cemc_05@protonmail.com>

Reply-To: Melissa McMartin <mmmc_cemc_05@protonmail.com>

Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 1:37 PM

To: <elections@dentoncounty.gov>

Cc: Beverly Foley <beverlyfoley@gmail.com>, <Andy.Eads@dentoncounty.gov>, Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>

Subject: Open Records - Denton County Elections Administration

To Whom It May Concern:

Request Open Records for Paperwork from “Each Poll Location for Early Voting” associated with **November 8, 2022 - General and Special Election**
(See attached report of Poll Locations for Early Voting, and any other polling sites not listed on report)

****Judge’s Paperwork at the Polling Site**

1. Omissions List
2. Combination Form
3. In addition, any of these document types mentioned above associated with Limited Voters or voters being served at Denton County Election Administration office during early voting.

Request Open Records for Paperwork from “Each Poll Location for Election Day” associated with **November 8, 2022 - General and Special Election**
(See attached report of Poll Locations for Election Day, and any other polling sites not listed on report)

****Judge’s Paperwork at the Polling Site**

1. Omissions List
2. Combination Form

I would like copies of these requested documents. Please provide explanation on why at a polling site “Judge’s paperwork” for these documents were not found.

Please review this open records request and let me know if you have any questions.

Thank You – Melissa McMartin

From: Frank Phillips

Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 3:21 PM

To: Bob Reeves - Kerr County (Texas Association of Counties) <breeves@members.county.org>

Subject: Re: Hand Counting of Ballots

Hi Bob,

This is not true. We of course have those who want to, but no plans to do so.

Frank

On Aug 24, 2023, at 3:18 PM, Bob Reeves - Kerr County (Texas Association of Counties) <breeves@members.county.org> wrote:

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Good afternoon. Like many of the election offices in Texas we are seeing a group pushing for the hand counting of ballots. One of our commissioners has stated that Denton Counting will be hand counting (not marking) the ballots. I was wishing to inquire if this is true.

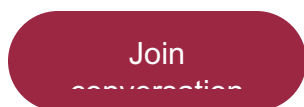
Thank you in advance.

Bob Reeves

Kerr County Tax Assessor/Collector

Please note that any communication sent to the Kerr County Tax Assessor Collector may become public record and made available for public/media review. ATTENTION PUBLIC OFFICIALS: a Reply to All of this e-mail could lead to violations of the Texas Open Meetings Act. Please reply only to the sender. This e-mail message may contain confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not an addressee or otherwise authorized to receive this message, you should not use, copy, disclose or take any action based on this e-mail or any information contained in the message. If you

have received this material in error, please advise the sender immediately by reply e-mail and delete this message.



Reply to continue conversation with Bob or respond in [Texas Association of Counties](#). ____

If you want to update what emails you receive, [visit your email preferences](#). ____

From: Frank Phillips
Sent: Monday, July 3, 2023 9:08 AM
To: Shannon Maddox - Van Zandt County (Texas Association of Counties)
<smyers@members.county.org>
Cc: TAC-Elections-Community <tac-elections@groups.county.org>
Subject: Re: [TAC-Elections] HAND COUNT?

Hell to the NOI!

On Jul 3, 2023, at 9:05 AM, Shannon Maddox - Van Zandt County (Texas Association of Counties) <smyers@members.county.org> wrote:

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Are any of you considering reverting back to hand counting?

Thanks & Happy 4th of July!

Shannon Maddox - Van Zandt County
Van Zandt County
Deputy County Clerk

Join

Reply to chat privately with Shannon or **Reply all** to discuss with everyone —
You received this message because you are a member of TAC Elections Community (part of Texas Association of Counties)

If you want to update what emails you receive, [visit your email preferences](#). —

From: Frank Phillips
Sent: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 12:20 PM
To: Brandy Grimes <Brandy.Grimes@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Collin County Article

Begin forwarded message:

From: Fred Rogers <frrtx@icloud.com>
Date: June 6, 2023 at 12:08:40 PM CDT
To: Brent Hagenbuch <brent.hagenbuch@gmail.com>, Jayne Howell <jayne@jaynehowell.com>, Frank Phillips <Frank.Phillips@dentoncounty.gov>, Micki Meinecke <Micki.Meinecke@dentoncounty.gov>
Subject: Collin County Article

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Interesting article. I highlighted one paragraph that is significant to the accuracy of their 2020 election.
Fred

Think With Krys Boyd
KERA

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News

No denying the voting machines in Collin County — commissioners approve contract renewal

KERA | By [Caroline Love](#)

Published June 5, 2023 at 4:50 PM CDT

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*Christopher Connelly
/
KERA News*

Collin County residents who've spoken out at commissioner court have raised concerns about voting machines. But the commissioners voted Monday to keep using them.

Collin County will continue using the same voting machines for another year despite objections from several members of the local Republican party.

The commissioners voted to approve the consent agenda for the meeting, including the renewal of the county's contract with the company that provides

its election machines until June 30, 2024. Multiple residents implored the commissioners to vote against the contract renewal during public comments, citing false claims about 2020 election fraud.

This isn't the first time people have shared concerns about the county's voting machines and election integrity. Mark Brugge was one of the citizens who spoke during public comments. He said Collin County residents have raised concerns about election integrity for a couple of years. He also said the Collin County Republican Party's chair told him 80% of the party's precinct chairs share that worry.

"The large percentage wants to get rid of them and a lot of them don't trust them," Berge said.

Abraham George, the Collin County Republican Party chair, told KERA [before the 2022 election](#) that while there may have been election fraud in other parts of Texas, there was no fraud in Collin County.

"We won every race," George said.

That includes county commissioners Susan Fletcher and Darrel Hale, who ran as Republicans in 2020 and won with more than half of the county's votes. The other county commissioners, Duncan Webb and Cheryl Webb, are also Republican. So is County Judge Chris Hill.

None of the commissioners officially commented on renewing the contract or the public comments during the meeting. But Commissioner Susan Fletcher asked the county administrator, Bill Bilyeu, to give an update on the recount of the May 6 election results.

Bilyeu said it took almost seven hours to recount the votes from 1,100 ballots by hand for one race.

"The outcome of the ballot, comparing it to what was run through the machines, was exactly the same," he said.

Public commenters at the meeting – and at past commissioners' court sessions – said that voting machines aren't as reliable or accurate as hand counting. Debbie Lindstrom, a Collin County Republican precinct chair, said that the machines are also illegal.

“They not certified properly, neither at the federal or the state level,” Lindstrom said.

The Texas Secretary of State’s Office concluded otherwise. The [2020 election audit report](#) made a point to include the dates the Texas secretary of state certified the election machines ahead of the vote in Collin County. The report also praised the county’s election systems, calling it “the model of how to run elections in Texas.”

But that didn’t reassure people with concerns. Barbara Isaacs, who’s spoken at commissioners’ court about election integrity off and on for years, still said the machines aren’t secure.

“I feel that you are disenfranchising the citizens that do not feel safe to vote on these machines,” Isaacs said to the commissioners