

Legislation Text

File #: 19-407, Version: 1

Presenter/Contact
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SUBJECT:

Discuss and consider approval of a resolution in support of a countywide polling place program within Comal County.

BACKGROUND / RATIONALE:

Comal County is proposing a countywide polling place program that will allow for greater involvement of registered voters. Specifically, the program will allow Comal County voters to vote in any precinct within Comal County. Currently, registered voters may vote on Election Day only in their precinct or at an early voting polling location. The program will allow for potentially greater voter turnout as they will be less geographically restricted.

The Texas Election Code states that the Secretary of State may select counties to participate in the countywide polling place program. Eligible counties may apply to the Secretary of State for primary elections, statewide elections, municipal elections, etc. as long as they meet population requirements, use direct recording electronic voting systems, use a computerized voter registration list with instant verification, hold a public hearing on the matter, and have a written implementation plan and a public information effort to inform the voters.

Comal County is asking for each entity's governing body to submit a letter (or resolution) of support so they may file an intent to participate with the Secretary of State's Office. If approved, Comal County would join at least 60 other Texas counties participating in the program.

ADDRESSES A NEED/ISSUE IN A CITY PLAN OR COUNCIL PRIORITY:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Comal County Elections Committee unanimously recommended approval at their meeting on June 5, 2019. The Comal County Elections Committee is comprised of representatives from Comal County, NBISD, CISD, political party chairs, and all municipalities within the County.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the resolution.