

August 19, 2008

Several issues exist with some of the current polling places, which will require combination and/or relocation to resolve. Note: A polling place cannot contain more than 5,000 registered (not including suspense) voters and must be contiguous when considering combination.

I formed a committee consisting of Alicia Ramirez, City Clerk; Becky Hopkins, S.A.I.S.D.; Linda Shoemaker, Democratic Party Chair, and Nancy Duerstine, Republican Party Representative and myself. We reviewed problem areas and recommend the following changes. Note - Registered voters are as of 5/16/08).

Combine 240, 253 (Fire Training Center -700 E. Ave. K) with 230 (Southgate Church of Christ – 528 Country Club Rd.)

City of San Angelo has notified us that we can no longer use the Fire Training Center as our polling place. We researched several possibilities for a new location but were unable to locate a polling place within the boundaries of either precinct. Precinct 230 and Precinct 220, 254 were the only two contiguous precincts. The committee felt that combining 240, 253 with 220, 254 thus creating a polling place with four precincts, as well as asking the voters from 240, 253 to go to Fairview School to vote, was not the best option. Therefore, we recommend combining with precincts 240, 253 with 230 on a permanent basis.

Precinct 240, 253	Registered voters = 2,952	Without suspense = 2,066
Precinct 230	Registered voters = 1,761	Without suspense = 1,432
Total	Registered voters = 4,713	Without suspense = 3,498

Relocate 241, 249 (Legend Oaks) to Sierra Vista United Methodist

Precinct 241, 249 is located in a facility for elderly patients. While working with the staff of this location has been excellent, the election office has received complaints from residents' families. These complaints include carrying illnesses into the facility, disturbing patients' rest, and upsetting family members with the interruption an election causes. Additionally, the poll workers have stated that there is not enough room to adequately hold a normal election, much less a primary. Voting has been disturbed by the necessity of transporting patients to an ambulance and the stream of visitors going through the voting space. The presiding judge contacted Sierra Vista and they seem agreeable to relocation of the polling place to this facility. We have toured the facility and there are two rooms that are very adequate for our purposes. We have not yet received word from them that we can relocate to their facility but everyone we have spoken to has agreed that they do not anticipate any problems. Tentative approval to relocate to Sierra Vista is requested pending a decision from them. The committee recommends this relocation. Additionally, due to issues with voters being able to find the poll at 209 – Christian Village, the committee has recommended combining 209 with 241, 249. Unless the court recommends this change, it might be best to delay this move until later.

Precinct 241, 249	Registered voters = 2,909	Without suspense = 2,464
Precinct 209	Registered voters = 1,950	Without suspense = 1,433
Total	Registered voters = 4,859	Without suspense = 3,897

Relocate 421 (Southland Fire Station – 4702 Southland Blvd.) to Plaza del Sol

City of San Angelo has advised us that we will no longer be able to use Southland Fire Station as a polling place. Again, working with the staff at the fire station has been excellent, yet this facility is not the best place to hold an election. The voters and poll workers have experienced problems with weather and cramped space. Staff had initiated attempts to find a new location for this poll. Plaza del Sol staff contacted the election office and asked what would be required to have their facility named as the polling place. After visiting the facility, the election staff found it very suitable for an election polling place. We were quite disturbed to learn that handicapped residents of Plaza del Sol were not comfortable voting at the Fire Station. Unlike Legend Oaks, residents at Plaza del Sol are ambulatory and welcome the idea of having the election held at their facility. Plaza del Sol staff has taken steps to improve the few problems we were concerned about including installation of a handicap-accessible

ramp to enter the proposed polling place. The committee recommends relocating 421 to Plaza del Sol.

Combine 434, 435 (Angelo Civic Theatre – 1936 Sherwood Way) to 436 (MHMR – 1501 W. Beauregard)

Numerous problems have arisen at Angelo Civic Theater with regards to holding elections. There is not enough space in the facility to adequately conduct the election without difficulty. In May, there was an issue with electricity and a broken water pipe and both the precinct judge and election staff would not have been able to reach someone from the Theatre without the aid of the City Clerk. Election Staff has explored several possible locations but none of them seem to offer the best solution. The committee recommends the combination of these two polling places. Both the Republican Judge and Alternate Judge from 434, 435 have toured the facility at MHMR and welcome the move. Purchase of two temporary Handicap Parking markers is recommended by the poll workers to aid in parking for the handicapped. MHMR is an existing polling location, which will make the transition easier.

Precinct 434, 435	Registered voters = 3,089	Without suspense = 2,384
Precinct 436	Registered voters = 1,765	Without suspense = 1,330
Total	Registered voters = 4,854	Without suspense = 3,714

Recognize and change the name of the facility used for Precinct 433

Previous name = Baptist Temple. Per church, name has been changed to Lifepoint Baptist Church.

Combine 401 (First Christian Church – 29 N. Oakes) and 459 (Rio Concho Patio Homes – 405 Rio Concho) with 433 (Lifepoint Baptist Church)

Precinct 459 has very limited parking around the polling place and is difficult to find. While the convenience of the location of the polling place to the residents of the Manor is beneficial, voters that do not live at the facility cannot easily find the poll. Precinct 401 has a low voter turnout and combining this precinct with another could save dollars and free up voting equipment to use in other locations. Precinct 433 is an existing polling place and transition to this poll will be easier than relocating to another location. The committee recommends combining these polling places.

Precinct 401	Registered voters = 302	Without suspense = 206
Precinct 459	Registered voters = 677	Without suspense = 511
Precinct 433	Registered voters = 1,474	Without suspense = 1,216
Total	Registered voters = 2,453	Without suspense = 1,933