



BEVERLY B. KAUFMAN COUNTY CLERK

For Immediate Release
September 1, 2010

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County Clerk's election plan: familiar electronic voting and paper ballots as a back up

Houston, TX, - The Harris County Clerk, Beverly Kaufman, went before the Harris County Commissioners Court on Mon., Aug. 30th, two days after fire destroyed the county's election equipment, and presented a plan for the conduct of the Nov. 2, 2010 election. The plan calls for the use of the eSlate electronic voting system which is familiar to county voters during the early voting period and on Election Day. In addition, as a back-up plan on Election Day, paper ballots will be available at every poll.

"The public should know that a plan had to be enacted quickly to be able to conduct the election in accordance with the election calendar set by the state," said Kaufman, the chief election officer of the County. "Early voting will be conducted in a manner that is familiar to voters. We will obtain enough electronic voting equipment that is compatible with technology we have in place and allocate it to early voting locations as usual. The goal is the same for Election Day; but, if there is a limited amount of electronic equipment at each poll on Election Day, paper ballots will be on hand to ensure that all voters are afforded equal access to the voting process."

"As we face this unforeseen challenge, I'm heartened that all entities that have a role in creating the county's election infrastructure are working as a team to ensure all registered voters are provided access to the voting process in a manner consistent with voting laws," added Kaufman. Texas election law provides that the administration of an election must be a coordinated effort between the chief election officer of the county, the chairpersons of the political parties, citizens (via their political party structure) and County government officials.

For this election, at least one electronic voting machine that provides people with disabilities the opportunity to vote independently, the Disabled Automated Unit (DAU), will be allocated to each of the polling locations. More importantly, on Election Day, 736 polling locations are scheduled to open. An increase of eight compared to the 728 polls opened during the 2008 November election.

"It is more important than ever for voters to know all the important dates leading up to Election Day and take advantage of the voting options which the law affords them," Kaufman concluded, urging registered voters to visit the County Clerk's election website or Texas Secretary of State's website to obtain the calendar for this election cycle:

The important dates for the upcoming election are as follows:

- **First Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (does not apply to FPCA), September 3, 2010**
- Last Day to Register to Vote, October 4, 2010
- **First Day of Early Voting, October 18, 2010**
- Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail, October 26, 2010 (must be received, not merely postmarked)
- Last Day of Early Voting, October 29, 2010
- **General Election Day, November 2, 2010**

For more information, voters may visit www.sos.state.tx.us, www.harrisvotes.com or call 713.755.6965.