

Consolidating Precincts for the November 2, 2021 Constitutional Amendments Special Election

I am proposing that Karnes County consolidate election precincts for the upcoming Special Election to be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. I have confirmed with the Legal Department of the Secretary of State's Office that this is a viable, legal option as detailed in Section 42.008 of the Election Code. The county is required to open a minimum of four polling places on Election Day.

Sec. 42.008. CONSOLIDATING PRECINCTS IN SPECIAL ELECTION. (a) In a special election for which use of county election precincts is required, the commissioners court may consolidate, on the recommendation of the county election board, two or more county election precincts into a single precinct if the polling place is located so it will adequately serve the voters of the consolidated precinct.

(b) If county election precincts are consolidated for a countywide election, at least one consolidated precinct must be situated wholly within each commissioner's precinct.

I propose that we utilize five polling locations as detailed below:

Falls City Diner – Election Precincts 6, 7 & 10

St. Cornelius Catholic Church (CCD building) – Election Precincts 1, 12 & 13

Karnes County Museum – Election Precincts 2, 3 & 8

Kenedy City Hall – Election Precincts 4, 9, 11, 14 & 15

St. Anthony Catholic Church (parish hall) – Election Precinct 5

Consolidating these precincts will reduce the number of Election Day workers needed; the amount of election equipment to be programmed, delivered, and set up; the building rental fees; and election night delivery fees paid to judges without sacrificing geographic accessibility to voters. The last election of this type was held on November 5, 2019.

The Elections Administration Office currently has 394 annual Applications for Ballot by Mail on file. Every voter with an annual application on file will receive a ballot by mail for the November 2nd Special Election. Also, Early Voting will be conducted in our office for two weeks prior to Election Day.

The Elections Administration Office will post all polling place information on our website and will notify the local media of the consolidated election precincts well in advance of the election if approved by Commissioners Court.