

City Council Regular Meeting

DEPARTMENT: City Secretary's Office
FROM: Amanda Campos, City Secretary
MEETING: December 15, 2025

SUBJECT:

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide staff direction on the May 2026 General Election electing Mayor, Place 2, Place 4, and Place 6. (*Staff Contact: Amanda Campos, City Secretary*)

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AND GOAL(S):

Strategic Priority	Strategic Goal
 <p>High Performing City Organization Providing Exceptional, People Focused Services</p>	<p>1.2 Continue to improve the efficiency and productivity of operations</p> <p>1.3 Deliver high-quality service and communications to external and internal customers</p>

SUMMARY:

The City of Burleson will be ordering a General Election for May 2, 2026 for the purpose of electing Mayor, Council Places 2, 4, and 6 for full terms. Prior to ordering the election the council must make decision to incorporate into the election order.

Contracting

The city contracted with both Tarrant and Johnson Counties for the May 2023 General election and November 2024, however in even numbered years the county is not required to contract with cities or school districts. This year Johnson County has elected not to contract with the city or school districts, the primary reason is possible runoff elections from the March Primary Election. I anticipate Burleson Independent School District contracting with us as well to conduct their election.

Tarrant County Election will contract with us for election services but only encompasses approx. 25% of our registered voters.

Polling Locations

Conducting our own elections will require the city council to make decisions prior to ordering the election so that they can be incorporated into our election order. The first is the polling location. The city has in the past selected city owned locations: Senior Activity Center, City Hall, or the BRiCK and most recently the Johnson County Sub-Courthouse located here in Burleson on Elk Drive.

The county currently uses a dedicated space to hold their elections and although we are not contracting the county to conduct our elections we can utilize their space for our elections. All the election requirements are met and all Johnson County city voters are accustomed to voting in this location. If council chooses this location I will need to make sure I can request the space from the Johnson County Commissioners Court.

Another option is our new Council Workroom here at city hall. There is no longer construction however parking remains an issue, one we can work with. I want the council to be fully aware when the making the decision on the possible. The space can be easily reserved and should not conflict with any city operations or activities. We will have to disable city hall camera that would show any member of the public entering the room and any cameras inside the workroom. We can designate parking spaces for elections to help. We will have to have curbside voting designation, in previous this has not been a problem.

I would suggest fewer elections workers if we select the council workroom as the space is smaller than the previous locations, I do not foresee a problem with because we will be closer to the City Secretary's Office and staff can work has election workers to make up the difference.

Joint Election & Election Equipment

The Burleson Independent School District has requested to contract with the city for their upcoming General Election on the same date as our election. They have 2 full term Trustee places that will be on the ballot, Place 3 and Place 4.

We would share resources and cost for these shared resources. Polling locations, election workers, equipment, early voting clerk and hours. We would not combine the following: All required election notices and we would have a separate ballot.

- Election Judges to be named in the order
- Election Equipment would be the same as previous year Hart Verity Scan 2.7

Legislative Changes

New legislative item to review for 2026 May election.

- Clarified regular business day = day when the main office is open for business
- Number of ballots of distributed cannot exceed the total number (?)

- Increase penalty for election fraud from Class A to 2nd degree felony (if it's a elected official it is a 1st degree felony)
- Instruction for ballot by mail must be portrait orientation – 12pt or largest font that allows one sheet instructions
- Prescribed application for ballot by mail issued by SOS be at least 10pt.
- Curbside voting changes; voter must execute a form attesting they cannot physically enter polling location
- 2 elections workers must be present to assist (providing aid not generally) each curbside voter – Early voting 1 can help not required 2
- If someone transport voter for curbside voting must ask driver if they have driven 7 voters or more; if yes must fill out a form
- Prohibits loitering or electioneering within 20 feet of designated curbside voting

The most significant changes that occurred have not gone into effect, the legislation requires the Texas Secretary of State to release a report and give guidance before these changes are implemented. The Texas Secretary of State has until August 1, 2027 to release the report.

- ❖ Removes gap between early voting and election day
- ❖ Requires early voting and election day results to be reported together as one in person number
- ❖ Early voting by personal appearance begins the 12th day before election and be continuous through to election day including Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays
- ❖ Early voting locations must be designated as polling locations on election day too

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is a budgeted item.

STAFF CONTACT:

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