

CONTRACT FOR ELECTION SERVICES

This **Contract for Election Services** (“Contract”) is made and entered into by and between the **Elections Administrator of Hays County, Texas** (“**Contracting Officer**”) and the City of Dripping Springs, Texas (“**City**”) pursuant to the authority under Section 31.092(a) of the Texas Election Code.

RECITALS

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

- A. The purpose of this Contract is to maintain consistency and accessibility in voting practices, polling places, and election procedures to best assist the voters of the City. For purposes of this Contract the term “Election” will include any resulting recount or election contest. It will also apply to any election to resolve a tie.
- B. The Contracting Officer is hereby appointed to serve as the City’s Election Day Officer and Early Voting Clerk to conduct the Election for those areas of the City located within the contracting jurisdiction. As Election Officer and Early Voting Clerk, the Contracting Officer will coordinate, supervise, and conduct all aspects of administering voting in connection with the Election in compliance with all applicable laws.
- C. The City agrees to commit the funds necessary to pay for Election-related expenses for the City’s Election.
- D. The Contracting Officer has the right to enter into agreements with other entities at any time and may require that authorities of City’s holding elections on the same day in all or part of the same territory to enter into a joint election agreement as authorized in Chapter 271 of the Teas Election Code. The City agrees to enter into a joint election agreement required by Hays County.
- I. **RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONTRACTING OFFICER.** The Contracting Officer shall be responsible for performing the following services and furnishing the following material and equipment in connection with the Election:
 - A. **Nomination of Presiding Judges and Alternate Judges.** The Contracting Officer shall recommend appointment of Election Day presiding and alternate judges, central accumulation station judges, and the Early Voting Ballot Board (EVBB) presiding judge, all of whom shall meet the eligibility requirements in Subchapter C of Chapter 32 of the Texas Election Code.

B. Notification to City. The Contracting Officer shall provide the City with the most up-to-date list of presiding and alternate judges at least three weeks before the statutory deadline to order the Election.

C. Notification to Presiding and Alternate Judges; Appointment of Clerks.

1. The Contracting Officer shall notify each presiding and alternate judge of his or her appointment. The notification will also include the assigned polling station, the date of the election training(s), the date and time of the Election, the rate of compensation, the number of clerks the judge may appoint, the eligibility requirements for Election workers, and the name of the presiding or alternate judge as appropriate.
2. The election judge will make the clerk appointments in consultation with the Contracting Officer. If a presiding judge or the alternate judge does not speak both English and Spanish, and the election precinct is one subject to Section 272.002 and 272.009 of the Texas Election Code, the Contracting Officer shall ensure that a bilingual election clerk is appointed. The Contracting Officer shall notify the clerks of the same information that the judges receive under this section.

D. Election Training. The Contracting Officer shall be responsible for conducting Election training for the presiding judges, alternate judges, clerks, and early voting deputies in the operation and troubleshooting of the Verity Duo Hybrid voting system and the conduct of elections, including qualifying voters, issuing ballot style codes, maintaining order at the polling location, and conducting provisional voting.

E. Logic and Accuracy Testing. In advance of Early Voting (including the sending of any mail ballots), the Contracting Officer, the tabulation supervisor, and the other members the Contracting Officer designates for the testing board shall conduct all logic and accuracy testing in accordance with the procedures set forth by the Texas Election Code and under guidelines provided by the Secretary of State's office. The Contracting Officer shall also be responsible for the publication of the required notice of such testing.

F. Election Supplies. The Contracting Officer shall procure, prepare, and distribute to the presiding judges for use at the polling locations on Election Day (and to the Early Voting clerks during Early Voting) the following Election supplies: election and early voting kits (including the appropriate envelopes, lists, forms, name tags, posters, and signage described in Chapters 51, 61, and 62, and subchapter B of

chapter 66 of the Texas Election Code) seals, sample ballots, thermal paper rolls for use in the Verity Controllers, batteries for use in the voting system equipment, supplies for the electronic poll books, and all consumable type office supplies necessary to hold an Election.

- G. Registered Voters List.** The Contracting Officer shall provide lists of registered voters required by law for use on Election Day and for the Early Voting period.
- H. Notice of Previous Polling Place.** The Contracting Officer shall post notices of a change in a polling place at the entrance to the previous polling location. Section 43.062 of the Texas Election Code provides that the notice shall state the location has changed and give the location of the new polling place. The Interim City Clerk will ensure that Public Notice is also provided via published notice, on the City’s website and on all City social media outlets.
- I. Election Equipment.** The Contracting Officer shall prepare and distribute the Verity Duo Hybrid Voting System components from Hart Intercivic, Inc. (“Hart”) for the Election. This voting System includes the equipment referred to as “Duo” and Verity Controllers”. Each polling location will have at least one voting machine that is accessible to disabled voters to provide a practical and effective means for voters with disabilities to cast a secret ballot.
- J. Ballots.** The Contracting Officer or designee shall be responsible for the preparation, printing, programming and distribution of English and Spanish ballots and sample ballots, including the mail ballots, based on the information provided by the City, including the names of the candidates, names of the offices sought, order of names on the ballot, propositions on the ballot, and the Spanish translation of the offices and any propositions. The ballot will be prepared in these formats: Verity Duo Hybrid Voting System, paper, and auditory.
- K. Applications for Mail Ballots.** The City and Contracting Officer agree that early voting by mail ballots shall be processed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Texas Election Code and that 712 South Stagecoach Trail, Suite 1012, San Marcos, Texas 78666 is the early voting clerk's mailing address to which ballot applications and ballots voted by mail shall be sent for the City.
- L. Early Voting.** In accordance with Sections 31.096 and 32.097(b) of the Texas Election Code, the Contracting Officer shall serve as the Early Voting Clerk for the Election.

1. The Contracting Officer shall supervise and conduct the early voting by mail and by personal appearance and shall secure personnel to serve as Early Voting Deputies.
2. The Contracting Officer shall receive mail ballot applications on behalf of the City. All applications for mail ballots shall be processed in accordance with Title 7 of the Texas Election Code by the Contracting Officer or deputies at the Records Building located at the Hays County Government Center at 712 S. Stagecoach Trail, San Marcos, Texas 78666. Applications for mail ballots sent to the City shall be promptly faxed to the Contracting Officer at (512) 878-6699 or emailed to elections@co.hays.tx.us for timely processing and then the original sent application forwarded to the Contracting Officer for proper retention.
3. Early voting ballots shall be secured and maintained at the Records Office at 712 S. Stagecoach Trail, San Marcos, Texas 78666. In accordance with Chapter 87 of the Texas Election Code. The Early Voting Ballot Board shall meet at the same location unless posted differently.
4. Early Voting by personal appearance for the Election shall be conducted during the hours and time period and at the locations as determined by the Contracting Officer in consultation with the City and in accordance with the Texas Election Code.

M. Election Day Activities.

1. The Contracting Officer and staff shall be available from 6:00 am until the completion of the vote counting on Election Day to render technical support and assistance to voters and Election workers.
2. The Contracting Officer and staff shall prepare and conduct Election Night intake of election equipment, supplies, and records.
3. The Contracting Officer and designee shall serve as central counting station manager and tabulation supervisor, counting the votes in conjunction with the Early Voting Ballot Board and the Central Counting Station judges.
4. Election Day polling locations are determined by the Contracting Officer in consultation with the City and in accordance with the Texas Election Code. The Contracting Officer shall arrange for the use of all polling places and

shall arrange for the setting up of the polling location including tables, chairs and voting booths.

- N. Election Night Reports.** The Contracting Officer shall prepare the unofficial and official tabulation of precinct results under Section 66.056(a) of the Texas Election Code. The unofficial tabulation of Early Voting precinct results and Election Day precinct results shall be made available to the City via email as soon as they are prepared and may be released under law, but no earlier than 7:00 pm on Election Day. The tabulation reports may also be provided to other counties as necessary for the Election. As soon as reasonably possible, the Contracting Officer will post all reports for public review on the Hays County Elections website at www.co.hays.tx.us/elections.
- O. Provisional Votes/ Determination of Mail Ballots Timely Received under Section 86.007(d) of the Texas Election Code.** The Contracting Officer, serving as the Voter Registrar, shall retain the provisional voting affidavits and shall provide the factual information on each of the voters' status. The Contracting Officer shall reconvene the EVBB after the Election within the time set forth in Section 65.051 of the Texas Election Code for the purpose of determining the disposition of the provisional votes. At the same time, the EVBB will review mail ballots timely received under Section 86.007(d) of the Texas Election Code to determine whether such will be counted and to resolve any issues with such ballots.
- P. Canvass Material Preparation.** Promptly after determination of the provisional votes and resolution of any mail ballots, the Contracting Officer shall work with the EVBB and tabulation supervisor to tally the accepted provisional votes and resolved mail ballots, amend the unofficial tabulations, and submit new official tabulations to the City. These reports will serve as the canvass materials for the City.
- Q. Custodian of Election Records.** The Election records will be submitted to the City except for those records that must be maintained by the Contracting Officer as Voter Registrar in accordance with Section 66.051 of the Texas Election Code. The Contracting Officer is hereby appointed the custodian of voted ballots (which in the case of the ballots cast on the Verity Duo Hybrid voting system consist of the paper backup) and shall preserve them in accordance with Chapter 66 of the Texas Election Code and other applicable law. The Contracting Officer shall also maintain custody of the records pertaining to the operation of the Verity Controllers and Duo.

R. Recount.

1. The City shall advise the Contracting Officer if a recount is required by law or requested, and the Contracting Officer and the City shall discuss how such recount is to be conducted. The City shall reimburse the Contracting Officer for the cost of such recount which is not included in the original cost estimate.

S. Schedule for Performance of Services. The Contracting Officer shall perform all Election services in accordance with and in compliance with the time requirements set out in the Texas Election Code.

T. Contracting with Third Parties. In accordance with Section 31.098 of the Texas Election Code, the Contracting Officer is authorized to contract with third parties for Election services and supplies. The cost of such third-party services and supplies will be paid by the Contracting Officer and reimbursed by the City.

U. Department of Justice Preclearance for General Elections. If required by law, any changes to the general conduct of voting in Hays County will be precleared through the United States Department of Justice by the Contracting Officer with copies of the submission and response e-mailed to the City.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CITY. The City shall perform the following responsibilities:

A. Election Orders, Election Notices, and Canvass. The City shall be responsible for the preparing, adopting, publishing, and posting of all required election orders, resolutions, notices and other documents, including bilingual materials, evidencing action by the City of all actions necessary to call the Election. The City shall be responsible for conducting the official canvass of the Election.

B. Map/Annexations. The City shall provide the Contracting Officer with an updated map and street index (including address numbers) of its jurisdiction in and electronic or printed format and shall advise the Contracting Officer in writing of any new developments, annexations or de-annexations and any other changes to the master voter registration list within the jurisdiction.

C. Department of Justice Preclearance for Special Elections. If required by law, the City shall be individually responsible for obtaining appropriate preclearance from the United States Department of Justice for any special elections.

- D. Ballot Information.** The City shall prepare the text for the City’s official ballot in English and Spanish and provide to the Contracting Officer as soon as possible at the end of the period for ordering the Election or filing for candidacy. The ballot information shall include a list of propositions showing the order and the exact manner in which the candidates’ name shall appear on the ballot. The City shall promptly review for correctness the ballot when requested by the Contracting Officer to do so prior to the finalization and shall approve by e-mail or by signature in person.
- E. Precinct Reports to the Texas Secretary of State.** Based on information provided by the Contracting Officer, the City shall prepare and file all required precinct reports with the Texas Secretary of State.
- F. Annual Voting Report.** The City shall be responsible for filing its annual voting system report to the Texas Secretary of State as required under Chapter 123 et seq. of the Texas Election Code.

III. SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATED TO ELECTION WORKERS

- A. Number of Election Workers at Election Day Polling Locations.** It is agreed by the Contracting Officer and the City that there will be at least three Election workers at each Election Day polling location: the presiding judge, the alternate judge, and at least one election clerk appointed by the presiding judge. The number of necessary clerks is derived from the number of Elections at the poll and the number of registered voters at the poll.
- B. Compensation for Election Workers.** The Contracting Officer shall compensate all Election workers in accordance with the Contracting Officer’s established compensation policies, in accordance with the Texas Election Code and using the rates set by the Hays County Commissioners Court for county elections. The Contracting Officer shall pay the workers and be reimbursed by the entities sharing the polling locations.

IV. PAYMENT

- A. Charges and Distribution of Costs.** In consideration of the joint election services provided by the Contracting Officer, the City will be charged a share of the Election costs and an administrative fee. The costs distribution is set forth in the Joint Election Agreement. The costs to be paid by the City are set forth in the Cost Estimate.

B. Administrative Fee. The Contracting Officer shall charge a fee equal to 10% of the City's share of the cost of the Election or a minimum of \$75.00.

C. Equipment Rental Fee. Per Section 123.032(d) of the Texas Election Code, the Hays County Commissioners Court has set the equipment rental fee at \$175 each per controller, per Verity Duo, per scanner, per Tenex touchpad component. If the County acquires additional equipment during the term of the Contract, the charge for the use of the equipment may be reset by the Hays County Commissioners Court.

D. Payment. The Contracting Officer's invoice shall be due and payable to the address set forth in the invoice within 30 days from the date of receipt by the City.

V. TERM AND TERMINATION

A. Initial Term. The initial term of the contract shall commence upon the last party's execution hereof and shall continue thereafter in full force and effect for one year, subject to the termination rights set forth herein.

B. Renewal. Subject to the termination rights set forth herein, this Contract shall be renewed annually.

C. Termination. If either party wishes to terminate this Contract for convenience or for cause, the party must provide not less than ninety (90) days' written notice to the other party and allow for discussion of the desired outcome and options to reach the desired outcome. In the event of termination, it is understood and agreed that only the amounts due to the Contracting Officer for services provided and expenses incurred will be due and payable.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

A. Nontransferable Functions. In accordance with Section 31.096 of the Texas Election Code, nothing in this Contract shall authorize or permit a change in:

1. The authority with whom or the place at which any document or record relating to the Election is to be filed;
2. The officers who conduct the official canvass of the Election returns;

3. The authority to serve as custodian of voted ballots or other Election records; or
4. Any other nontransferable function specified under Section 31.096 or other provisions of law.

B. Cancellation of Election. If the City cancels its Election pursuant to Section 2.053 of the Texas Election Code, the Contracting Officer shall be entitled to receive an administrative fee of \$75. The Contracting Officer shall submit an invoice for the administrative fee as soon as reasonably possible after the cancellation, and the City shall pay the fee.

C. Contract Copies to Treasure and Auditor. In accordance with Section 31.099 of the Texas Election Code, the Contracting Officer agrees to file copies of the Contract with the County Treasurer and the County Auditor of Hays County, Texas.

D. Election to Resolve a Tie. In the event that an Election is necessary to resolve a tie vote, the terms of the Contract shall extend to the second Election, except:

1. The City and the Contracting Officer will agree upon the date of the Election and the early voting schedule subject to provisions of the Election Code and with regard to other elections being conducted by the Contracting Officer.
2. The City will be responsible for any Department of Justice preclearance submission under Section 5 of the Federal Voting Rights Act.
3. An attempt will be made to use the Election workers that worked in the first Election; those poll workers will not have additional training provided by the Contracting Officer.
4. The cost of the Election will be borne by the City; the Contracting Officer will work with the City on cost management.

E. Amendment/Modification. Except as otherwise provided, this Contract may not be amended, modified, or changed in any respect except in writing, duly executed by the parties hereto. Both the Contracting Officer and the City may propose necessary amendments or modifications to this Contract in writing in order to conduct the Election smoothly and efficiently, except that any such proposals must be approved by the Contracting Officer and the governing body of the City or its authorized agent, respectively.

F. Severability. If any provision of the Contract is found to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Contract and parties to this Contract shall perform their obligations under this Contract in accordance with the intent of the parties to this Contract as expressed in the terms and provisions.

G. Force Majeure. Either of the parties to this Agreement shall be excused from any delays and/or failures in the performance of the terms and conditions of this Contract, to the extent that such delays and/or failures result from causes beyond the delaying/failing party's reasonable control, including but not limited to war (whether declared or not), armed conflict or the serious threat of the same (including but not limited to hostile attack, blockade, military embargo), hostilities, invasion, act of a foreign enemy, extensive military mobilization, civil war, riot, rebellion, revolution, military or usurped power, insurrection, civil commotion or disorder, mob violence, act of civil disobedience, act of terrorism, sabotage or piracy; plague, epidemic, pandemic, outbreaks of infectious disease or any other public health crisis, including quarantine, social distancing, isolation or other behavioral restrictions; act of authority whether lawful or unlawful, compliance with any law or governmental order, rule, regulation or direction, curfew restriction, expropriation, compulsory acquisition, seizure of works, requisition, nationalization; act of God or natural disaster such as but not limited to violent storm, cyclone, typhoon, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, landslide, flood, damage or destruction by lightning, drought; explosion, fire, destruction of machines, equipment and of any kind of installation, prolonged breakdown of transport, telecommunication or electric current; shortage or inability to obtain critical material or supplies to the extent not subject to the reasonable control of the subject party ("force majeure event ") whether foreseeable or unforeseeable by the parties at the time of the execution of this Agreement. Any delaying/failing party shall, with all reasonable diligence, attempt to remedy the cause of delay and/or failure and shall recommence all remaining duties under this Agreement within a reasonable time of such remedy, or, when applicable, on the next available dates under the Texas Election Code.

H. Representatives. For the purposes of implementing this Contract and coordinating activities, the Contracting Officer and the City designate the following individuals for submission of information, documents and notice:

For the Contracting Officer:

Jennifer Doinoff
Elections Administrator, Hays County
712 S. Stagecoach Trail, Suite 1045
San Marcos, Texas 78666
Tel: (512) 393-7310
Fax: (512) 878-6699
Email: janderson@co.hays.tx.us

For the LPS:

Andrea Cunningham
City Secretary
PO Box 384
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620
Tel: (512) 858-4725
Fax: NA
Email: acunningham@cityofdrippingsprings.com

Witness by my hand this the _____ day of _____, 2023.

Contracting Officer:

Jennifer Doinoff, Elections Administrator
Hays County, Texas

Witness by my hand this the 17th day of January 2023.

Local Political Subdivision:

Name of Entity: City of Dripping Springs

Printed Name: Michelle Fischer

Official Capacity: City Administrator

City Administrator