

THE STATE OF TEXAS }
 }
COUNTY OF GUADALUPE }



CONTRACT FOR ELECTION SERVICES

THIS CONTRACT made by and between Guadalupe County, a body corporate and politic under the laws of the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as “County,” and the City of Schertz, Texas, hereinafter referred to as “Political Subdivision,” pursuant to Texas Election Code Sections 31.092(a) for an election to be held on November 5, 2019, which lies partially in Guadalupe, Comal and Bexar Counties. Said election for the Political Subdivision lying in Guadalupe County ~~and Comal County~~ will be administered by Lisa Hayes, Elections Administrator, hereinafter referred to as “Elections Administrator”.

Said Political Subdivision is holding a General Election and/or Special Election, at their expense on November 5, 2019.

The County owns an electronic voting system, the Express Vote Universal Voting System for Early Voting, Election Day voting, and Early Voting by Mail, which has been duly approved by the Secretary of State pursuant to Texas Election Code Chapter 122 as amended, and is compliant with the accessibility requirements set forth by Texas Election Code Section 61.012. Political Subdivision desires to use the County’s electronic voting system and to compensate the County for such use.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, agreements, and benefits to the parties, **IT IS AGREED** as follows:

I. ADMINISTRATION

The Elections Administrator of Guadalupe County shall coordinate, supervise, and handle all aspects of administering the Election as provided in this Contract. Political Subdivision agrees to pay Guadalupe County for equipment, supplies, services, and administrative costs as provided in this Contract. The Elections Administrator shall serve as the administrator for the Election; however, the Political Subdivision shall remain responsible for the decisions and actions of its officers necessary for the lawful conduct of its election. The Elections Administrator shall provide advisory services in connection with decisions to be made and actions to be taken by the officers of the Political Subdivision.

It is understood that other political subdivisions may wish to participate in the use of the County’s electronic voting system and polling places, and it is agreed that Guadalupe County and the Elections Administrator may enter into other contracts for election services for those purposes on terms and conditions generally similar to those set forth in this contract. Political Subdivision agrees that other political subdivisions that may have territory located partially or wholly within the boundaries of Political Subdivision, and in such case all parties sharing common territory shall enter into a Joint Election Agreement and share a joint ballot on the

county's electronic voting system at the applicable polling places. In such cases, costs shall be divided among the participants.

At each polling location, joint participants shall share voting equipment and supplies to the extent possible. The participating parties shall share a mutual ballot in those precincts where jurisdictions overlap. However, in no instance shall a voter be permitted to receive a ballot containing an office or proposition stating a measure on which the voter is ineligible to vote. Multiple ballot styles shall be available in those shared polling places where jurisdictions do not overlap.

II. LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Political Subdivision shall be responsible for the preparation, adoption, and publication of all required election orders, resolutions, notices, and any other pertinent documents required by the Texas Election Code and/or Political Subdivision's governing body, charter, or ordinances.

Preparation of the necessary materials for notices and the official ballot shall be the responsibility of the Political Subdivision, including translation to languages other than English. Political Subdivision shall provide a copy of their election order and notice to the Elections Administrator. The Political Subdivision shall prepare a submission to the United States Department of Justice for preclearance of the election procedures and polling places, pursuant to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.

III. VOTING LOCATIONS

The Elections Administrator shall arrange for the use of all Election Day voting locations. Voting locations will be, whenever possible, the usual voting locations for Political Subdivision. In the event a voting location is not available, the Elections Administrator will arrange for use of an alternate location with the approval of the Political Subdivision. ~~The Elections Administrator shall arrange for the use of the two Comal County voting locations for the Political Subdivision.~~

If polling places are different from the polling place(s) used by Political Subdivision in its most recent election, Political Subdivision agrees to post a notice no later than the day before the election, at the entrance to any previous polling places in the jurisdiction stating that the polling location has changed and stating the political subdivision's polling place names and addresses in effect for election.

All obligations of the Elections Administrator contained in this contract with respect to polling locations shall be limited to the provision of polling locations located within the geographical boundaries of Guadalupe County, Texas. ~~The Elections Administrator has agreed to contact the authority in Comal County to arrange for the use of Precincts 202 and 301 Election Day polling locations in Comal County.~~

IV. ELECTION JUDGES, CLERKS, AND OTHER ELECTION PERSONNEL

Elections Administrator shall recommend election judges, alternate judges and clerks. Upon request by the Elections Administrator, Political Subdivision agrees to assist in recruiting polling place officials who are bilingual (fluent in both English and Spanish).

The Elections Administrator shall notify all election judges of the eligibility requirements of Subchapter C of Chapter 32 of the Texas Election Code, and will take the necessary steps to insure that all election judges appointed for the Election are eligible to serve.

The Elections Administrator shall arrange for the training and compensation of all election judges and clerks. The Elections Administrator shall arrange for the date, time, and place for presiding election judges to pick up their election supplies. Each presiding election judge will be sent a letter from the Elections Administrator notifying him/her of their appointment, the time and location of training and distribution of election supplies, and the number of election clerks that the presiding judge may appoint.

- A. Each election judge and clerk will receive compensation at an hourly rate established by Guadalupe County pursuant to Texas Election Code Section 32.091. (The election judges are responsible for picking up election supplies at the time and place determined by EA (which will be set forth in the election judge letter requesting service for this election). Each election judge will receive \$12.00 per hour and each clerk will receive \$10.00 per hour pending approval by the Guadalupe County Commissioners Court. If not approved by the Guadalupe County Commissioners Court, each election judge will receive \$10.00 an hour and each clerk will receive \$9.00 an hour. The election judge will receive an additional \$25.00 for picking up the election supplies prior to Election Day and for delivering election returns and supplies to their designated regional drop off site. Election judges and clerks attending a training class on Election Law Procedures will receive a one-time stipend of \$20.00 for the completion of the course, dependent upon approval by the Guadalupe County Commissioners Court. If not approved by the Guadalupe County Commissioners Court, election judges and clerks attending training class will receive a one-time stipend of \$15.00 for attending class and working on Election Day.)

V. PREPARATION OF SUPPLIES AND VOTING EQUIPMENT

The Elections Administrator shall arrange for all election supplies and voting equipment including, but not limited to official ballots, sample ballots, voter registration lists, and all forms, signs and other materials used by the election judges at the voting locations. The Elections Administrator shall provide the necessary voter registration information, instructions, and other information needed for the election. If special maps are needed for a particular Political Subdivision, the Election Administrator will order the maps and pass that charge on to that particular Political Subdivision.

The Political Subdivision shall furnish the Elections Administrator a list of candidates and/or propositions showing the order and the exact manner in which the candidate names and/or proposition(s) are to appear on the official ballot (including titles and text in each language in

which the authority's ballot is to be printed). This list shall be delivered to the Elections Administrator as soon as possible after ballot positions have been determined by each of the participating authorities. Said list shall be provided to the Elections Administrator by the date set out in the published Election Calendar provided by the Secretary of State. The Political Subdivision shall perform the duties required for drawing for place on the ballot by candidates and provide candidate ballot position data to the Elections Administrator no later than one business day after drawing occurs. The Political Subdivision shall be responsible for proofreading and approving the ballot insofar as it pertains to that authority's candidates and/or propositions.

It is agreed by all parties that at all times and for all purposes hereunder, all election judges, clerks, and all other personnel involved in this election are independent contractors and are not employees or agents of the County or Political Subdivision. No statement contained in this Contract shall be construed so as to find any judge, clerk, or any other election personnel an employee or agent of the County or Political Subdivision, and no election personnel shall be entitled to the rights, privileges, or benefits of County or Political Subdivision employees except as otherwise stated herein, nor shall any election personnel hold himself out as an employee or agent of the County or Political Subdivision, unless considered a county employee as determined by the Guadalupe County Human Resources Department.

VI. EARLY VOTING

Political Subdivision agrees to appoint the Elections Administrator as the Early Voting Clerk. Political Subdivision also agrees to appoint the Elections Administrator's permanent county employees as deputy early voting clerks. Political Subdivision further agrees that the Elections Administrator may appoint other deputy early voting clerks to assist in the conduct of early voting as necessary, and that these additional deputy early voting clerks shall be compensated at an hourly rate set by Guadalupe County pursuant to Section 83.052 of the Texas Election Code. Each early voting clerk will receive \$10.00 per hour pending approval by the Guadalupe County Commissioners Court. If not approved by the Guadalupe County Commissioners Court, each election judge will receive \$9.15 an hour. Early Voting by personal appearance will be held at the locations, dates, and times determined by Political Subdivision unless the Political Subdivision enters into a Joint Election Agreement with Guadalupe County. Any qualified voter of the Election may vote early by personal appearance at any one of the early voting locations.

As Early Voting Clerk, the Elections Administrator shall receive applications for early voting ballots to be voted by mail in accordance with Chapters 31 and 86 of the Texas Election Code. Any requests for early voting ballots to be voted by mail received by the Political Subdivision shall be forwarded immediately by fax or courier to the Elections Administrator for processing.

The Elections Administrator shall, upon request, provide the Political Subdivision a copy of the early voting report on a daily basis and a cumulative final early voting report following the election.

VII. EARLY VOTING BALLOT BOARD

Elections Administrator shall appoint an Early Voting Ballot Board (EVBB) to process early voting results from the Election. The Presiding Judge, with the assistance of the Elections Administrator, may appoint two or more additional members to constitute the EVBB. The Elections Administrator shall determine the number of EVBB members required to efficiently process the early voting ballots.

VIII. CENTRAL COUNTING STATION AND ELECTION RETURNS

The Elections Administrator shall be responsible for establishing and operating the central counting station to receive and tabulate the voted ballots in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code and of this Contract.

The participating authorities hereby, in accordance with Section 127.002, 127.003, and 127.005 of the Texas Election Code, appoint the following central counting station officials:

Counting Station Manager: Lisa Hayes

Tabulation Supervisor: Missy Doss

Presiding Judge: Lisa Hayes

The Elections Administrator will prepare the unofficial canvass reports after all precincts have been counted, and will deliver a copy of the unofficial canvass to the Political Subdivision as soon as possible after all returns have been tabulated. All participating authorities shall be responsible for the official canvass of their respective elections.

X. WITHDRAWAL FROM CONTRACT DUE TO CANCELLATION OF ELECTION

Political Subdivision may withdraw from this Contract should it cancel its election in accordance with Sections 2.051 - 2.053 of the Texas Election Code, or should it be later ruled that the election is not needed. Political Subdivision is fully liable for any expenses incurred by Guadalupe County on behalf of Political Subdivision. Any monies deposited with the county by the withdrawing authority shall be refunded, minus the aforementioned expenses.

XI. RECORDS OF THE ELECTION

The Contracting Officer is hereby appointed the custodian of voted ballots and election records and shall preserve them in accordance with Chapter 66 of the Texas Election Code and other applicable law.

Access to the election records shall be available to each participating authority as well as to the public in accordance with applicable provisions of the Texas Election Code and the Texas Public Information Act. The election records shall be stored at the offices of the Elections Administrator or at an alternate facility used for storage of county records. The Elections

Administrator shall ensure that the records are maintained in an orderly manner so that the records are clearly identifiable and retrievable.

Records of the election shall be retained and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of Section 66.058 of the Texas Election Code. If records of the election are involved in any pending election contest, investigation, litigation, or open records request, the Elections Administrator shall maintain the records until final resolution or until final judgment, whichever is applicable. It is the responsibility of each participating authority to bring to the attention of the Elections Administrator any notice of pending election contest, investigation, litigation or open records request which may be filed with the participating authority.

XII. RECOUNTS

A recount may be obtained as provided by Title 13 of the Texas Election Code. Political Subdivision agrees that any recount shall take place at the offices of the Elections Administrator, and that the Elections Administrator shall serve as Recount Supervisor and the Political Subdivision's official or employee who performs the duties of a secretary under the Texas Election Code shall serve as Recount Coordinator.

The Elections Administrator agrees to provide advisory services to the District as necessary to conduct a proper recount.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

The Elections Administrator shall file copies of this document with the Guadalupe County Treasurer and the Guadalupe County Auditor in accordance with Section 31.099 of the Texas Election Code.

In the event that legal action is filed contesting Political Subdivision's election under Title 14 of the Texas Election Code, Political Subdivision shall choose and provide, at its own expense, legal counsel for the County, the Elections Administrator, and additional election personnel as necessary.

Nothing in this contract prevents any party from taking appropriate legal action against any other party and/or other election personnel for a breach of this contract or a violation of the Texas Election Code.

The parties agree that under the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, neither Guadalupe County nor Political Subdivision can enter into an agreement whereby either party agrees to indemnify or hold harmless another party; therefore, all references of any kind, if any, to indemnifying or holding or saving harmless for any reason are hereby deleted.

This Contract shall be construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, and all obligations of the parties created hereunder are performable in Guadalupe County, Texas.

In the event of one of more of the provisions contained in this Contract shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision hereof and this Contract shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.

All parties shall comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, and codes of the State of Texas, all local governments, and any other entities with local jurisdiction.

The waiver by any party of a breach of any provision of this Contract shall not operate as or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach.

Any amendments of this Contract shall be of no effect unless in writing and signed by all parties hereto.

IN TESTIMONY HEREOF, this Contract, its multiple originals all of equal force, has been executed on behalf of the parties hereto as follows, to-wit:

1. It has on this _____ day of _____, 2019, been executed on behalf of Guadalupe County by the Elections Administrator pursuant to the Texas Election Code so authorizing; and

2. It has on this _____ day of _____, 2019, been executed on behalf of the Political Subdivision by its Presiding Officer or authorized representative, pursuant to an action of the Political Subdivision so authorizing.

GUADALUPE COUNTY, TEXAS

ATTEST:
City of Schertz, Texas:

By: _____
Lisa Hayes
Elections Administrator

By: _____
Presiding Officer/Authorized Representative