

AGENDA ITEM # 9

September 1, 1998

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Consider adopting new election day and early voting polling locations and hours.

Election Administrator John Willingham advised the Legislature made it legal for local entities to conduct elections on the November general election date in even-numbered years and sets ratios as to the number of branch early voting locations that a Commissioners Court can establish.

Moved: Commissioner Mehevec

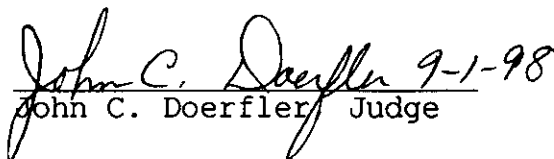
Seconded: Commissioner Boatright

Motion: To adopt new election day and early voting polling locations and hours per listing presented by Elections Administrator John Willingham.

Vote: Motion carried 5 - 0 < Clerk copy here >

**ORDER ADOPTING EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS
AND HOURS FOR NOVEMBER 3, 1998 ELECTION**

On this the 1st day of September, 1998, the Commissioners' Court of Williamson County, Texas, does hereby adopt the attached locations and hours for the November 3, 1998, General Election.

 9-1-98
John C. Doerfler Judge

EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 3, 1998

FULL TIME LOCATIONS

Main Courthouse, 710 Main, Georgetown
 Round Rock Community Center, 205 E. Main, Round Rock
 Cedar Park City Hall, 600 N. Bell, Cedar Park
 Brushy Creek MUD Office, 901 Great Oaks, Round Rock
 Taylor Annex, 114 W. 4th, Taylor
 Anderson Mill MUD Office, 11500 El Salido Parkway, Austin
 Round Rock ISD Administration Building, 1311 Round Rock Avenue, Round Rock
 Crestview Baptist Church, 2300 Williams Drive, Georgetown
 Spicewood Springs Branch Library, 8637 Spicewood Springs Road, Austin

Dates and Times:

Saturday	October 17	Noon to 5 p.m.
Sunday	October 18	Noon to 5 p.m.
Monday-Friday	October 19-23	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday	October 24	7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday	October 25	Noon to 5 p.m.
Monday-Friday	October 26-30	7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

PART-TIME LOCATIONS

New Round Rock Post Office 2250 Doublecreek Drive	Sat, Sun, Mon, 10/17-10/19 Sat, Sun, Mon, 10/24-10/26
Granger City Hall, 214 E. Davila	Monday-Friday, 10/26-10/30
Hutto Fire Hall	Mondays, 10/19, 10/26
Jarrell Fire Hall	Monday, 10/26
Coupland School	Tuesdays, 10/20 & 10/27
Florence City Hall, 304 E. Main	Tuesday, 10/27
Thrall City Hall, 104 Main Street	Wednesdays, 10/21 & 10/28
Bartlett Bank Annex, So. Dalton St.	Thursdays, 10/22 & 10/29
Liberty Hill Annex, Hwy 1869 & Loop 332	Thursday, 10/29

Hours each day are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

August 27, 1998

TO: COUNTY JUDGE AND COMMISSIONERS
FROM: JOHN WILLINGHAM, ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR
SUBJECT: EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS AND HOURS, GENERAL ELECTION

The above subject is scheduled for consideration at the September 1 meeting of the Commissioners' Court. There are some complicated factors that need to be considered, and I want to present them to you in advance of the meeting.

Background: In the last session, the Legislature made it legal for local entities to conduct elections on the November general election date in even-numbered years. The Legislature acted despite testimony from election officials, including me, that the change was unwise for the following reasons: (1) city, school, and county precinct lines and polling places are not the same, creating logistical problems; (2) cities, schools, and counties don't have the same priorities in their elections; and (3) local issues could be overwhelmed by the state and national issues that are normally the focus of interest on November general election days. In our county, the cities of Austin, Round Rock, and Cedar Park, among others, are holding elections on November 3, as allowed by the new law.

In the same session, the same state rep who presented the above legislation proposed and got passed another piece of legislation that sets ratios as to the number of branch early voting locations that a commissioners' court can establish. The old law said only that a county of our size had to have at least one branch early voting location in each commissioner's precinct. The new law says that no commissioner's precinct can have more than twice the number of branch locations as any other commissioner's precinct.

Our current branch locations, by commissioner's precinct, are as follows:

Commissioner 1-Round Rock Community Center;
Commissioner 2-Cedar Park City Hall and Anderson Mill MUD;
Commissioner 3-Brushy Creek MUD;
Commissioner 4-Old Taylor Annex.

Our current locations do not violate the ratio law, but because of the new law allowing local elections on November 3, we must work with Austin, Round Rock, and Cedar Park as part of a collective effort to keep as many county voters as possible from having to go two places to vote during early voting and on election day.

The city of Austin will be using the Spicewood Springs Branch Library at 8637 Spicewood Springs Road for an early voting location. The library is in our county, in precinct 275 (commissioner precinct 2) near the county line. It is possible that the city of Austin will also use our Anderson Mill location. The city's attorneys do not believe it is legal for the city to use any of our other locations, nor is it likely that very many city of Austin voters would vote at our other locations.

As you can see, our adoption of the Spicewood location would give us three locations in commissioner 2, which in turn would put us over the ratio. If we do not adopt the Spicewood location, many of the 4,000-plus city of Austin voters will have to go two places to vote early.

We have a similar problem with the city of Round Rock. Our regular branch location, at the Community Center downtown, is on the east side of I-35. The city wants to add a location on the west side of I-35, which I think is a good idea. We are currently considering an RRISD location or St. William's Catholic Church. The addition of either of these would take care of our ratio problem in commissioner 1.

However, if we adopt Spicewood and an additional Round Rock location on the west side of I-35, we will still need an additional location in commissioner 3 and 4 to avoid the ratio problem.

We have already obtained permission from Crestview Baptist Church on Williams Drive to use a modular building on church property for an early voting location. This location would need to have a temporary ramp. The addition of this location would give commissioner 3 two branch locations.

This leaves commissioner 4 still needing an additional location. Potential options include the following: (1) the new post office in precinct 463 on Doublecreek Drive; (2) an additional location in Taylor; (3) continuous operation of rural locations in commissioner 4, which may involve rotating sites among Thrall, Granger, Bartlett, Coupland, etc.; (4) some combination of the above (part of the time at the new post office, part of the time in Taylor, etc.).

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I will have more definite information by the time you meet on the 1st. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions. The cost of additional locations, though not in the recently approved budget, could be paid for out of contract revenues the county will receive from Round Rock and Cedar Park.

AGENDA ITEM # 10

September 1, 1998

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Consider adopting County tax rate.

At 10 o'clock a.m. Judge Doerfler announced time to consider adopting County tax rate.

Judge Doerfler announced the proposed county tax rate for 1998/9 is 0.244 General Fund, 0.055 Debt Service, 0.047 Road and Bridge for total of 0.346 per \$100.00 valuation and is the same tax rate as 1997/8 budget year.

At 10:02 o'clock a.m. Judge Doerfler announced time closed to consider adopting County tax rate.

Moved: Judge Doerfler

Seconded: Commissioner Boatright

Motion: To adopt County tax rate of 0.244 General Fund, 0.055 Debt Service, 0.047 Road and Bridge for total of 0.346 per \$100.00 valuation which is same tax rate as the current year.

Vote: Motion carried 5 - 0

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