Preparing for the 2024 Primary Elections

January 2024
TAEA Mid-Winter Conference

Topics

- Ballot Preparation
- Precincts and Polling Places
- What Challenges to we need to Prepare for in Texas?
- What are our shared goals?
- What do we do well in Texas?
- How do you “Tell the Story” of your Election
- Post Election Auditing
- How will the SOS Support the 2024 Primary Elections

The Primary Election has already started.

- We are 55 days from election day.
- We are 40 days away from the first day of early voting.
- We are 10 days away from mail ballots being sent out.

Ballot Preparation

- Ballot Challenges – Statewide races!
- Printing Ballots/Preparing your Voting Systems
  - Advisory 2023-27 – Ballot Preparation and Sample Ballots for the March 5, 2024 Primary Election
- Finalizing Ballots (We hope!)
  - Last day to challenge application for form, content, and procedure: January 16, 2024
- L&A Testing
  - Recommended deadline: January 17, 2024
- Preparing to mail out ballots
  - UOCAVA Voters (FPCA) Deadline: January 20, 2024

Precincts and Polling Places

- No “combining” of polling places (42.0051)
  - Combining = roommates
- Only consolidation allowed (42.009)
  - Consolidation = marriage
- What if you can’t comply?
  - Consult with County Attorney!!
  - At a minimum, do what you would have done if the law hadn’t changed.
  - Try to add at least some locations
  - Document efforts towards compliance.

Working with your County Chair

- This election belongs to the Political Parties.
  - Candidate Filings
  - Ballot Preparation
  - Certification of the Election
- Work with you County Chair to make sure ballot is correct.
  - Names
  - Offices
  - Districts
- Communicate with Party Chairs on a regular basis.
- Manage Expectations

What Challenges do we need to Prepare for in Texas for our 2024 Primary Election?

Challenges

- Misinformation
  - State to State
  - County to County
  - Polling Place to Polling Place
- Security and Contingency Planning
- High Stakes National and Local Primary Elections

What are our shared goals for the Texas Primary Election?

- **Accurate** Results
- Safe and **Secure** Elections
- Elections that are **Accessible** to our community -- Voters, Election Workers, and Poll Watchers.
- Complete, Thorough, **Transparent** Election Records that….

….Tell the Story of Our Election.

Tell the Story of Your Election

The Texas Model for Elections

- Decentralization, Local Control, and Transparency in the Process.
- Collaboration between Party Officials and County Election Officials.
- Collaboration between County and State

How do you tell your story?

- Identify your Stakeholders
- Communicate with Your Stakeholders
- Train Your Workers
- Document Your Actions
- Document Your Election

Ways to Build Trust in the Elections Process

- During the Election
  - Don’t delay on Public Information Requests
  - Acknowledge Mistakes
  - Communicate with your Party Chairs
  - Train on how to complete paperwork!!
- Looking Back on an Election
  - Complete and Thorough Polling Place Paperwork
  - How do you reconcile your election
  - Post-Election Auditing

Post Election Auditing

- Internal Records Review
  - Did your Procedures work?
  - Feedback from Election workers?
  - Intentional Records Management

- Beginning to End to Beginning

Post Election Auditing – Partial Manual Count

- Higher Profile Component
- Opportunity to Demonstrate Accuracy and Good Procedures
- Expansion of Partial Manual Count – 127.202, Texas Election Code
  - Send letter to SOS requesting expansion – Detail procedures!
  - We will review proposal and provide written permission.
  - Report results to our office
  - Post results on website

What is the SOS doing to support your elections?

- Weekly Webinars
- Weekly FAQ Webinar
- Weekly Emails with Training Reminders and Additional Resources
- Increases to Elections Division Personnel to support County and Party Officials
- Advisories and Resources
  - UOCAVA (FPCA) Advisories
  - Ballot Security
  - Limited Ballot
  - Emergency Ballots
  - Public Information and Elections
  - Activities in the Vicinity of the Polling Place
  - Canvass and Recount Deadlines

Final Thoughts

Our success as a state is dependent on the success of each county.

We have a strong, supportive election community in Texas. Rely on those connections, resources, and support to ensure an accurate, secure, accessible and transparent 2024 Primary Election.