

# WilCo Elections Gazette

Fall 2008

Williamson County Elections

Volume 2, Issue 2

**Voter Turnout**  
 November 2008 -  
 159,561

**Registered Voters**  
 Today -  
 235,445

November 2007 -  
 205,096



**Newsbriefs**

***Retirement***

Lettie Curran, Warehouse Operations, retired this summer to spend more time with her husband and grandchildren. She also plans on training and showing her Labrador Retrievers. Lettie worked in the Elections Department for 8 years.

***Maps***

County maps, including custom maps, are now available through the Elections Office. Maps range in size from letter size to 34" x 44". For information or to order maps contact Candi Zaccheus at 943-1629 or at [czaccheus@wilco.org](mailto:czaccheus@wilco.org).

## November 2008 Election Update From Rick Barron

I am continually asked why we don't make more than one iVotronic available for polling places on Election Day. Many Election Judges request the use of multiple iVotronics for Election Day.

The Texas Election Code forbids two voting systems in a polling site on Election Day, with the exception of HAVA (Help America Vote Act) equipment, such as the iVO for disabled voters.

Why don't we offer more disabled unit iVOs? We have a limited supply that restricts us to one per polling site. As we grow,

we will purchase more units and be able to service our larger precincts with multiple units.

Other inquiries have sought an answer as to why we don't re-use Early Voting iVOs on Election Day. In order to preserve back-up methods for access to audit logs and for a secondary record for a recount, it is not recommended that we clear those units until the recount deadlines have passed.

Questions regarding failsafe ballots for voters that have moved within the county but did not re-

register to vote at their new address have been asked as well. The Legislature put this law into place in order for voters to be eligible to vote even if they have not re-registered at their new address.

The law requires that voters vote at the precinct in which they are registered. They are only able to vote on contests and issues that are in common between their old and new precinct. This protects a political subdivision, such as Round Rock ISD, for example, from a voter that has moved into Hutto ISD from voting on a RRISD bond.

## In The Spotlight..... Meet Our Staff

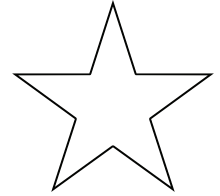
**Kari Shroeder**, Elections Data Coordinator, helps with locating and verifying voter addresses, collects and confirms voting information from each poll site during elections, reconciles voter counts each day, processes post election data, and prepares reports and data information for candidates, political parties, and county citizens. She also helps with the mapping process for county precincts. Kari began her over 11 year career with Williamson County in the Tax Assessor's Office and then worked in the Accounting Department for the last 8 years. She moved to the Elections Dept. this past Spring. Kari enjoys cooking, reading, and helping with her two nephews.

**Jenifer Favreau**, Elections Administrative Tech, joined Elections this fall after moving to Texas from California. She assists the Voter Registration Supervisor with all areas of Voter Registration including Ballots by Mail, Provisional Ballots, voter registration reports and data entry. Jenifer has a background in elections, having spent a lot of time around campaigns and the Connecticut State Capital where her mother served as a State Representative in the Connecticut Legislature. She has also worked in media and community relations, casting for movies, and as an assistant for an engineering firm. One of her favorite pastimes is writing and working on her next novel.

**Kay Proud**, Polling Place and Recruiting Coordinator, began her work here in October. She is responsible for finding suitable poll sites for each election and for coordinating the processing and assigning of pollworkers for all Early Voting and Election Day voting locations. She also assists with processing pollworker payroll. Her other duties include preparing election paperwork which must be filed with the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Kay is from Pennsylvania where she worked in a County Elections Dept. processing voter registrations, training, preparing supply kits and submitting election reports among other duties. Her stress reliever is baking all types of desserts.

**We Welcome Your Feedback! Contact us with your questions or comments at: [elections1@wilco.org](mailto:elections1@wilco.org)**

## Important Election Dates For 2009



**May General Election**

**May 9, 2009**

**November General Election**

**November 3, 2009**

## How Do We Do It?

Preparations for each election begin months before actual Early Voting starts and Election Day arrives. The Warehouse Staff of Kay Sparkman, Robert Koschade, and Jose Lozano must make sure that all electronic voting systems are cleared, programmed, and tested for voter use.

The 2-10 iVotronics at each EV poll site are put through a checklist of procedures at the Warehouse: All batteries are charged overnight, the touchscreens are calibrated to make sure that they are working properly, and the screens are cleared and tested to remove data from previous elections and to put in the upcoming election's qualification code. (This code ensures that only PEBs and iVOs programmed for the upcoming election will be used for voting.) The date and time are set. Once the ballot styles are determined and the programming of the ballots is completed, ballots are proof-read and checked for logic and accuracy. Then the Flash Cards and PEBs are "burned"

in order to put election data on each so that they will operate the iVOs and collect the data on the systems only during the prescribed election. All ballots are accessible via PEB for Early Voting since voters can vote anywhere in the county during EV. For Election Day, PEBs are location-specific and only the ballot or ballots for that precinct can be accessed. Audio ballots are enabled on the ADA units. The public count on each machine is verified as zero. A Flash Card is inserted into the top of each iVO and then sealed with a "tamper-evident" seal. Elections staff must make sure the doors on each unit are sealed and that all seals and serial numbers relating to any piece of the iVotronic are recorded on the EV or ED seal logs. Workers must then deliver the equipment to each voting location for Early Voting. The Master PEBs and the Flash Cards collect the voting data during the poll closing process and these are used by the Elections Department as the means of tabulating votes.

Similar steps are taken to

prepare all of the M100s for duty on Election Day: All 100 batteries are charged overnight, each PC Card is burned with the appropriate election location-specific ballot information, the ballot bins or boxes are checked to be sure they are empty and then locked and sealed. The PC cards are inserted and sealed. The date and time are set. Several test ballots, including undervoted contests and overvoted ballots, are run through each machine to verify that each is reading the ballots correctly and returning those that are improperly marked. Again, all seal and serial numbers associated with each M100 are recorded on the ED seal log. The tabulators are locked into place and the machines are ready to be delivered to each site. The PC Cards collect the voting data, and they are used to tabulate the votes.

This is just a portion of the diligent work (which also includes preparation of all of the election supplies) done by Warehouse staff in preparing us for each election.

## Workstations

The Elections Department has purchased new locking Workstations for each full-time Early Voting location which adds an additional measure of security for these poll sites. These rolling workstations have space to set-up and store two Electronic Pollbooks and their peripheral pieces. They will also be used as secure storage for the iVO screens, PEBS, Provisional and Emergency Ballot Bags, and backup Voter Registration Lists. The workstations will be delivered to each Early Voting location along with the iVotronics as well as picked up by the Elections staff.

## Pollworker Continuing Ed Opportunities

The Elections Dept. is offering **Continuing Education** classes beginning this January 2009. Registration will begin January 21. Contact Tony Venzor at 943-1690/943-1630 or

tvenzor@wilco.org.  
Classes include:  
Election Procedures - Jan. 29  
Election Forms - Feb. 26  
Electronic Equipment-March 26  
Classes will be held at the Human Resources Train-

ing Room three times a day on the specified date:  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Please call if further information is needed.

## How About This...

*"The idea of an election is much more interesting to me than the election itself...  
The act of voting is in itself the defining moment."*

*Jeff Melvoin*



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