

WilCo Elections Gazette

Summer 2009

Williamson County Elections

Volume 3, Issue 1

Voter Turnout
 May 2009 -
 10,445
Registered Voters
 Today -
 225,338
 November 2008 -
 235,445



Newsbrief
10th Anniversary
 Kay Eastes has celebrated her 10th Anniversary with Williamson Co. Kay began her career here in 1999 in the Human Resources and Elections Department. She now serves as the Deputy Elections Administrator for the Department.

To Contact The Elections Department
Call:
 512-943-1630
Mail:
 Elections Dept.
 PO Box 209
 Georgetown, Tx
 78627
Visit:
 301 SE Inner Loop
 Suite 104
 Georgetown, Tx

May 2009 Election Update From Rick Barron

We suffered a disappointing turnout for the May election. Just over 221,000 voters were eligible to vote, but only 10,445 citizens bothered to exercise their right to vote.

The low turnout allowed us to use our brand new “electronic pollbooks” during Early Voting and on Election Day in a less stressful environment. In January 2009 we reached an agreement with ES&S to return the electronic pollbooks we had purchased from them in October 2007. They had failed to live up to their billing and to satisfy our operational processes.

We then purchased a new system developed by our voter registration vendor, Votec. Votec’s product, VoteSafe, is, in the words of Anderson Mill Early Voting Supervisor John Davis, “generations beyond our old system”. It features instant messaging that allows pollworkers to contact the office without using the phone. We can also monitor every computer in the field and determine whether it is online or offline. The field computers sync with our management computer and continually send the latest voter information, and our management com-

puter posts the sync time.

We used the system at 14 locations during Early Voting, and on Election Day we had computers at all of the 35 poll sites.

We will be improving the speed of the system before November by purchasing a new server with multiple high-speed processors.

On another subject, we are adding three new precincts in Williamson County on January 1, 2010. Two of the precincts will be in Hutto and the other has been created in Cedar Park. The County will increase from 99 precincts to 102.

In The Spotlight..... Julie Seippel

Julie Seippel, Voter Registration Supervisor for the Williamson County Elections Department, has an interesting hobby. She loves all things “trivial” or at least the pursuit of trivia by playing competitive knowledge games.

And this attention to the “details” is employed each day in supervising the registration and processing of over 225,000 county voters and in preparing the data and the election equipment for every election. This includes the entry of voter supplied information, the verification of this data through the State of Texas, and resolving problems or

issues that arise with either the voter’s information or any technical questions concerning the Texas Election Code.

Julie works closely with the GIS analyst in confirming that all addresses are current and accurate and in setting up precinct data for all precincts for each election.

She must also “set up” the parameters of each election in the system software for the county, help produce the ballots for each election, and coordinate the processing of Ballot by Mail requests.

During an election, among other duties, Julie supervises requests for

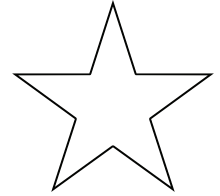
Limited Ballots and she supervises temporary phone bank workers and office staff who are assisting pollworkers with voter issues at the polls.

Post-election work for her includes supervising the reconciliation of all the paperwork involving the voters at each poll location (Combination Forms with voter signatures and voter registrations), the Provisional Ballots and the Ballot Board, and post election state reports.

Julie’s work is vital to the implementation and completion of accurate election processes for County voters. And that’s never a “trivial” endeavor.

You can also send us feedback or your comments or questions to: elections1@wilco.org

Important Dates For The November General Election



General Election	November 3, 2009	Early Voting - Oct 19–30, 2009
Last Day To Register To Vote		October 5, 2009

VoteSafe Voter Lookup System

VoteSafe Voter Lookup Software was introduced with the May 2009 election. This software integrates with the County's voter registration system and allows pollworkers to lookup a voter's information more quickly. Each poll site will utilize one or more laptop computers with USB

internet cards to help speed up waiting times and the long lines of voters that the County experiences during various elections.

The software will also provide another means of communicating (besides telephone) with Elections Department staff when questions

arise. Through a "texting" feature, staff can research the problem or question and respond quickly with needed information. The system will also allow the Department to send simultaneous "urgent" messages to all poll sites and reduce the time necessary to reach all sites by phone.

Maps and Data Reports

Election reports including, but not limited to, lists of registered voters, Early Voting lists, and results for specific elections are offered for a \$5.00 processing fee. Contact Kari Schroeder at 943-3247 or kschroeder@wilco.org.

County maps including custom maps are also available through the Elections Department. Sizes and fees are:

8.5" x 11"	\$1.00
11" x 17"	\$2.00
17" x 22"	\$3.00
22" x 34"	\$4.00
34" x 44"	\$5.00

For more information or to order maps contact Candi Zaccheus at czaccheus@wilco.org or call 943-1629. GIS requests can also be made online at:

<http://www.wilco.org/CountyDepartments/Elections/MapsGIS/tabid/609/Default.aspx>

Taking Care of Election Equipment & Supplies

The Elections Department depends on our election workers to help the County expend taxpayer dollars wisely and to control the costs of elections. **We can do this by making every effort to return all supplies and equipment in the same condition in which they are received.**

Each supply kit issued for Early Voting or Election Day has a **Save Our Supplies** instruction sheet detailing how to care for and carry the supply kits (with two hands like a box and not by the suitcase handle), how to inventory the forms and supplies in each kit,

and how to **gently use these supplies so they can be "recycled"** and used in future elections. Following the instructions for using the different types of tapes to secure signs and posters, the various pens and markers, the indoor and outdoor signs, and other supply items will help to ensure that we are using them as long as possible and as effectively as we can.

The same applies to the election equipment used at each poll site. The iVotronic voting machines and their booths, the M100s, the Vote-Safe laptop computers, and

all their attendant cables, USB internet cards, printers, and keys should be handled with the utmost attention to their transport, set-up, operation and return. If equipment is supplied or delivered in certain boxes, those items must be returned in those same boxes. We will be saving not only our supplies but also the time and money that might be necessary to repair or replace damaged equipment. It may help to remember that a penny saved by the Elections Department is, after all, a penny saved for us and all taxpayers.

Pollworker Continuing Ed Opportunities

The Elections Dept. will provide **Continuing Education Classes** this summer and fall for pollworkers or registered voters who may be interested in becoming pollworkers. The classes will provide hands on training with voting equipment as well as "refresher" information on election procedures and pro-

cesses. **Registration will begin June 1.**
Contact Tony Venzor at 943-1690 or Carolyn Paulsen at 943-3719. They can also be reached at tvenzor@wilco.org or cpaulsen@wilco.org.
Classes will include:
Opening the Polls - July 22
Elec. Procedures/Forms - Aug. 26
Voter Processing - Sept. 9
Closing the Polls - Sept. 23

Classes will be held at the Human Resources Training Room, 301 SE Inner Loop, Georgetown, three times a day on the specified date:
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Please call if further information is needed. We look forward to your participation.

How About This...

"Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost."

John Quincy Adams



Edited by: Rick Barron
Production: L. Waltisperger