

Press release regarding the most recent election and also upcoming events.

Typically when there have been constitutional amendment elections in the last several years, the turnout has been very low. Usually anywhere from 2 % to approximately a high of 6 %.

We had the usual early voting locations open for two weeks before election day. We also had two 12 hour days at the main office. The total for early voting was around 6%. So it was a surprise that on election day the voter turnout was extremely high. What was the driving force behind this? Was there a certain amendment that was getting attention?

Did voters study the proposed amendments over the weekend and then decide they needed to get out and vote? We cannot predict the future nor is there a precise way to determine exactly how many polling places will be needed. Typically we look at data from past elections to get an idea of what turnout may be.

Special thanks is given to the staff of the Marshall Public Library as well as the Election Office staff who worked diligently to provide voters the opportunity to vote.

We are fast approaching the party primary elections. Early voting will begin on Tuesday February 17, 2026. Election day is Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.

It is our goal to have enough polling locations open, to be well equipped and well staffed to allow voters to get in and vote as quickly and efficiently as possible. But in order to accomplish this goal, we need more citizens who are conscientious and considerate of others to learn to be poll workers.

Those of you who have vacation and or off time, please consider taking some time to participate in this important civic duty. That is exactly what I did. Requirements are: You will need two to four hours of training and then a commitment to work a long day from about 6 am to about 8 pm. You must be able to lift about 30 pounds without injuring yourself. You will need to be able to be silent about politics, as there cannot be any politicking inside a polling place. You will need patience to deal with the public.

We will offer some basic classes soon for those interested in becoming poll workers. We will then see if you have what it takes to become a poll worker and whether or not you are willing to make the commitment.

We have a poll **worker** application on the county website, [www.harrisoncountytexas.gov/elections](http://www.harrisoncountytexas.gov/elections) Links to online training are also available. However, you must attend live classes before being assigned work in a polling location.

If you desire to be a poll **watcher**, you must also take training and you must be appointed either by a candidate or party, etc. You must have a certificate showing you completed training and an appointment from a candidate or party.

If you desire to register persons to vote or to have voter registration drives, we will soon be offering classes to become **Volunteer** Deputy Registrars.

Please see our website [www.harrisoncountytexas.gov/elections](http://www.harrisoncountytexas.gov/elections) and also Harrison County Elections Office Facebook page for dates and times.