

SAN PATRICIO COUNTY

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON VOTE CENTERS

All citizens of San Patricio County are encouraged to attend and participate in this important public hearing on the implementation of Vote Centers.

A vote center is a polling place that combines multiple precincts allowing voters to choose at which location to vote. Vote centers can be used to allow voters to choose from any polling place within a larger jurisdiction, commonly county.

San Patricio County is asking for attendees at these hearings. We need council members, mayors, school superintendents, directors and citizens from minority and disability groups to comment on the vote centers.

The Public Hearing, scheduled for March 27, 2017 & April 3, 2017 at 9:00A.M. in the Commissioner's Courtroom will be held for the purpose of securing community comments on the Vote Centers.

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Vote Center--Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is a Vote Center?

A. A "Vote Center" is a polling place where any registered voter in San Patricio County may vote, as long as the voter lives in the county holding the election. Simply stated, with Vote Centers, there is no wrong place to vote!

Q. Can I really go to any Vote Center?

A. Yes, you can visit any Vote Center that is operating for the election.

Q. What keeps me from voting twice?

A. The San Patricio County Electronic Poll Book links every Vote Center together via a virtual private network. When you check in at one Vote Center, your record is instantly updated to reflect that you checked in and voted. If you tried to vote at another location, the system would not allow you to vote twice.

Q. What happens if I can't vote on Election Day?

A. You can vote before the election at an Early Voting Polling Place. There are two (2) weeks of Early Voting and extended hours on the weekend and the second week of Early Voting.

Q. How does a voting machine in San Patricio County give me the correct ballot for all of the various jurisdictions?

A. The electronic voting machines can hold many different ballot styles. When you check in, the poll worker will give you a five (5) digit code that tells the machine which ballot to display for you. So, no matter what precinct you live in, you will get the correct ballot.

Q. If there are fewer places to vote, won't there be long lines?

A. Lines may develop during certain elections and at certain times of day, but generally, those counties that have used Vote Centers, have found that voters had shorter waiting times than regular precinct elections.

Q. What are the advantages of Vote Centers?

A. Voters like being able to choose where they vote. Vote Centers are more convenient for most voters. Voter participation has been falling for decades; counties that use Vote Centers find that more people vote. Vote Centers are also more efficient.

Q. I'm not a San Patricio County resident but work in San Patricio County. Can I vote at a San Patricio County Vote Center?

A. No. Participation in Vote Centers is limited to people who are registered to vote in San Patricio County.