

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF HOWARD §

**AMENDED ORDER CALLING AN ELECTION TO CONFIRM THE CREATION OF
THE HOWARD COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1 AND THE
AUTHORIZATION OF THE IMPOSITION OF A TAX NOT TO EXCEED THE RATE
ALLOWED BY SECTION 48-E. ARTICLE III OF THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION**

In Howard County Commissioners' Court:

WHEREAS, the Howard County Commissioners' Court received a Petition requesting for the creation of Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1 (the "Petition"); and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Judge accepted the Petition at its meeting on November 25, 2024 and set a public hearing and executed a Resolution regarding the same; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Commissioners' Court conducted a public hearing on January 27, 2025 to consider approving the Petition and calling an election on the proposition of the creation of Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Commissioners' Court has made the requisite findings to approve the Petition as authorized by Texas Health and Safety Code § 775.017, including a finding that creation of the district is feasible and will promote the public safety, welfare, health, and convenience of persons residing in the proposed district, entered a Resolution to approve the Petition and to fix the proposed district's boundaries as a county-wide emergency services district (save and except the City of Big Spring), and made a determination that the district would still meet the requirements prescribed by §775.017(a) if – either separately or collectively – the municipal limits and/or extraterritorial jurisdictions of the City of Big Spring, Texas, the City of Coahoma, Texas, and the City of Forsan, Texas were excluded from the district; and

WHEREAS, an election was held on May 6, 2025. The election was canvassed by the Howard County Commissioners Court on May 14, 2025, creating the Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1. On June 6, 2025, an election contest was filed in the 118th District Court of Howard County by a taxpayer subject to the Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1 and the imposition of a tax not to exceed the rate allowed by Section 48-E, Article III of the Texas Constitution. On July 28, 2025, a judgment was rendered by the District Court in favor of the taxpayer, thereby rendering void the results of the May 6, 2025 election;

WHEREAS, the Petition and the Resolution approving the Petition by the Howard County Commissioners Court are unaffected by the District Court's ruling; and

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2025, the Howard County Commissioners Court ordered a special election which is hereby amended.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

An election shall be held to confirm the creation of the Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1 as a county-wide district, save an except the city limits of the City of Big Spring, Texas, (See Exhibit "A"), and to authorize the imposition of a tax not to exceed \$0.10/\$100, as authorized by Section 48-e, Article III, Texas Constitution, and Texas Health and Safety Code Section 775.018; and

The election shall be on the 4th day of November, 2025, which date is the next available uniform election date under Chapter 41, Texas Election Code; and

The creation of the district at the election shall be by a majority vote of all the voters casting ballots; provided, however, that:

- (a) The district shall not include territory in the City of Coahoma corporate and municipal limits unless a majority of the voters residing in the City of Coahoma corporate and municipal limits who vote at the election vote in favor of creating the district;
- (b) The district shall not include territory in the City of Coahoma extraterritorial jurisdiction unless a majority of the voters residing in the City of Coahoma extraterritorial jurisdiction who vote at the election vote in favor of creating the district;
- (c) The district shall not include territory in the City of Forsan corporate and municipal limits unless a majority of the voters residing in the City of Forsan corporate and municipal limits who vote at the election vote in favor of creating the district;
- (d) The district shall not include territory in the City of Forsan extraterritorial jurisdiction unless a majority of the voters residing in the City of Forsan extraterritorial jurisdiction who vote at the election vote in favor of creating the district;
- (e) The district shall not include territory in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Big Spring unless a majority of the voters residing in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Big Spring who vote at the election vote in favor of creating the district;

A. Election Proposition: At the election, the below proposition shall be submitted to the qualified voters who reside in the proposed District:

PROPOSITION A

PROPOSICIÓN A

CONFIRMATION OF THE CREATION OF THE HOWARD COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1 AND THE LEVY BY SAID DISTRICT OF A TAX NOT TO EXCEED TEN CENTS (\$0.10) ON THE ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR (\$100.00) VALUATION.

CONFIRMATCIÓN DE LA CREACIÓN DEL DISTRITO DE SERVICIOS DE EMERGENCIA NUM. 1 DE CONDADO DE HOWARD Y LA IMPOSICIÓN POR EL DISTRITO DE UN IMPUESTO QUE NO EXCEDE DIEZ CENTAVOS (\$0.10) POR CADA VALUACIÓN DE CIEN DOLARES (\$100.00).

The ballot of the election shall conform to the requirements of the Texas Election Code, as amended, and shall have printed thereon the following:

OFFICIAL BALLOT

BALOTA OFICIAL

FOR Confirmation of the creation of the Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1 and the levy by said District of a tax not to exceed ten cents (\$0.10) on the one hundred dollar (\$100.00) valuation.

AGAINST

A FAVOR Confirmación de la creación del Distrito de Servicios de Emergencia Num. 1 de Condado de Howard y la imposición por el distrito de un impuesto que no excede diez centavos (\$0.10) por cada valuación de cien dólares (\$100.00).

EN CONTRA

1. The ballots for the election shall provide for voting "for" or "against" the proposition. A vote "for" shall mean a vote in favor of the proposition, and a vote "against" shall mean a vote opposing the proposition.

2. A majority of the total votes cast “for” or “against” the proposition creating the Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1 shall determine if Howard County Emergency Services District is approved.

(i). Provided, however, if so approved, the proposed Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1 shall not include the territory in the City of Coahoma corporate and municipal limits unless a majority of the voters residing in the City of Coahoma corporate and municipal limits who vote at the election vote in favor of creating the Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1.

(ii). Provided, however, if so approved, the proposed Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1 shall not include the territory in the City of Coahoma extraterritorial jurisdiction unless a majority of the voters residing in the City of Coahoma extraterritorial jurisdiction who vote at the election vote in favor of creating the Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1.

(iii). Provided, however, if so approved, the proposed Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1 shall not include the territory in the City of Forsan corporate and municipal limits unless a majority of the voters residing in the City of Forsan corporate and municipal limits who vote at the election vote in favor of creating the Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1.

(iv). Provided, however, if so approved, the proposed Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1 shall not include the territory in the City of Forsan extraterritorial jurisdiction unless a majority of the voters residing in the City of Forsan extraterritorial jurisdiction who vote at the election vote in favor of creating the Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1.

(v). Provided, however, if so approved, the proposed Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1 shall not include the territory in the City of Big Spring extraterritorial jurisdiction unless a majority of the voters residing in the City of Big Spring extraterritorial jurisdiction who vote at the election vote in favor of creating the Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1.

B. Election Procedures:

1. The election on the proposition to create the Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1 shall be held in the area of the boundaries of the proposed Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1 on the 4th day of November, 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., including an election on the 2025 Constitutional Amendments.

- (a) Election Day polling places are as follows:

Ryan Hall/St. Thomas Church
605 N. Main Street
Big Spring, Texas

Coahoma Community Center
306 North Avenue
Coahoma, Texas

Sand Springs Baptist Church
201 E. 24th Street
Big Spring, Texas

Dorothy Garrett Coliseum
1001 Birdwell Lane
Big Spring, Texas

2. The election shall be conducted such that the voters in the area of the boundaries of the proposed Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1 shall vote on the proposition as a whole to determine the passage of the proposition, provided, however, that (i) the ballots voted by the voters in the City of Coahoma corporate and municipal limits shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately; (ii) the ballots voted by the voters in the City of Coahoma extraterritorial jurisdiction shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately; (iii); the ballots voted by the voters in the City of Forsan corporate and municipal limits shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately; (iv) the ballots voted by the voters in the City of Forsan extraterritorial jurisdiction shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately; (v) the ballots voted by the voters of the City of Big Spring extraterritorial jurisdiction shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately; and (vi) the ballots voted by the voters of the unincorporated portion of the County shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately.

3. The creation of the proposed Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1 shall be determined as follows:

(a) the creation of Howard County Emergency Services District No. 1 shall require a majority vote at the election in favor of the proposition, counted, tabulated and reported as a whole;

(b) if a majority of the votes cast at the election as a whole are in favor of the proposition, then inclusion of the City of Coahoma corporate and municipal limits shall require approval of the

proposition by the voters of the City of Coahoma corporate and municipal limits, which votes shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately;

(c) if a majority of the votes cast at the election as a whole are in favor of the proposition, then inclusion of the City of Coahoma extraterritorial jurisdiction shall require approval of the proposition by the voters of the City of Coahoma extraterritorial jurisdiction, which votes shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately;

(d) if a majority of the votes cast at the election as a whole are in favor of the proposition, then inclusion of the City of Forsan corporate and municipal limits shall require approval of the proposition by the voters of the City of Forsan corporate and municipal limits, which votes shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately;

(e) if a majority of the votes cast at the election as a whole are in favor of the proposition, then inclusion of the City of Forsan extraterritorial jurisdiction shall require approval of the proposition by the voters of the City of Forsan extraterritorial jurisdiction, which votes shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately;

(f) if a majority of the votes cast at the election as a whole are in favor of the proposition, then inclusion of the City of Big Spring extraterritorial jurisdiction shall require approval of the proposition by the voters of the City of Big Spring extraterritorial jurisdiction, which votes shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately;

4. The Notice of Election shall be given and the election shall be held in compliance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code in all respects, and, as applicable, the Texas Health and Safety Code, including Section 775.018. The ballots for the election shall comply with this Order, the Texas Election Code and, as applicable, the Texas Health and Safety Code, including Section 775.018, and shall be in the form as determined by the Howard County Elections Administrator for use on the voting devices and ballots used by Howard County.

(a) The Notice of the Election shall be given in the same manner as the notice of the petition hearing; and

(b) The County Elections Administrator shall give notice of the election in the manner prescribed in Texas Health and Safety Code Section 775.015(c), and not later than the 21st day before the date on which the election will be held, the Notice of Election shall be posted at the County courthouse bulletin boards, at all polling locations, on Howard County's website, and in the Big Spring Herald once a week for two consecutive weeks. The first publication shall occur not later than the 21st day before the election date.

5. **Jodi Duck**, the Howard County Elections Administrator is hereby confirmed and appointed to serve as the Election Officer and Early Voting Clerk. The Howard County Election Administrator's employees and appointees, along with the election judges, alternate election judges and election clerks appointed by the Howard County Election Officer are likewise designated and shall hold and conduct this election in the manner provided under the Texas Election Code and, as applicable, the Texas Health and Safety Code, including Sections 775.018 and 775.019.

(a) the Early Voting polling place for this election shall be at 2006 FM 700, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

(b) Early Voting by personal appearance at the Early Voting polling place shall be conducted on the following days and hours:

Monday, October 20, 2025 – Friday, October 24, 2025, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Monday, October 27, 2025 – Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 30, 2025 – Friday, October 31, 2025, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

(c) All ballots, voting instructions, signs, posters and other election materials required by Texas Election Code shall be prepared in English and Spanish, and shall contain such provisions, instructions, marking and verbiage as required by law.

6. The election precincts for the election shall be those precincts established by Howard County, and administered by the Howard County Elections Administrator; provided, however, that (i) the ballots voted by the voters in the City of Coahoma corporate and municipal limits shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately; (ii) the ballots voted by the voters in the City of Coahoma extraterritorial jurisdiction shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately; (iii) the ballots voted by the voters in the City of Forsan corporate and municipal limits shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately; (iv) the ballots voted by the voters in the City of Forsan extraterritorial jurisdiction shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately; (v) the ballots voted by the voters of the City of Big Spring extraterritorial jurisdiction shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately; and (vi) the ballots voted by the voters of the unincorporated portion of the County shall be counted, tabulated and reported separately.

7. Election Day precinct designations and Polling Places shall be those county precincts and voting locations approved as provided by this and any other election orders made by Howard County Commissioners' Court and/or the County Elections Administrator. (See Exhibit "B", attached to this Order).

8. Early voting by personal appearance and by mail will be conducted and coordinated by the Howard County Elections Administrator, who is also hereby designated as the Early Voting Clerk for this election. Early voting by personal appearance shall be held at the place so selected and designated by the County Elections Administrator.

9. **Jodi Duck**, County Elections Administrator, is hereby appointed to serve as the custodian of election records and recorder for this election. The County Elections Administrator will also serve as the Regular Early Voting Clerk to receive requests for applications for early voting ballots.

10. Applications for voting by mail in the election must be submitted by personal/commercial delivery by Friday, October 24, 2025. Federal Postcard Applications for voting in the election must be submitted by personal/commercial delivery (without postmark) no later than Monday, October 20, 2025.

(a) Applications for voting by mail shall be sent by US Postal Mail or personal/commercial delivery, or, as permitted by law, telefax, or email.

The address for US Postal Mail is:

Howard County Elections Center
C/O Jodi Duck, Elections Administrator
P.O. Box 1069
Big Spring, Texas 79721-1069

The address for personal/commercial delivery is:

Howard County Elections Center
C/O Jodi Duck, Elections Administrator
2006 FM 700
Big Spring, Texas 79720

Email: elections@howardcountytexas.com

Tel : (432) 264-2273 ; Fax : (432) 264-2275

11. As soon as practicable after the election, the election officials holding the same shall make and deliver the returns and the results thereof to the Howard County Commissioners' Court for the Commissioners' Court to canvass the returns and declare the results of the election.

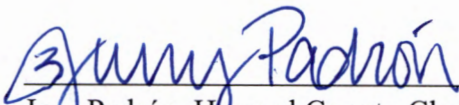
12. At such meeting of the properly called hearing called by the Howard County Commissioners' Court following its receipt of the election returns and the results thereof, Howard County Commissioners' Court shall consider and enter an order pursuant to the applicable provisions of Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 775.019 regarding this election.

PASSED, APPROVED and ORDERED this 25th day of August, 2025.



Randy Johnson, Howard County Judge

ATTEST:



Jury Padrón, Howard County Clerk

[COMMISSIONERS COURT SEAL]

