

To: Members of the Barbers Hill ISD Community

From: Dr. Greg Poole, Superintendent of Schools

Date: April 8, 2020

Re: May 2, 2020 School Bond Election

On March 31, 2020, Governor Abbott enacted Executive Order GA-14, which provided statewide guidance for maintaining the safety of Texans in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In his Executive Order, Texans were ordered to implement certain social distancing procedures, including avoiding social gatherings, while state and local governmental entities were permitted to continue to provide essential services, including election-related services. The Governor's Executive Order remains in place through May 4, 2020.

The Barbers Hill Independent School District has responded to Executive Order GA-14 by transitioning the provision of educational services to a home-based learning environment. Since spring break, Barbers Hill ISD has distributed 1,265 chrome books to students, served more than 8,000 meals to students in need, and for students with disabilities, individualized education plans have been developed in more than 300 virtual meetings between parents and educators. Over 99% of Barbers Hill students are actively engaged in online learning, and our employees continue to carry out these essential services consistent with Governor Abbott's Executive Order.

On January 12, 2020, the Barbers Hill ISD Board of Trustees called for a bond election to take place on May 2, 2020. The bond measure, if approved by voters, would authorize the Board to secure funds for new schools and educational facilities across the District. Barbers Hill ISD has experienced greater than 22% student enrollment growth over the past 5-year period.

On April 2, 2020, Keith Ingram, the Chief Election Official in the Office of the Texas Secretary of State, issued guidance to election officials across the state local regarding May 2, 2020 election procedures in light of Governor Abbott's COVID-19 restrictions. A copy of that guidance is posted on the Barbers Hill ISD website and contains more detail about alternate voting procedures.

Barbers Hill ISD continues to closely monitor public health and safety guidance from county, state and federal officials. I would like to provide voters with information about the May election and safety measures that Barbers Hill Independent School District will implement in connection with the May 2, 2020 special election:

- 1. Voting by mail.** Qualified voters may vote early by mail if they:
 - will be away from their county on Election Day and during early voting;

- are sick or disabled;
- are 65 years of age or older on Election Day; or
- are confined in jail, but eligible to vote.

A voter is considered to be disabled if the voter has “a sickness or physical condition that prevents the voter from appearing at the polling place on election day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or of injuring the voter's health.” Voters who meet this definition and wish to vote a ballot by mail must submit an application for ballot by mail **on or before April 20**.

I would encourage all voters who are eligible to vote by mail to consider doing so. An application for mail-in ballot may be requested from:

Lesa Hall
PO Box 1108
Mont Belvieu, TX 775850
Fax: 281-576-5879
Electronic mail: lhall@bhisd.net

2. Early Voting and Election Day Voting. Early voting begins on April 20 and ends on April 28. Election day is May 2, 2020. There will be a single polling location for all precincts, the C.T. Joseph Conference Center, 9600 Eagle Drive Mont Belvieu, Texas 77523. Voters will note the following safety precautions at the polling place:

- There will be 6-foot distance markers on the floors of the polling location to remind voters of social distancing guidelines
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be readily available upon entry to and exit from the polling location
- Countertop screens will be used at polling locations to enhance separation between voters and poll workers
- Monitors will be stationed outside of the polling location to assure that no more than 10 individuals are in the polling area at one time and that social distancing guidelines are enforced
- Personal protective equipment (N95 masks and gloves) will be available for all poll workers
- A disposable stylus will be distributed to each voter to use on the voting screen and will be discarded after use
- Election equipment will be cleaned between users and disinfecting procedures will be enhanced for the polling location

Curbside voting will be available to voters who are physically unable to enter the polling place without assistance or likelihood of injury to the voter's health.

The polling location will be open during the following hours:

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|----------------|-----------------------------|
| April 20, 2020 | 8:00 am- 4:00 pm |
| April 21, 2020 | 7:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m. |
| April 22, 2020 | 8:00 am- 4:00 pm |
| April 23, 2020 | 8:00 am- 4:00 pm |
| April 24, 2020 | 8:00 am- 4:00 pm |
| April 27, 2020 | 8:00 am- 4:00 pm |
| April 28, 2020 | 7:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m. |
| May 2, 2020 | 7:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m. |

3. Late Voting due to Recent Sickness or Disability. If a voter becomes sick or disabled on or after April 20 and is unable to go to the polling place on Election Day, the voter may designate a representative to submit an application on the voter's behalf in person to the early voting clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on Election Day. The ballot must be returned in its carrier envelope to the early voting clerk before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day by the same representative who delivered the ballot to the voter.

The District will continue to closely monitor the evolving conditions and will post updates on the District's website in the event of any changes.