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Magnolia I.S.D.

1. **RECITALS.** Contracting Officer is the Elections Administrator of Montgomery County, Texas, and is the County Officer in charge of election duties. Political Subdivision is a political entity situated wholly or partially within Montgomery County, Texas. Political Subdivision and Contracting Officer have determined that it is in the public interest of Montgomery County voters that the following contract be made and entered into for the purpose of having Contracting Officer furnish to Political Subdivision certain election services and equipment needed by Political Subdivision in connection with holding its November 5, 2024 Election. Montgomery County's certified Hart InterCivic Verity Voting System Version 2.7 voting system is to be used in the November 5, 2024 Joint Election, hereinafter called "Joint Election."
2. **DUTIES AND SERVICES OF CONTRACTING OFFICER.** Contracting Officer shall be responsible for performing the following duties and shall furnish the following services and equipment:
 - (a) Determine the number of election officials and voting equipment units needed for each polling location. Notify and coordinate presiding election judges, alternate judges, and all other election officials appointed by Montgomery County Commissioners' Court and the County Election Board or recommended by Contracting Officer, as applicable. Montgomery County or Contracting Officer, as applicable, will make emergency appointments of election officials if necessary.
 - (b) Conduct necessary training of election officials or arrange for training through a third party. Notify all early voting and Election Day officials of the date, time, and place thereof.
 - (c) Arrange for the use of early voting locations per the attached Exhibit A and Election Day polling locations per the attached Exhibit B. If the need arises for emergency replacement polling location(s), make necessary alternate arrangements and notify Political Subdivision as soon as possible.

- (d) Procure election kits and supplies and distribute to the election judges and deputy early voting clerks. Assemble and edit lists of registered voters to be used in conducting the election in conformity with the boundaries of Political Subdivision and the election precincts established for the election. The Election Day list of registered voters shall be arranged in alphabetical order, as applicable to the election, in lieu of alphabetical order by political entity.
- (e) Prepare and test voting equipment, format ballot styles, record audio, oversee all equipment and voter registration database programming, assure compliance with equipment security requirements, and arrange for transport of equipment to and from polling locations.
- (f) Serve as Early Voting Clerk for the Joint Election. Process, print, mail, email, or deliver in person, as applicable, and tabulate ballots for any eligible voter who applies for a mail ballot including all eligible Federal Post Card Application voters. Supervise the conduct of early voting in person and appoint sufficient personnel to serve as deputy early voting clerks. Provide lists of early voters as provided by law through the Montgomery County Elections website and Public Information web access program.
- (g) Provide the publication in English and Spanish of one legal notice of the date, time, and place of the public logic and accuracy test and the first test of automatic tabulating equipment in *The Conroe Courier*. Prepare test materials and conduct internal election testing and the required public logic and accuracy test and tests of tabulation equipment. Provide the publication in English and Spanish of a legal notice of joint election one time in Montgomery County newspaper(s).
- (h) Arrange for all personnel, equipment, and supplies needed for the early voting ballot board, signature verification committee if applicable, tabulation, and central counting station. Tabulate early voting and Election Day results, including mail ballots and provisional ballots. Tabulate unofficial returns and assist in preparing the tabulation for the official canvass. Provide Political Subdivision its voter history report following the election through the Montgomery County Elections Public Information web access program.
- (i) Serve as Custodian of Records for election records in Contracting Officer's custody and provide the required temporary storage and permanent storage of said election records as provided by law.
- (j) Provide information services for voters and election officers.
- (k) Maintain accurate records of all expenses incurred in connection with the responsibilities under this Agreement and provide Political Subdivision a final invoice after the conduct of the election. Provide any detailed backup to such invoice, if requested, reflecting the charges or components of the costs set forth on the invoice submitted to Political Subdivision.
- (l) Conduct a partial manual count as provided by Section 127.201 of the Texas Election Code if required for the County election, or if Political Subdivision otherwise provides Contracting Officer precincts and races ordered by the Secretary of State to be manually counted. Contracting Officer shall deliver a written report of the results of any such count

to the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with Section 127.201(e) of the Texas Election Code and, if requested, to Political Subdivision in a timely manner.

(m) Place the funds paid by Political Subdivision hereunder in a "contract fund" as prescribed by Section 31.100 of the Texas Election Code.

3. **DUTIES AND SERVICES OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION.** Political Subdivision shall be responsible for performing the following duties:

- (a) Prepare all election orders, resolutions, notices, and other pertinent documents for adoption and execution by the appropriate Political Subdivision officer or body. Take all actions necessary for calling Political Subdivision's election which are required by the Texas Election Code and/or the Political Subdivision's governing body, charter, ordinances, or other applicable laws. Execute a Joint Election Agreement with all participating Political Subdivisions for the purpose of sharing election equipment, election officials, polling places, and costs. Serve as Custodian of Records for all election records in its possession as provided by law.
- (b) Political Subdivision shall be responsible for the legal sufficiency of any order calling its election. Political Subdivision shall be responsible for all substantive and procedural legal issues governing the conduct of its election. Political Subdivision understands and agrees that Contracting Officer provides no legal advice to Political Subdivision.
- (c) Adopt the County Election Precincts, consolidated County Election Precincts ordered by the Montgomery County Commissioners' Court, or precincts recommended by Contracting Officer, as applicable, for this election. Adopt all early voting dates, times, and locations on the attached Exhibit A. Adopt the election day polling locations on the attached Exhibit B at which Political Subdivision's election will be held.
- (d) If required, prepare any necessary preclearance submission on all voting changes made by Political Subdivision and timely submit to the U. S. Department of Justice under the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.
- (e) Prepare, post, and publish all required election notices for Political Subdivision with the exception of the joint election notice and the notice of the public test, which Contracting Officer shall publish. In addition, if polling locations for Joint Election are different than those for Political Subdivision's previous election, Political Subdivision shall post notice at the entrance to any previous polling places in its jurisdiction stating that the polling location has changed and shall provide the polling location and address for those voters for this election, pursuant to Texas Election Code Section 43.062, unless Contracting Officer has posted notice of the change at that location for Joint Election. Educate the voters in Political Subdivision as much as possible about early voting dates, times, and locations and election day polling locations.
- (f) Timely confirm with Contracting Officer Political Subdivision's boundaries, County Election Precincts, and street details within those boundaries. If boundaries are not defined properly within Montgomery County Elections voter registration database, maps and street lists with block ranges and odd/even/both indicators must be provided to Contracting

Officer. Proof and approve all programming work done for the jurisdiction according to the Exhibit C Timetable.

- (g) Deliver to Contracting Officer, according to the attached Exhibit C Timetable, an Entity Fact Sheet, Ballot Template with Spanish translations, candidate names and measures, copies of candidate applications, and the order in which all items are to be printed on the ballot with the exact form and spelling. Provide pronunciation for difficult names or words for use on the ballot audio recording. Review ballot proofs and approve by signature within deadlines provided.
- (h) Appoint Contracting Officer as Early Voting Clerk to receive applications for ballot by mail at

<u>Mail</u>	<u>Email*</u>	<u>Fax*</u>
Suzie Harvey Elections Administrator P. O. Box 2646 Conroe, TX 77305-2646	election.ballot@mctx.org	(936) 788-8340

*If an Application for Ballot By Mail is submitted by email or fax or if a Federal Post Card Application is submitted by fax, to be effective, the original application must also be physically submitted and be received not later than the fourth business day after it is received by email or fax.

All requests for early voting ballots to be voted by mail that are received by Political Subdivision must be forwarded in person or by email or fax to Contracting Officer on the day of receipt. Original applications that are received by mail and forwarded by email or fax must also be mailed to Contracting Officer for all processing.

- (i) Appoint election officials as appointed by Montgomery County Commissioners' Court and the County Election Board or recommended by Contracting Officer, as applicable.
- (j) If requested, assist Contracting Officer with recruiting bilingual poll workers and provide documentation of Political Subdivision's efforts if requested by the U. S. Department of Justice.
- (k) If candidate information packet is provided to Political Subdivision by Contracting Officer, distribute to all candidates at time of candidate filing or in another appropriate manner.
- (l) Pay additional costs incurred by Contracting Officer for any ballot or election changes after deadlines, recount, election contest, newly ordered election, or a runoff election, if required, unless prohibited by law.
- (m) Immediately forward to Contracting Officer any information received from the Secretary of State regarding a manual count of precincts and races or a waiver of the manual count. Contracting Officer must receive this information on the same day received by Political Subdivision because of the short deadline for Contracting Officer to begin the process.

- (n) Canvass the returns and declare the election results for Political Subdivision. Political Subdivision is responsible for filing any precinct reports with the Secretary of State if required, unless both parties agree that Contracting Officer will submit precinct reports.
- (o) Pay a deposit, if required, of 60% of its estimated total cost, per the Exhibit D Cost Estimate, if provided, within thirty days from the date of the Exhibit D Cost Estimate. Pay the balance for conducting said election within thirty days from the date of final invoice. All payments shall be made from current revenues available to Political Subdivision. If the amount owed for conducting the election is less than any deposit paid by Political Subdivision, Contracting Officer shall refund the overpayment in a prompt manner.

Checks shall be made payable to:

Montgomery County Elections Administrator
P O Box 2646, Conroe, Texas 77305-2646.

- 4. **COST OF SERVICES.** Political Subdivision shall share some expenses for the above services, supplies, and equipment in accordance with the Exhibit D Cost Estimate. This cost estimate may be amended, if necessary, after filing deadlines and election cancellations. Additional elections may reduce costs for each entity, and election cancellations may increase costs for each remaining entity. It is understood that other political entities may wish to participate in the use of the County's voting equipment and polling locations, and it is agreed that Contracting Officer may enter into other contracts with entities for those purposes on terms and conditions generally similar to those set forth in this Agreement. Only the actual expenses directly attributable to this Agreement and any prorated shared expenses plus a 10% administrative fee may be charged to Political Subdivision.

5. **GENERAL CONDITIONS.**

- (a) The parties agree that the timing is critical for all duties in this Agreement. Failure to adhere to any deadline in the Exhibit C Timetable without prior agreement of Contracting Officer may result in cancellation of Contracting Officer's duties and obligations to conduct Political Subdivision's election under this Agreement or, at the discretion of Contracting Officer, a late penalty surcharge in an amount not to exceed 10% of the final election cost. Adherence to the Timetable is critical because of Montgomery County's obligation to complete all programming and testing, process, print, and mail or email, as applicable, any military and overseas ballots by state and federal deadlines, and conduct federal, state, county, and/or other contracted elections, as applicable.
- (b) In accordance with Section 31.098 of the Texas Election Code, Contracting Officer is authorized to contract with third persons for election services and supplies and hire necessary temporary personnel to perform contracted duties. Part-time and seasonal personnel will be compensated at the hourly rate set by Montgomery County.
- (c) Pursuant to Section 31.100(d) of the Texas Election Code, Contracting Officer may not be personally compensated for election services performed under this Agreement. In accordance with Section 31.100(e) of the Texas Election Code, only costs for contractual duties performed outside of normal business hours by personnel regularly employed by Contracting Officer will be allocated to Political Subdivision under this Agreement.

- (d) Political Subdivision acknowledges that voting equipment is highly technical and it is conceivable that, despite the best effort of the parties and technical assistance, it might fail during the election. Contracting Officer will take every possible action to remedy the situation, but Political Subdivision agrees that should such equipment fail, it will not make any claim for damages of any kind.
- (e) The county early voting sites as per the attached Exhibit A will be used for the Joint Election. Any eligible Montgomery County voter in the Joint Election may vote early by personal appearance at any one of the joint early voting locations in Exhibit A.
- (f) Montgomery County Elections Department is contracting with numerous political entities for the Joint Election, and the parties agree that all ballot styles will be programmed into one electronic voting system. Each voter will receive one ballot that contains all races and measures in the Joint Election for which the voter is eligible at the address and in the precinct of the voter's current registration in Montgomery County. One joint voter sign-in process consisting of a common list of Montgomery County registered voters and common signature rosters shall be used.
- (g) In accordance with Section 31.099 of the Texas Election Code, Contracting Officer shall file copies of this Agreement with the Auditor and Treasurer of Montgomery County not later than the 10th day from receipt of the fully executed Agreement by Contracting Officer.
- (h) Montgomery County is self-insured for personal liability issues. Should Political Subdivision desire insurance for injuries during this election or other liabilities, it shall make such arrangements separate from this Agreement.
- (i) In the event that the performance by Contracting Officer of any of its obligations hereunder shall be interrupted or delayed by any occurrence not occasioned by its own conduct, whether such occurrence be an act of God or the result of war, riot, civil commotion, sovereign conduct, or the act or condition of any persons not a party thereof, then it shall be excused from such performance for such period of time as is reasonably necessary after such occurrence to remedy the effects thereof.
- (j) The parties to this Agreement agree that Political Subdivision may cancel this Agreement in the event that it has no need to participate in Joint Election. If Political Subdivision cancels its participation after the deadline in Exhibit C Timetable, a \$1,000 contract preparation and processing fee will be assessed to Political Subdivision in addition to any costs incurred by Contracting Officer on behalf of Political Subdivision prior to said cancellation. A 10% administrative fee will be added to all charges for services provided under this agreement, including services related to a canceled election or canceled participation for which notification is provided to Contracting Officer after the deadline in Exhibit C Timetable.
- (k) Political Subdivision has the option of extending the applicable terms of this Agreement through its runoff election, if required. If requested by Contracting Officer, Political Subdivision shall be responsible for locating acceptable runoff polling locations, although Contracting Officer may assist. Political Subdivision may reduce the number of early

voting locations and/or Election Day polling locations in a runoff election. If Political Subdivision elects to have Contracting Officer conduct a runoff election, the polling places must be acceptable to Contracting Officer and shall be coordinated with other participating entities. Costs will be allocated to the participating entities, plus a 10% administrative fee shall be charged. Political Subdivision shall be responsible for all orders, notices, and notice of election postings and publications required for its runoff, except the publication of the notice of the public logic and accuracy test and the first test of automatic tabulating equipment, which Contracting Officer will publish.

The foregoing Election Services Agreement is made in Montgomery County, Texas, and is signed on the dates below.

[Remainder of this page intentionally left blank; signature page(s) to follow.]

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS

July 17, 2024

Date Signed

By: Suzie Harvey
Suzie Harvey, Elections Administrator
"Contracting Officer"
9159 Airport Road
Conroe, Texas 77303
Phone: (936) 539-7843 Fax: (936) 788-8340
Email: suzie.harvey@mctx.org

August 12, 2024

Date Signed

Magnolia I.S.D.

"Political Subdivision"

By: G Bl
Name: Gary Blizzard
Title: Board President
Address: 31141 Nichols Sawmill Rd.
City, State, Zip: Magnolia, TX 77355
Phone: 281-356-3571 Fax: 281-356-1328
Email: chinkelman@magnoliaisd.org