

Agenda Item No. J-3

The City of Sinton has conducted its own elections for many years. New election machines were purchased in 2013, and after talking with Hart Intercivic (where the equipment was purchased), there are no replacements for the machines we currently have. If one of the machines were to have issues or stop working during an election, no replacement can be given to us.

In 2026, the equipment that we have will no longer be able to be used according the new legislature regarding election equipment. Hart Intercivic will be sending us a quote for new equipment to replace what we currently have, but since the new equipment we purchased in 2013 was around \$15,000 with election supplies the following year of about \$12,000, I'm sure the current cost of the equipment will be close to \$25,000-\$30,000. The representative from Hart Intercivic suggested the cheapest route would be to go with your county Election Office, Pam Hill, Election Administrator.

San Patricio County Elections Office runs elections for most of the smaller cities in our county and if they are held at the same time, the cost can be split amongst the cities, cutting the cost of judges, alternate judges, election clerks, ballot production, and machine tests prior to elections.

The cost and processing of mail ballots especially when it comes to the process of mail ballots, which we can sometimes have in excess of 175, can be extensive. There is a limited time to get the mail ballots mailed out and back in by the end of Election Day.

Currently the following cities contract with their County Elections Administrator for elections: Fulton, Rockport, Beeville, Alice, Corpus Christi, Mathis, Ingleside, Ingleside on the Bay, Orange Grove, Victoria, Municipal Water District, Bayside, Refugio, Gregory, Odem, Robstown, George West, and Woodsboro. (Highlighted cities are in San Patricio County)

Due to the upcoming changes being passed down by the legislature regarding elections and the type of machines we will have to switch to, I believe contracting with San Patricio County Elections will be cost efficient overall for the City of Sinton now and in the future.

Cathy Duhart
City Secretary
Elections Clerk