

Bell County GOP Elections Director was selected to serve as the Chair of the Voting Site ADA Compliance Team for the Bell County Elections Administrations Office.

This was a result of an ADA complaint filed against 1 Bell County Election to the Department of Justice.

The following is a thumbnail of the report to be presented to the Bell County Elections Commission and the Bell County Commissioners.

Elections Director was also selected to serve as a Voting Technician to assist the municipalities with the 6 May Municipal Elections during Early Voting and Election Day operations. Worked with each municipalities Election Administrator and any Election Sites that required assistance.

Team conducted ADA Compliance and Election Site Suitability inspection of all 42 County Elections Sites.

ADA Compliance Inspection utilized the US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division ADA Checklist for Polling Places, dtd June 2016. (Note: even though not required at all sites, inspections conducted in accordance with more stringent 2010 ADA Standards)

Texas Election Code 43.034 Accessibility of Polling Place to the Elderly and Persons with Physical Disabilities.

The Election Site Inspections conducted utilizing checklist developed from input from Bell County Election Judges.

Inspections were conducted from 14 March 23 through 6 April 23.

Inspection Method: Conducted individual site visits assessing each site using the 2010 ADA Checklist for Polling Places and Texas Election Code. The team observed overall compliance and suitability of each election site. If deficiencies were noted, the team made recommendations to mitigate those deficiencies to bring the site into temporary compliance with ADA Standards.

Additionally, using a separate Election Site Checklist, the team made determinations and recommendations for additional equipment based upon the needs of each Election Site.

Findings:

11 of the 42 Election Sites are fully compliant with the DOJ Polling Site Inspection Checklist.

30 of the 42 Election Sites were non-compliant but remediable with temporary measures.

0 of the 42 Election Sites were non-compliant and not remediable.

1 Site not Inspected - Vista Church, Temple, TX.

Recommend 7 Site changes based upon Legislation (HB 453) and Suitability.

Recommendation: EA Office establish an ADA Coordinator Position to review/inspect Countywide Voting Sites on an annual basis.

Temporary Measures recommended to mitigate any non-compliance items noted include:

Signage/markers to identify temporary Handicapped and Van Accessible Parking spots.

Traffic Cones to identify areas of temporary Handicapped and Van Accessible Parking spots.

Threshold Ramps to mitigate any non-compliant thresholds at voting site entry points.

Temporary directional signage to voting entrances.

Curbside voting locations.

Door Stops to keep non-compliant doors open during voting hours.

**Equipment to mitigate deficiencies have been noted and will be provided for each deficient County Election Site.

Recommend the following Election Sites be relocated:

Temple Independent School District Administrative Building. Reason: School

Roy J Smith Elementary School. Reason: School

Robert M. Shoemaker High School. Reason: School

A&E Storage. Reason: Access ramp, parking availability and parking area

St Mary's Catholic School. Reason: School (Private) and overall suitability for ADA

Vista Church. Reason: Staff no longer desires site as voting location

Salado Church of Christ. Reason: New Bell County Annex (Salado)

Team is currently coordinating replacement sites for future elections.

Jeff S Howard

Sergeant Major

US Army, Retired