



CAROL ALVARADO

STATE SENATOR

DISTRICT 6

November 4, 2019

The Honorable Ruth Hughs
Secretary of State
Office of the Secretary of State
P.O. Box 12697
Austin, TX 78711

RE: Election Advisory 2019-23

Dear Secretary Hughs:

I am writing in regards to the election advisory 2019-23, issued on October 23, 2019. This new election advisory would now require Harris County election staff to bring the MBBs of 757 different polling locations across the county to the downtown Central Count Station.

The Harris County Clerk's Office put together the Harris County Central Count Plan to outline a specific protocol that meets the unique needs of our county. Their plan would require mobile ballot box cards (MBBs) to be dropped off at one of the 10 drop off sites across the county to ensure that secure election results are delivered promptly and accurately on election night. Election officials now anticipate election results to be released later than previously expected, prohibiting local officials from providing the citizens of Harris County with transparent and efficient information.

Although I share in your mission to ensure the security and integrity of elections in this state, this change will adversely affect Harris County's ability to report election results in a timely manner. Harris County is the third most populous county in the nation and such a high population already presents several unique challenges for election officials to overcome. With these challenges in mind and election day upon us, please provide me with an explanation regarding these eleventh-hour changes and the reason why they were issued after early voting had already commenced.

I would appreciate any clarification on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Alvarado".

Carol Alvarado
State Senator, District 6

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