



**TAOS COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-26**

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BY BLANCAL

AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2019-33 REGARDING DESIGNATION OF THE POLLING PLACES FOR THE 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION AND PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF POLLING PLACES DUE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, TO PROVIDE FOR VOTER CONVENIENCE CENTERS, AND TO APPROVE THE CONSOLIDATION OF PRECINCTS OUTSIDE OF PRECINCT BOUNDARIES

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (“Board”) adopted Resolution 2019-33 on July 16, 2019, in compliance with the provisions of NMSA (1978), § 1-3-2, designating the locations of election day polling places and early-voting places for the statewide elections conducted in 2020 and 2021 designating the County Board of Registration to serve as the County Canvassing Board for any statewide or special election through the end of calendar year 2021; and

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of New Mexico declared a statewide public health emergency under the authority of the All Emergency Powers Act due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, and pursuant to that order the New Mexico Department of Health has issued continuing orders that limit close personal contact among people by imposition of guidelines for social distancing and prohibiting gatherings of five (5) or more people ; and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2020, the Supreme Court of New Mexico, for purposes of implementing the Governor’s and Department of Health’s orders and recommendations by encouraging absentee voting and thereby reducing the number of election-day in-person voters, directed that absentee ballot applications be mailed to all registered voters of the three major political parties in the state, those being the Democratic Party, the Republican Party and the Libertarian Party for use in the 2020 Primary Election and Presidential Primary Election; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that due to the contagion of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the very real potential for poll workers and voters to contract the COVID-19 disease through the in-person voting process that absentee ballot applications are being sent to all registered members of the three major political parties; and

WHEREAS, because all eligible voters are being encouraged to vote by mail and to reduce the number of needed poll workers, for the June 2nd, 2020 Primary Election and Presidential Primary Election the Board finds that the number of election-day polling places should be reduced while maintaining the minimum required by law; and

WHEREAS, due to the rural and remote nature of the county the Board of County Commissioners finds it impractical to create voter convenience centers that require significant travel from remote areas and also finds that consolidating polling places for remote precincts will serve the dual purposes of voter access to the polls and reduced numbers of polling places for the protection of precinct workers; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement the orders and recommendations of the Governor, the Department of Health and the Supreme Court, the Board finds it necessary to amend the provisions of Resolution No. 2019-33 to reduce the number of election-day polling places by consolidating precincts for purposes of this election only while retaining the provisions for early voting and for designation of the County Board of Registration as the County Canvassing Board; and

WHEREAS, the following sections of the New Mexico Election Code, NMSA (1978), provide authorization for reducing and consolidating election-day polling places:

- Section 1-3-7(A): “No less than one polling place shall be provided for each precinct”; and
- Section 1-3-7(D): “No polling place shall be designated outside the boundary of the precinct as provided in this subsection until such designated polling place is approved by written order of the district court of the county in which the precinct is located;” and
- Section 1-3-4(B)(3): “each voter convenience center shall be a consolidated precinct composed of no more than ten precincts;” and
- Section 1-1-12(B): “. . . in a statewide election, references to "precincts" in the voting process shall be applicable to consolidated precincts.”; and
- Section 1-3-5(B): “. . . No precinct shall be created, divided, abolished or combined or the boundaries adjusted less than four months prior to a statewide election, except by order of the district court.”; and
- Section 1-11-1: “The county clerk shall, at least twenty-one days prior to a statewide election, give notice of the election.”; and

WHEREAS, the following sections of the New Mexico Election Code, NMSA (1978), provide for designating polling places for absentee-in-person and early voting:

- Section 1-6-5.7(A): “Commencing on the 28th day preceding the election during the regular hours and days of business at the county clerk’s office and from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately prior to the date of the election, early voting shall be conducted in each office of the county clerk;” and
- Section 1-6-5.7(B): “Commencing on the third Saturday prior to a statewide election and ending on the Saturday immediately prior to the date of the election, an early voter may vote in person on a voting system at alternate voting locations that may be established by the county clerk;” and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2019-33 designated the office of the county clerk for absentee-in-person voting in compliance with section 1-6-5.7(A) and the Board intends for this amendment to the resolution to affirm and continue said absentee-in-person voting at the office of the county clerk; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2019-33 designated three alternate voting locations for early voting in compliance with section 1-6-5.7(B) and the Board intends for this amendment to the resolution to affirm and continue two of the three alternate voting locations and to change the third alternate voting location from the Old National Guard Armory to the El Prado Water and Sanitation District Office; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2019-33 designated an additional early voting location at the Taos Pueblo Community Center and the Board intends for this amendment to the resolution to affirm and continue said early voting at the Taos Pueblo Community Center as an early voting location;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners amends and replaces the designations of polling places as contained in the Resolution No. 2019-33 in their entirety as specified herein for purposes only of the June 2nd, 2020 Primary Election and Presidential Primary Election as follows:

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Precinct Numbers

Location & Address

Absentee-In-Person voting pursuant to section 1-6-5.7(A), May 5-May 30, 2020:
(All voters in the county may vote at this location, regardless of where they live.)

1-47 Taos County Courthouse
105 Albright St. Suite D, Taos

Alternate Voting Location pursuant to section 1-6-5.7(B), May 16-May 30, 2020:
(All voters in the county may vote at these locations, regardless of where they live.)

1-47 Taos County Courthouse
105 Albright St. Suite D, Taos

1-47 El Prado Water & Sanitation District Office
1017 Paseo del Pueblo Norte, El Prado

1-47 Penasco Community Center
14136 St Rd 75, Penasco

1-47 Questa Village Municipal Hall
2500 St Rd 75, Questa

Alternate Voting Location pursuant to section 1-6-5.8, May 16-May 30, 2020:
(For only the residents of Taos Pueblo)

Taos Pueblo Community Center

Election Day Voter Convenience Center (VCC) pursuant to section 1-3-4:
(All voters in the county may vote at these locations, regardless of where they live.)

1-47 Taos County Courthouse
105 Albright St. Suite D, Taos

Election Day Precinct Polling Places:
(Voters in these precincts may vote at the following assigned polling locations or at the VCC.)

1 Tres Piedras Fire House
38391 Hwy 285, Tres Piedras, New Mexico

2 Costilla Parish Hall
Costilla, New Mexico

3 Amalia Community Center
NM-196, Amalia, New Mexico

4, 5, 6, 7 Village of Questa Municipal Hall
2500 Old St Rd 3, Questa, New Mexico

8, 9, & 37 Arroyo Hondo Community Center
26 Lower Arroyo Hondo Rd, Arroyo Hondo

10, 11, 38, & 33 Arroyo Seco Community Center
498 NM 150, Arroyo Seco

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12, 39 & 13

El Prado Water & Sanitation District
 1017 Paseo del Pueblo Norte, El Prado

14, 15, 40, & 16

Taos Civic Center
 120 Civic Plaza Drive, Taos

17, 41, 42, 19, 44, 34, 20, 21, 45, & 23

Llano Quemado Community Center
 6 Miranda Canyon Rd, Llano Quemado

24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, & 36

Penasco Community Center
 14136 St Rd 75, Penasco

22 & 46

Ojo Caliente Firehouse
 20 Los Banos, Ojo Caliente

18, 35, 47, & 43

Christian Academy School Building
 814 Witt Rd, Taos

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that following adoption of this *Resolution* by the Board of County Commissioners, the County Manager shall direct the County Attorney to seek approval of the District Court of the new consolidated precincts, adjusted consolidated precincts, and designation of polling places outside of precinct boundaries for purposes of the voting process in the 2020 Primary Election and Presidential Primary Election only;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk shall include the amended polling locations provided for in this *Resolution* in the *Notice of Election* that is posted no later than Tuesday, May 12, 2020; *and*

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to the Secretary of State and inform the Secretary of State when the District Court has approved the amended polling locations provided for in this *Resolution*.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all other provisions of Resolution 2019-33 remain effective regarding the designations of polling places for the remainder of calendar years 2020 and 2021, and regarding the provisions for the County Board of Registration and County Canvassing Board.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED, this 8th day of May, 2020 during a Regular Meeting of the Taos County Board of Commissioners.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 OF TAOS COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**


 Tom Blankenhorn, Chairman

VOTE RECORD:				
T. Blankenhorn	yes	no	abstain	absent
C. O'Donnell	yes	no	abstain	absent
J. Fambro	yes	no	abstain	absent
M. Gallegos	yes	no	abstain	absent
G. J. Romero	yes	no	abstain	absent

TAOS COUNTY CLERK

RECORDER


SEAL

Attest:

 Anna Martinez, Taos County Clerk

TAOS

Approved:


 Randy Autio, Contract County Attorney

