



REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Date Requested: <u>September 9, 2024</u>
Requested By: <u>Lee Woodward, City Secretary</u>
Department: <u>City Secretary's Office</u>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Report <input type="radio"/> Resolution <input type="radio"/> Ordinance

Appropriation	
Source of Funds:	<u>CIP AD0009</u>
Account Number:	<u>CIP AD0009</u> Approx. \$38,000 remains from equip.
Amount Budgeted:	<u>CIP</u>
Amount Requested:	<u>\$ 19,700</u>
Budgeted Item:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Exhibits: Example images; Civera quotes, sample contract, and sole source letter are attached

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

Background - Earlier in the summer, the City Secretary's Office came upon products from Civera that may be of interest in the furtherance of election access and transparency and progressive governance.

The new election equipment, assuming its purchase is approved earlier in this evening's agenda, will produce images of the voted ballots (not tied to voter name or other indicator). 2023 action by the Texas Legislature now requires that such images, if maintained, must be available for public inspection on the first day after the date of the final canvass of an election is completed. These products are not required by state law but are an option in making such images available publicly and providing additional election result data options.

After the purchase of new election equipment, an expected \$37,957.40 would remain in that CIP project fund.

ElectionStats Database, Exhibit A and top portion of Exhibits B and C – Sets up a visual representation of the results of each election. The 'Perfect Fit' design makes it appear as though it was built with the website.

Civera normally charges \$200/year for setup of past elections. The City has 56 years of elections from 1969-2024 and Civera has agreed to a reduced setup rate of \$75/year for those.

For 2025 and beyond, the \$6,000 annual fee includes unlimited elections and their data, full administrative access, and new software releases and feature requests, and 99.9% uptime on the secured cloud hosting.

Ballot Verifier, Exhibits B, C, and D – Displays voted ballots online along with the cast voting records. If interested, a viewer could do their own recount of the votes on a race or measure and compare them to posted totals.

Ballot Redactor – Redacts any handwritten marks on the ballot images. There are some voters who find writing on their ballots to be amusing or a way to determine if their ballot was retained and counted. Many times, a voter may write their name or their social security number, which would not be released in a public information request.

Although this is inappropriate behavior, it is not illegal and does not invalidate a ballot if the voter’s intention can still be determined. In the City of La Porte, this marking is only currently possible for mail voters. With the new equipment, every voter will have a piece of paper from the time they are checked in until they deposit the marked paper in the ballot scanner, increasing the possibility of stray marks.

Online examples of these products in use - Civera confirms that no other Texas cities have this technology currently. Hartford, Connecticut, (<https://electionresults.hartfordct.gov/eng/>) and Somerville, Maine (<https://electionarchive.somervillema.gov/eng/>), are examples of other cities using Civera. Tarrant (<https://ballotverifier.tarrantcountytexas.gov/>), Bexar, Jim Wells, and Denton Counties in Texas are using the products. Ada County, Idaho, is another county example (<https://ballotverifier.adacounty.id.gov/>).

	Setup	First year	Annual thereafter (no annual elevator)
ElectionStats Database – graphs election results	\$4200	\$4200 + \$6000	\$6000
Ballot Verifier – displays voted ballots online	N/A	\$6500	\$6500
Ballot Redactor – redacts any handwritten marks	N/A	\$3000	\$3000
		\$19,700	\$15,500

STRATEGIC PLAN STRATEGY AND GOAL

An accurate and secure election process and the communication and trust surrounding it is integral to a strong community and supports each of the following adopted Guiding Principles of the City Council.

These tools are a progressive way to provide additional transparency and support the following areas of the Council’s adopted Strategic Plan:

Key Focus Area 1.00 – Governance

Guiding Principle - The City of La Porte is governed in a transparent, efficient, accountable and responsive manner on behalf of its citizens that actively promotes citizen involvement.

Strategy 1.2 – Improve voter turnout and transparency.

Goal - 1.2.1 Establish a robust voter turnout program.

Action Step – 1.2.1.5. - Override the bad media regarding voting

Key Focus Area - 2.0 Communication

Guiding Principle - The City of La Porte will build relationships and showcase our community through communication, technology, training, and branding.

Strategy - 2.2 - Establish a more robust program to get the facts to the public.

Key Focus Area - 5.0 Organizational Excellence

Guiding Principle - The City of La Porte will operate in a transparent, efficient, accountable and responsive manner by preparing the organization and the staff for the future, focusing on core services, attracting and retaining the best employees and wise stewardship of financial resources.

ACTION REQUIRED BY CITY COUNCIL

Consider the purchase of ElectionStats, Ballot Verifier, and/or Ballot Redactor from Civera.

EXHIBIT A - Website page in 'perfect fit'

Tarrant County (Fort Worth area) <https://ballotverifier.tarrantcountytexas.gov/> shown here

The screenshot shows the Tarrant County Ballot Verifier website. At the top, there is a header with the Tarrant County logo and the text "TARRANT COUNTY, TX BALLOT VERIFIER". Below the header is a navigation menu with links: "ELECTIONS", "Current Election Information", "Register to Vote", "Military and Overseas Voting", "Voting by Mail", "Past Election Information", "FAQ", and "Poll Workers". A search bar labeled "Quick Search" is located on the right side of the navigation menu.

The main content area features a large white card with the following elements:

- Ballot Verifier** (with a checkmark icon)
- Verify every ballot in past Tarrant County Elections.**
- An icon of a ballot box.
- A paragraph: "The Ballot Verifier allows members of the public access to every single cast ballot image and Cast Vote Record (CVR) in every Tarrant County election, starting with the complete March 2024 primary election - with additional elections coming soon."
- A dropdown menu labeled "Choose Election..." with a yellow callout box that says "Start here by selecting an election to see results."
- The dropdown menu is open, showing "2024" and "2024 Mar 05 - Primary Election 11 comments". A "Close" button is visible next to the dropdown.

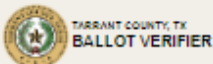
Below the main card, there are two columns of text:

- About the Ballot Verifier**: A search icon followed by the text: "The Ballot Verifier allows members of the general public to enjoy access to every single cast ballot in every Tarrant County election starting with 2024."
- Elections Administration Frequently Asked Questions**: A question mark icon followed by the text: "Do you have any other questions about Tarrant County elections? Read our FAQ to get a better understanding of locations, dates, and other information."

At the bottom of the page, there is a dark blue footer with the text: "Copyright 2024 | Website is managed by CIVERA".

EXHIBIT B – ElectionStats (top) and BallotVerifier (bottom)

Tarrant County (Fort Worth area) <https://ballotverifier.tarrantcountytexas.gov/> shown here



TARRANT COUNTY, TX
BALLOT VERIFIER

[Voting](#)
[Voting by Mail](#)
[Past Election Information](#)
[FAQ](#)
[Poll Workers](#)

[Ballot Verifier](#) > Search

Search Past Elections

Search By

YEAR RANGE: ELECTION DATE

All Elections

2024 Mar 05 - Primary Election

Show Advanced Filters >

Search For **Contests**

Offices

Candidates

Show Advanced Filters >

OR

Search For **Ballot Measures**

Measure Types

Measure Text

116 Contests and Ballot Measures

GRID TABLE Jump to: [Ballots](#)

2024 Mar 5 - Republican Primary

President of the United States

State of Texas

Trump	106,043
Haley	24,294
Deshaun	2,224
Uncommitted	1,047
+ 5 Others	1,603

142,966 Total Ballots Verified

2024 Mar 5 - Democratic Primary

President of the United States

State of Texas

Biden	27,383
Willemson	3,250
Phillips	1,200
Uyler	830
+ 4 Others	3,082

64,805 Total Ballots Verified

2024 Mar 5 - Republican Primary

United States Senator

State of Texas

Cruz	103,815
Lopez	10,704
Gibson	3,226

142,966 Total Ballots Verified

2024 Mar 5 - Democratic Primary

United States Senator

State of Texas

Alred	23,008
Gutierrez	2,416
Gonzalez	2,302
Sherrill	1,230
+ 3 Others	4,200

64,805 Total Ballots Verified

2024 Mar 5 - Republican Primary

U. S. House

Congressional District 6

Elbey	3,688
Willey	1,142
Balfour	1,138

6,442 Total Ballots Verified

2024 Mar 5 - Democratic Primary

U. S. House

Congressional District 6

Loew	3,833
------	-------

4,204 Total Ballots Verified

Rows per page: 8 1-6 of 116 < >







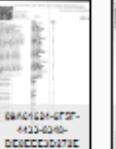

Download Data

Download the data from this search

Search Results CSV

Ballots & Cast Vote Records (56.3 GB)

217,155 Cast Vote Records in your search FILTER BY... Jump to: [Contacts](#)

...

Copyright 2024 | Website is managed by CMGRA

EXHIBIT C – By race - ElectionStats and BallotVerifier

Tarrant County (Fort Worth area) <https://ballotverifier.tarrantcountytx.gov/> shown here



Ballot Verifier > Search > 2024 Primary Election - Railroad Commissioner - State of Texas

2024 Mar 5 • Republican Primary Election Railroad Commissioner • State of Texas

Candidates


- CC** Christi Craddick
Republican
- JM** James 'Jim' Matlock
Republican
- CC** Christie Clark
Republican
- CH** Corey Howell
Republican
- PR** Petra Reyes
Republican

Official Sources


-  2024-03-05_cumulative_rep.pdf
Page 3
296 KB
-  2024-03-05_precinct_rep.pdf
Page 2
53.5 MB

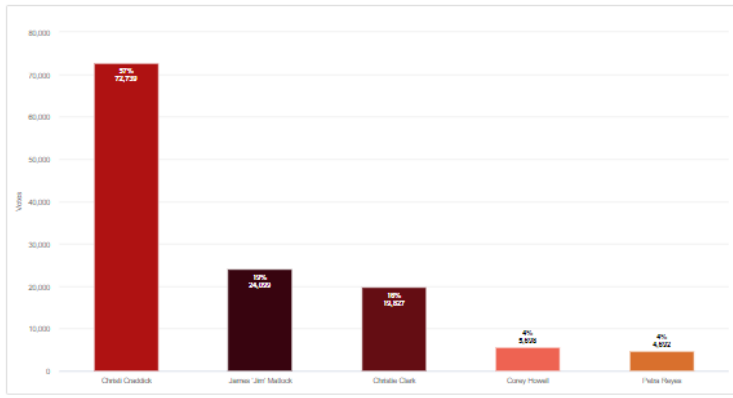
Download Data

Download the data from this contest

 Results CSV

Layout: Table List Download

 Ballots & Cast Vote Records Download



Header	Christi Craddick	James 'Jim' Matlock	Christie Clark	Corey Howell	Petra Reyes	Total Votes Cast for Choice	Undervotes	Overvotes	Total Ballots Cast	Unauthorized Write-ins
Totals	71,729	24,099	19,827	3,628	4,922	127,895	18,829	2	146,899	29
1001	124	43	24	6	13	210	37	0	247	0
1004	149	55	33	10	7	254	29	0	283	0
1005	0	1	4	2	0	7	0	0	7	0
1008	2	1	0	0	2	5	2	0	7	0
1009	151	41	32	3	3	230	30	0	260	0
1010	0	2	2	1	0	5	1	0	6	0

SHOW FULL RESULTS

145,886 Cast Vote Records in this contest

FILTER BY...

Grid of 24 ballot images showing various ballot IDs and QR codes. Each image contains a unique ballot ID and a QR code for verification.

EXHIBIT D – By race/by measure - BallotVerifier

Tarrant County (Fort Worth area) <https://ballotverifier.tarrantcountytexas.gov/> shown here

Ballot Details

BAF404AF-B19C-4D5B-9707-424E2803A325

CVR Report
Primary Election
Run Time: 10:04 AM
Run Date: 03/05/2024

Tarrant County
Primary Election
3/5/2024
Page 8803 of 8802

Unofficial results
Ballot Cast: 21395

PRECINCT: 4508
Party: Republican Party Ballot
Polling Place: R City of Arlington South Service Ctr
Voting Type: Election Day Voting
Central Batch Id:

DEVICE: 51902559008
Device Serial: 51902559008
Device Data Id: 1A40-BE0D-102-43C6A9
Cvr Id: BAF404AF-B19C-4D5B-9707-424E2803A325

Content Title	Option
President	Donald J. Trump
United States Senator	Ted Cruz
United States Representative, District 25	Matthew Lucci
Railroad Commissioner	Corey Howell
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 2	Jimmy Blacklock
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 4	Brian Walker
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 6	Jane Bland
Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals	David J. Schenck
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 7	Gina Parker
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 8	Lee Finley
Member, State Board of Education, District 11	Brandon Hall
State Senator, District 10	Phil King
State Representative, District 96	David Cook
Chief Justice, 2nd Court of Appeals District	Bonnie Suddeth
Justice, 2nd Court of Appeals District, Place 4	Wade Birdwell
Justice, 2nd Court of Appeals District, Place 5	Dabney Bassel
Justice, 2nd Court of Appeals District, Place 6	Mike Wallach
District Judge, 17th Judicial District	Melody Wilkinson
District Judge, 48th Judicial District	Christopher Taylor
District Judge, 67th Judicial District	Don Cosby
District Judge, 96th Judicial District	Pat Gallagher
District Judge, 153rd Judicial District	Susan McCoy
District Judge, 213th Judicial District	Chris Wolfe
District Judge, 342nd Judicial District	Kimberly Fitzpatrick
District Judge, 348th Judicial District	Megan Fahay
District Judge, 352nd Judicial District	Josh Burgess
District Judge, 396th Judicial District	George Gallagher
Criminal District Judge, Court 2	William Knight
Criminal District Judge, Court 3 (Unexpired Term)	Douglas Allen
Family District Judge, 360th Judicial District	Patricia Baca Bennett

CVR Report
Primary Election
Run Time: 10:04 AM
Run Date: 03/05/2024

Tarrant County
Primary Election
3/5/2024
Page 8802 of 8802

Unofficial results
Ballot Cast: 21395

Use [Left Arrow] or [Right Arrow] to navigate between ballots.

Ballot Details

3C9E4BF6-5FBF-493A-B74D-FAFB8F6F8FC

Don't see the contest you're looking for? Try checking Side 2.

CVR Report
Primary Election
Run Time: 10:04 AM
Run Date: 03/05/2024

Tarrant County
Primary Election
3/5/2024
Page 8804 of 8802

Unofficial results
Ballot Cast: 21395

PRECINCT: 4549
Party: Republican Party Ballot
Polling Place: R City of Arlington South Service Ctr
Voting Type: Absentee Voting
Central Batch Id: 57

DEVICE: Central
Device Serial: D1800212005
Device Data Id: 0CB8(MH0W4Z4K(GUP))
Cvr Id: 3C9E4BF6-5FBF-493A-B74D-FAFB8F6F8FC

Content Title	Option
President	Donald J. Trump
United States Senator	Ted Cruz
United States Representative, District 12	Craig Goldman
Railroad Commissioner	Christi Craddock
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 2	Jimmy Blacklock
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 4	John Devine
Justice, Supreme Court, Place 6	Jane Bland
Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals	David J. Schenck
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 7	Gina Parker
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 8	Lee Finley
Member, State Board of Education, District 11	Pat Patricia Hardy
State Representative, District 99	Charlie Geren
Chief Justice, 2nd Court of Appeals District	Bonnie Suddeth
Justice, 2nd Court of Appeals District, Place 4	Wade Birdwell
Justice, 2nd Court of Appeals District, Place 5	Dabney Bassel
Justice, 2nd Court of Appeals District, Place 6	Mike Wallach
District Judge, 17th Judicial District	Melody Wilkinson
District Judge, 48th Judicial District	Christopher Taylor
District Judge, 67th Judicial District	Don Cosby
District Judge, 96th Judicial District	Pat Gallagher
District Judge, 153rd Judicial District	Susan McCoy
District Judge, 213th Judicial District	Chris Wolfe
District Judge, 342nd Judicial District	Kimberly Fitzpatrick
District Judge, 348th Judicial District	Megan Fahay
District Judge, 352nd Judicial District	Josh Burgess
District Judge, 396th Judicial District	George Gallagher
Criminal District Judge, Court 2	William Knight
Criminal District Judge, Court 3 (Unexpired Term)	Douglas Allen
Family District Judge, 360th Judicial District	Patricia Baca Bennett
Sherriff	Bill E. Weybourn

CVR Report
Primary Election
Run Time: 10:04 AM
Run Date: 03/05/2024

Tarrant County
Primary Election
3/5/2024
Page 8804 of 8802

Unofficial results
Ballot Cast: 21395

Use [Left Arrow] or [Right Arrow] to navigate between ballots and [P] to change ballot sides.

Official Ballot

March 5, 2024
Tarrant County
Primary Election

5 de Marzo, 2024
Condado de Tarrant
Elección primaria

Page 1 of 3
Página 1 de 3
Precinct 4549
Precincto 4549

Please use a black or blue ink pen to mark your ballot. To vote for your choice in each contest, completely fill in the box next to your choice.

Favor de usar una pluma de tinta negra o azul para marcar su boleta. Para votar por su selección en cada carrera, llene el espacio cuadrado a la izquierda de su selección.

Republican Party Primary Election
Elección Primaria del Partido Republicano

"I am Republican and I understand that I am invited to vote or participate in another political party's primary election or convention during the voting year."

"Yo soy Republicano y comprendo soy invitado para votar o participar en la elección primaria o la convención de algún otro partido político durante este año electoral."

President
[X] Nikki Haley
[] Chris Christie
[X] Donald J. Trump
[] Donald Trump
[] Ron DeSantis
[] Ryan L. Binkley
[] Mike Pence
[] Uncommitted

United States Senator
Representante de los Estados Unidos
[X] Ted Cruz
[] R. L. Huddleston
[] Roland "Redd" Gibson

United States Representative, District 12
Representante de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Num. 12
[X] Craig Goldman
[] Anna Hinkle
[] John C. O'Shea
[] Sherrill Gardner
[] Clint Davis
[] Craig Goldman

Railroad Commissioner
Comisionado de Ferrocarriles
[X] Christi Craddock
[] Christie Clark
[] Corey Howell
[] James "Jax" Mallick
[] Peter Reyes
[] Christi Craddock

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 7
Juz. Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm. 7
[X] Gina Parker
[] Brandon Hall

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 8
Juz. Corte de Apelaciones Criminales, Lugar Núm. 8
[X] Michelle Staughter
[] Lee Finley

Member, State Board of Education, District 11
Miembro de la Junta Estatal de Educación, Distrito Núm. 11
[X] Pat Patricia Hardy
[] Brandon Hall

State Representative, District 99
Representante Estatal, Distrito Núm. 99
[X] Jack Reynolds
[] Charlie Geren

Chief Justice, 2nd Court of Appeals District
Juz. del Distrito, 48 Distrito Judicial
[X] Bonnie Suddeth

Justice, 2nd Court of Appeals District, Place 4
Juz. Corte de Apelaciones del 2 Distrito, Lugar Núm. 4
[X] Wade Birdwell

Justice, 2nd Court of Appeals District, Place 5
Juz. Corte de Apelaciones del 2 Distrito, Lugar Núm. 5
[X] Dabney Bassel

Justice, 2nd Court of Appeals District, Place 6
Juz. Corte de Apelaciones del 2 Distrito, Lugar Núm. 6
[X] Mike Wallach

District Judge, 17th Judicial District
Juz. del Distrito, 17 Distrito Judicial
[X] Melody Wilkinson

District Judge, 48th Judicial District
Juz. del Distrito, 48 Distrito Judicial
[X] Christopher Taylor

District Judge, 67th Judicial District
Juz. del Distrito, 67 Distrito Judicial
[X] Don Cosby

District Judge, 96th Judicial District
Juz. del Distrito, 96 Distrito Judicial
[X] Pat Gallagher

District Judge, 153rd Judicial District
Juz. del Distrito, 153 Distrito Judicial
[X] Susan McCoy

District Judge, 213th Judicial District
Juz. del Distrito, 213 Distrito Judicial
[X] Chris Wolfe

District Judge, 342nd Judicial District
Juz. del Distrito, 342 Distrito Judicial