

## ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

In my last column I said I would update you on the plans for expanding early voting. As I am sure you know, we expanded early voting for the first time by adding a station in the JP2 building to serve the NW quadrant of the county. This served not only Lytle but the fast growing unincorporated population in that area. It went very well. This expansion, allows ALL citizens to pick their place of the early voting stations because all of the races to vote on are loaded into both sites in our new voting machines. This is a fore - taste of what county – wide voting will be on election day.

So, I have been studying the voting demographics of our county and talking to people to get their opinions and am developing some thoughts on the direction of where we can take early voting opportunities. Because the Pleasanton area plus the Leming/Verdi area and South County demographics are the biggest in the county the natural next step is to open a third early voting station in Pleasanton. I have explored the possibility of using the Pleasanton Civic Center with the City and have tentative approval. I would like this to happen for this falls' election. Since early voting lasts two weeks, the opportunity for the Tri – City area and south county to go vote during any trip to HEB or Walmart seems to be a no-brainer.

I think the final and 4<sup>th</sup> early voting box should go into Poteet. The population north, NW and NE of Poteet, like the NW quadrant of the county has seen enormous increases. At this point, in my thinking, including Poteet, this would then serve every major larger voting demographic in Atascosa County.

Making voting easier and more accessible is the whole purpose. I see no reason we could not reach the numbers they are achieving in Medina County where they are voting 80% of the total vote in early voting.

Thank you for listening.

We want you to be proud of your county government.