

was not able to address in timely manner due
to not knowing about it time *Life in newspaper*
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Public Participation Form

Instructions: Fill our all appropriate blanks. Please print or write legibly.

NAME: Joan SKINNER

HOME ADDRESS: 12697 Spider Lilly Rd
Diana, TX 75640

HOME TELEPHONE: 903-790-3330

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT: Retired

EMPLOYMENT TELEPHONE:

Do you represent any particular group or organization? Voter Integrity

If you do represent a group or organization, please state the name, address and telephone number of such group or organization.

Which agenda item (or items) do you wish to address? Election Integrity

In general, are you for or against such agenda item (or items)?

Signature: Joan Skinner

NOTE: This Public Participation Form must be presented to the County Clerk prior to the time that the agenda item (or items) you wish to address are discussed before the Court.

8-30-24

TO: Upshur County Commissioners Court
FROM: Joan Skinner
DATE: 8/30/24
TOPIC: ELECTION INTEGRITY

My name is Joan Skinner, and I am and have been an Upshur County election Judge for 20 years. I recognize that dealing with elections is only a fraction of the job you have on the Commissioners Court and deeply appreciate your willingness to hear what I have to say.

There is nothing more important to our Democracy than the integrity of our election process. Our political liberties and our reputation in our government depend on secure elections. Constant vigilance on the local level is paramount to a successful, honest, ethical election.

One of the most important aspects of an election starts at the local level by providing experienced, trained, competent election workers. This type of worker makes a difference in a voter's experience and helping them exercise their civic duty.

An inexperienced election judge can unknowingly (due to lack of experience, training or immaturity, etc.) jeopardize the integrity of an election. An inexperienced worker creates an additional level of stress/chaos during election day by having to rely on other workers and Election Administrator for assistance. These situations increase the risk of complaints and election violations.

An election Judge has full management of an election from obtaining equipment and supplies the day before an election and getting it all set up to bringing all back to Election Administrators office after election is closed. On Election Day workers are at the poll by at least 5:45 a.m. and get all machines up and running and open by 7 a.m. and closing at 7 pm. The day ends after all machines are tabulated, closed and secure and all paperwork completed and delivered by 9 p.m.

The Judge ensures the election integrity by sorting out questions or disputes (calling EA as needed), maintaining the peace. The Judge ensures the election process is administered fairly and in accordance with all election laws. Knowledge of voter eligibility requirements are a must and have to be recalled instantly. Assisting the illiterate, disable, blind and deaf to be able to vote using the machines with respect and dignity ensures that the voter trusts the voting system. Working an election is just very hard work. We do this for satisfaction and to give back to our community.

The Commissioners Court provides safeguards that protect the integrity of the ballot box by ensuring that experienced, competent Election Judges and workers are approved. The Commissioners Court can continue to ensure election integrity by reviewing each nominee not only for their election experience and strength of their work ethic, computer experience, and physical ability but to ensure they have created no previous problems during elections, that they have met TEC eligibility requirements and have availed themselves of the training provided by the Secretary of State, their respective political parties and the County.

The Court can review each nominee with the Election Administrator. Election workers should be nominated based on their qualifications and experience, not on favoritism. Election workers should not be left out due to personal vindictiveness or political retaliation. After these questions are resolved a list created by eligibility and priority could be utilized for selection of nominees.

The Texas Election Code 32.001, Title 3, Subchapter 3 & 32.1111 & 32.114 and the County Chairman Handbook (C6, pg 41), can reinforce your ability to provide the most professional Judges and workers for all 19 precincts of Upshur County.

Issue of concern: Numerous people on the list (from 8/28/24 paper) have NO election experience! Several others can't work due to health issues or other commitments.

Issue of concern: Several experienced election workers were left off of the list in today's newspaper. Utilizing these seasoned/skilled/experienced workers will create a more competent, trustworthy election ensuring continued voter confidence.

Issue of concern: Nominees were not contacted ahead of this process to ensure they are indeed eligible, willing and available.

Issue: TEC Sec 32.051 (b)(c) allows the Commissioners Court to establish additional eligibility requirements. By utilizing this the Commissioners Court could ensure that experienced workers could be "vetted" ahead of time.

In addition to recognizing the importance of your time and responsibilities, I also recognize that we are facing a landmark decision about the direction of our country and our county in the upcoming November election, so I am humbly asking you to invest some extra time in consultation with our Election Administrator, to make certain the people who are working the election this November are the MOST qualified people available.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Skinner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

8/29/24

Election judges approved

By Phillip Williams

E Upshur County Commissioners Court recently approved Republican and Democratic election judges and alternate judges for 2-year terms beginning Sept. 1.

They were named by Republican county chairman Carl Byers and Democratic county chairman Winifred Jackson.

While Jackson's choices were listed as either judges or alternate judges, Byers has said the 46 Republicans he named could act in either capacity.

County Election Administrator Lory Harle submitted the two parties' respective lists to the court, which approved them Sept. 15.

The Republicans include Byers himself, Madison (Matt) Barrett, Darlene Rappazzo, Jesse Loffer, Sheri Lipscomb, Joan Skinner, Donna Dugger, Cheryl Corbin, Theresa Wilson, Ben Dodd, Bridget Byers, Doni Barrett, Mickey Denton, Amorette Burch, Robert Perry, and Shelly Perry.

Also Darlene Cook, Cindy Bickerdike, Vickie Smith, Priscilla McCauley, Donna Moree,

Bridget Fowler, Eddy Coleman, Meagan Sasser, Cheryl Pool, Judy Crowder, Tom Williams, Glenda Cox, Jean Miller, Melba Jenkins, Stacy McMahan, Allen Byers, Abigail Byers, and Sherri Heckendorn.

Others are John Melvin Dodd, John Welch, Doris Allen, Lana Baird, Linda Steger, Roberta McCrary, Christie Craver, Rhonda Hackler, Miranda Welch Hobbs, Julie Tefteller, Debbie Cannon and Carol Wade.

The Democrat judges will be Earlene Simmons, Morris Garmon Jr., Anna Scott, Cynthia Poole, Beatrice Crump, Elaine Rains, Vernell Jeffery, Helen Johnson, Steffani Chapman, Pamela Slaughter, Henry Thomas, Deborah Betterton-Bohannon, Evelyn Jones, T. Carolyn Short and Cheryl Jackson.

The Democratic alternate judges are Kareyn Green, Rhonda Bigham, Walter Scott, Ariella Smith, Nadra Murphy, Nelva Lovelady, Lashun Haley, Lionel Johnson, Lamonea Ozlegle, Lavana Aldridge, Elliot Smith, Geraldine Ray, Stephan Bolton, Kamilah Reed, and Gloria Boyd.