CAPTION: Approval to amend the composition of the Bexar County Elections and Voter Engagement Advisory Committee allowing each member of Commissioners Court to appoint one member for a two-year term of appointment.

ESTIMATED PRESENTATION TIME: 5 min

BACKGROUND:
On October 15, 2019 Bexar County Commissioners Court approved a resolution expressing support of the Democracy from the Ground Up platform and established the Bexar County Elections and Voter Engagement Advisory Committee.

Democracy from the Ground Up is an initiative that advocates for comprehensive, inclusive pro-democracy policies at the local government level and inspires sustained activism at the community level. The reforms underscore the opportunity local governments have to protect and improve election systems and support Bexar County’s goal to deliver a modern, voter-centric election system that conducts accurate, secure, and accessible elections and supports citizens in exercising their democratic rights.

Commissioners Court established the Elections and Voter Engagement Advisory Committee to develop formalized recommendations to support the delivery of a modern, voter-centric election system that conducts accurate, secure, and accessible elections and supports citizens in exercising their democratic rights.

In early 2020 Commissioners Court shifted their focus on elections to mitigating the threat to public health, maximize voter access and support citizens in exercising their democratic right in a safe manner during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the Elections and Voter Engagement Advisory Committee appointments did not occur.

Commissioners Court remains committed to fulfilling new and longstanding legal requirements of our election system in a manner that minimizes negative impacts to individuals and groups that are historically underrepresented or disenfranchised. In addition, Commissioners Court is equally committed to fulfilling the letter and the spirit of longstanding legal mandates designed to encourage and increase voter registration and civic participation.

The composition of the committee is now being amended to be comprised of five members, one appointed by each County Commissioner and one by the County Judge. As previously approved, the first task of the Bexar County Elections and Voter Engagement advisory committee will be to assess, prioritize, and make recommendations on implementation of reforms outlined in the Democracy from the Ground Up platform.
RECOMMENDED MOTION:
Approval to amend the composition of the Bexar County Elections and Voter Engagement Advisory Committee allowing each member of Commissioners Court to appoint one member for a two-year term of appointment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Expense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Is this a revenue or expense?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dollar amount of revenue or expense associated with item?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Is this a budgeted revenue or expense?</td>
<td>Yes ☐</td>
<td>No ☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Does this item require additional staff?</td>
<td>Yes ☐</td>
<td>No ☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Will this increase your current budget?</td>
<td>Yes ☐</td>
<td>No ☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Impact on future Budget? If Yes, Explain in Comments.</td>
<td>Yes ☐</td>
<td>No ☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Current End-of-Year Expenditure Estimate-for impacted Object Code(s)?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>If an expense, what is the current Object Code budget amount?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>If an expense, are sufficient funds currently budgeted in the Object Code?</td>
<td>Yes ☐</td>
<td>No ☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>If an expense, are sufficient funds currently budgeted in the Appropriation</td>
<td>Yes ☐</td>
<td>No ☒</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11 List impacted offices or departments or note if countywide:

12 Fund number:

13 Org number and Agency Code:

14 Object Code number:

15 If this is a grant, what is the estimated amount of program income? N/A

16 If this is a grant, what is the amount of Grantor funding? N/A

17 If this is a grant, what is the required County cash match? N/A

18 If this is a grant, what is the required County in-kind/allocation match? N/A

19 If this is a grant, was item approved by the Grant Review Committee? Yes ☐ No ☒

20 Comments:

21 Coordinated by: ___________________________ Verified By: ___________________________
Elections & Voter Engagement Advisory Committee Recommendation - DRAFT

Name: Elections & Voter Engagement Advisory Committee

Purpose: The Elections and Voter Engagement Advisory Committee serves as a public liaison between the residents and the Commissioners Court of Bexar County. The purpose of the Committee is to assess, identify and recommend policy and procedure updates to enhance the elections process, promote civic engagement, and increase voter education and participation. The committee is advisory only and has no rulemaking authority.

Charge: The Elections and Voter Engagement Advisory Committee represents the citizens of Bexar County and works collaboratively to develop formalized recommendations to support the delivery of a modern, voter-centric election system that conducts accurate, secure, and accessible elections and supports citizens in exercising their democratic rights. Within the authority allowed to Bexar County and consistent with State and Federal regulations, the Committee will leverage data, evidence based research, industry best practices, and subject matter experts to assess and make recommendations related, but not limited to:

Voter Registration
- Outreach activities and partnerships with local organizations
- Volunteer Deputy Registrar Recruitment & Training

Elections
- Early Voting & Election-Day Polling Location Selection
- Election Worker Positions & Training
- Elections Equipment & Technology Infrastructure
- Elections Security
- Outreach & Educational Materials & Activities
- Absentee, Alternative, and Provision Ballot Process

Additional Areas of Consideration
- Performance Indicators
- Process Improvement
- Communications, Outreach, and Accessibility

Term of Appointment: 2 years

Meeting Frequency: Quarterly

Composition: 5 members who are registered voters in Bexar County

Appointment Process: Each member of Commissioners Court will appoint one individual to serve on the Committee. Commissioners should consider appointees with various points of view, life experiences, interests, and expertise including, but not limited to, the categories listed below. The County Judge’s appointee will serve as the Committee Chair.
- A representative from a nonpartisan organization active in Bexar County that provides elections information to the public, such as the League of Women Voters

- One representative from the Disability community or a person with extensive knowledge regarding the application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- A College or University Student (age 18 – 25 who is enrolled at a post-secondary education institution in Bexar County on at least a half-time basis and who is a registered Bexar County voter)

- A representative from the Spanish-speaking community

- A representative from the LGBTQIA++ community

- A Business representative who has experience in marketing, communications, data and/or technology

- A representative from a nonpartisan organization in Bexar County that promotes equality and the advancement of Latinos

- A representative from a nonpartisan organization in Bexar County that promotes equality and the advancement of blacks or African Americans

- A representative from the senior citizen community

- A current or former election judge or poll worker

- A representative who has been formerly incarcerated