

**ORDER CALLING DIRECTORS' ELECTION  
FOR A WATER CONTROL & IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, an election shall be held for the Hardin County Water Control & Improvement District No. 1 (the "District") between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2026, and at said election, there shall be submitted to the duly qualified resident electors of the District, the matter of electing three (3) directors.

**WHEREAS**, the District will enter into a joint election agreement with Hardin Jefferson Independent School District (the "ISD"), acting through its Superintendent (the "*Superintendent*"); and

**WHEREAS**, a joint election agreement between or among (as applicable) the District and ISD, (the "*Agreement*") is authorized and entered into in accordance with the provisions of §271.002, as amended, Texas Election Code, and will provide that the ISD will conduct all aspects of the Election on the District's behalf; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board hereby finds and determines that it is in the best interests of the District to enter into a joint election agreement with the ISD to conduct the Election in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas (the "*State*") and applicable federal laws; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the Texas Election Code, a substantial copy of this Order, appearing in English and Spanish, shall serve as proper notice of said election, and the President of the Board or other representatives of the District shall cause the notice to be published on the same day for two successive weeks, the first publication not less than 14 days prior to the date set for the election, in a newspaper published in the District or, if none is published in the District, in a newspaper of general circulation in the District. In addition, in accordance with §4.003(a)(2) of the Texas Election Code, a substantial copy of this Order, appearing in English and Spanish, shall be posted on the bulletin board used by the District to post meetings of the Board not later than the 21<sup>st</sup> day before the election. In accordance with §4.003(f) of the Texas Election Code, a substantial copy of this Order, appearing in English and Spanish, shall be posted on election day and during early voting by personal appearance in a prominent location at each polling place; in three public places in the boundaries of the District no later than the 21<sup>st</sup> day before the election; and on the District's internet website during the 21 days before the election if the District maintains an internet website; and

**WHEREAS**, it is hereby officially found and determined that holding the election on the May 4, 2024, uniform election date as established by §41.001(a), Texas Election Code, is in the public interest; and that said meeting was open to the public, and public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given, all as required by Chapter 551 of Texas Government Code.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF HARDIN COUNTY WATER CONTROL & IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1 THAT:

Section 1: Written application to have a person's name printed on the ballot as a candidate for the office of director of the District, signed by the candidate, must be received by the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the District not later than 5:00 p.m. on February 13, 2026. No person's name shall be placed on the ballot unless he or she is at least eighteen (18) years of age, a citizen of the United States, a resident of the State of Texas, either owns land subject to taxation in the District or is a qualified voter within the District, has filed a loyalty affidavit with the Secretary of the Board of Directors, and otherwise satisfies the qualifications for holding a public office contained in the Texas Election Code. No person who is disqualified by the laws of

the State of Texas from serving as a director of this District shall have his or her name placed on the ballot. The Board of Directors of the District is authorized to determine the qualifications of candidates for office. If the Board of Directors determines that an applicant is not qualified, it shall give written notice to the applicant of the reason for the rejection. Blank applications, loyalty affidavits, and copies of this order may be obtained from the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the District, 101 Pinegarden Lane, Sour Lake, Texas 77659, (409) 753-2689.

Section 2: When the number of candidates to appear on the ballot exceeds the number of offices to be filled, the order in which the names of the candidates are to be printed on the ballot shall be determined by a drawing to be conducted by the Secretary. The Secretary shall post notice within the District, at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the time at which the drawing is to be held, of the time and place of the drawing, and shall also mail notice of the date, hour, and place of the drawing to each candidate, at the address stated on the candidate's application for a place on the ballot, not later than the fourth day before the day of the drawing. Each candidate involved in the drawing or a representative designated by the candidate shall have a right to be present and observe the drawing.

Section 3: The election precincts hereby established for the purpose of holding the Election and the polling places hereby designated for holding the Election in the election precincts are identified in **Exhibit "A"** to this Order (which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes). Prior to the scheduled Election Day, the Board of Directors or the designees thereof, in coordination with the ISD, will identify and formally approve the appointment of the Presiding Judge, Alternate Presiding Judges, Election Clerks, and all other election officials for the Election, together with any other necessary changes to election practices and procedures and can correct, modify, or change the Exhibits to this Order based upon the final locations and times agreed upon by the District and ISD to the extent permitted by applicable law.

A. The Presiding Judge shall appoint not less than two (2) resident qualified voters of the ISD to act as clerks in order to properly conduct the Election. To the extent required by the Texas Election Code, as amended, or other applicable law, the appointment of these clerks must include a person fluent in the Spanish language to serve as a clerk to render oral aid in the Spanish language to any voter desiring such aid at the polls on Election Day. If the Presiding Judge appointed actually serves, the Alternate Presiding Judge shall serve as one of the clerks. In the absence of the Presiding Judge, the Alternate Presiding Judge shall perform the duties of the Presiding Judge of the election precinct.

B. On Election Day, the polls shall be open as designated on **Exhibit "A"** or as hereafter determined by the ISD.

C. The main early voting location is designated in **Exhibit "B"** to this Order (which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes). The individual named or designated as the Early Voting Clerk in the Agreement is hereby appointed as the Early Voting Clerk to conduct such early voting in the Election. The Early Voting Clerk shall appoint the Deputy Early Voting Clerks. This office or place shall remain open to permit early voting each day, with the exception of official State holidays, as stated in **Exhibit "B"**. Early voting shall commence as provided on **Exhibit "B"** and continue through the date set forth on **Exhibit "B"**, all as provided by the provisions of the Texas Election Code, as amended. Permanent branch and temporary branch offices for early voting by personal appearance shall be maintained at the locations and times designated on **Exhibit "B"** during the early voting period noted above.

D. An Early Voting Ballot Board is hereby established for the purpose of processing early voting results. The individual named or designated in the Agreement as the Presiding Judge of the Early Voting Ballot Board is hereby appointed the Presiding Judge of the Early Voting Ballot Board. The Presiding Judge shall appoint not less than two (2) resident qualified voters of the District to serve as members of the Early Voting Ballot Board.

SECTION 4: Electronic voting machines may be used in holding and conducting the Election on Election Day; provided, however, in the event the use of such electronic voting machines is not practicable, the Election may be conducted on Election Day by the use of paper ballots (except as otherwise provided in this section). Electronic voting machines or paper ballots may be used for early voting by personal appearance (except as otherwise provided in this section). Pursuant to §61.012, as amended, Texas Election Code, the ISD shall provide at least one accessible voting system in each polling place used in the Election. Such voting system shall comply with Texas and federal laws establishing the requirement for voting systems that permit voters with physical disabilities to cast a secret ballot. Paper ballots may be used for early voting by mail.

SECTION 5: The ISD shall designate a Central Counting Station (the "*Station*") as provided by §127.001, *et seq.*, as amended, Texas Election Code. The Superintendent, or its designee, is hereby appointed as the Manager and Presiding Judge of the Station and may appoint Station clerks and establish a written plan for the orderly operation of the Station in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code.

SECTION 6: All resident, qualified voters of the District shall be permitted to vote at the Election, and on Election Day, such voters shall vote at the designated polling place. The Election shall be held and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code, as amended, and as may be required by law. To the extent required by law, all election materials and proceedings relating to the Election shall be printed in both English and Spanish.

SECTION 7: In accordance with the Texas Election Code, a substantial copy of this Order, appearing in English and Spanish, shall serve as proper notice of said election, and the President of the Board or other representatives of the District shall cause the notice to be published on the same day for two successive weeks, the first publication not less than 14 days prior to the date set for the election, in a newspaper published in the District or, if none is published in the District, in a newspaper of general circulation in the District. In addition, in accordance with §4.003(a)(2) of the Texas Election Code, a substantial copy of this Order, appearing in English and Spanish, shall be posted on the bulletin board used by the District to post meetings of the Board not later than the 21<sup>st</sup> day before the election. In accordance with §4.003(f) of the Texas Election Code, a substantial copy of this Order, appearing in English and Spanish, shall be posted on election day and during early voting by personal appearance in a prominent location at each polling place; in three public places in the boundaries of the District no later than the 21<sup>st</sup> day before the election; and on the District's internet website during the 21 days before the election if the District maintains an internet website.

SECTION 8: The Board authorizes the President and the Board of Directors, or the designee of such parties, to negotiate and enter into one or more joint election agreements and/or similar contracts or agreements with the ISD if desired or if required to comply with applicable law, as permitted and in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code, as amended. In addition, the Board authorizes the President and the Board of Directors, or the designee of such parties to make such technical modifications to this Order that are necessary for compliance with applicable Texas or federal law or to carry out the intent of the Board, as evidenced herein.

SECTION 9: It is officially found, determined, and declared that the meeting at which this Order is adopted was open to the public and public notice of the time, place, and subject matter of the public business to be considered at such meeting, including this Order, was given, all as required by Chapter 551, as amended, Texas Government Code.

SECTION 10: The recitals contained in the preamble hereof are hereby found to be true, and such recitals are hereby made a part of this Order for all purposes and are adopted as a part of the judgment and findings of the Board.

SECTION 11: All orders and resolutions, or parts thereof, which are in conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Order are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, and the provisions of this Order shall be and remain controlling as to the matters ordered herein.

SECTION 12: This Order shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and the United States of America.

SECTION 13: If any provision of this Order or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be held to be invalid, the remainder of this Order and the application of such provision to other persons and circumstances shall nevertheless be valid, and the Board hereby declares that this Order would have been enacted without such invalid provision.

SECTION 14: This Order shall be in force and effect from and after its final passage, and it is so ordered.

PASSED AND APPROVED the 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

**Hardin County Water Control  
& Improvement District No. 1**