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## **RESOLUTION**

### ***OPPOSING THE ELIMINATION OF THE COUNTYWIDE POLLING PLACE PROGRAM***

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**WHEREAS**, Angelina County has participated in the Countywide Polling Place Program since 2021, utilizing 41 voting precincts and 21 polling locations; and

**WHEREAS**, many constituents benefit from the ability to vote on Election Day at a polling location of their choice, without having to adjust their work schedules thanks to the Countywide Polling Place Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of the Countywide Polling Place Program has contributed to increased voter turnout and a reduction in the number of provisional ballots in Angelina County; and

**WHEREAS**, the requirement for precinct-based voting locations in Angelina County poses significant expenses and hardships for both the county and its constituents, as not every voting precinct has public buildings available for polling sites, and private facilities are not obligated to allow their use; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Legislature has authorized the use of electronic poll books under Texas Election Code Section 31.014, which enable voters to sign in electronically while verifying their identity with official identification, and confirming that they have not already voted via absentee ballot or at another polling location, thus dramatically reducing voter fraud and improving wait times for voters; and

**WHEREAS**, electronic ballot marking devices allow voters to cast their ballots with the assistance of electronics on a physical ballot. These devices do not store or tabulate votes, but enable voters to review their choices before submitting their ballot, providing reassurance that their vote is recorded accurately; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) asserts that any state or jurisdiction that ends the use of accessible voting systems is in violation of existing laws, and may face significant litigation risks. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) recognizes that hand-marked ballots are not accessible, and does not enable voters with disabilities to cast a private and independent vote; and

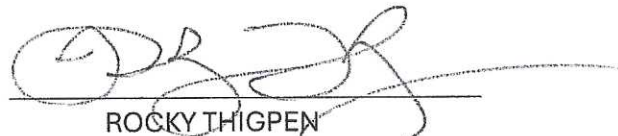
**WHEREAS**, all Texas counties that use electronic poll books and electronic ballot marking devices are required by law to obtain approval and annual certification from the Secretary of State to ensure the security of the voting process for the public; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners Court of Angelina County believes that reverting to precinct-based voting would negatively impact the voting community, decrease voter turnout, and potentially disenfranchise a significant number of voters, including those with disabilities; and

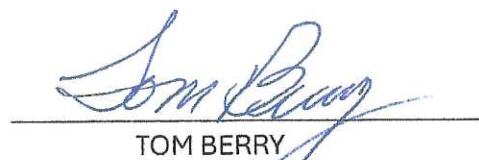
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the undersigned elected officials oppose any efforts by the Texas Legislature to eliminate countywide polling places, electronic poll books and electronic marking devices.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.

  
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KEITH WRIGHT  
COUNTY JUDGE

  
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ROCKY THIGPEN  
COMMISSIONER PCT #1

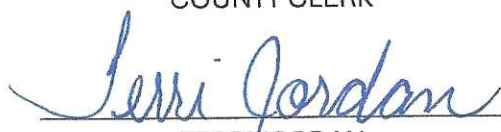
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KERMIT KENNEDY  
COMMISSIONER PCT #2

  
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TOM BERRY  
COMMISSIONER PCT #3

  
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KENNETH JEFFREY  
COMMISSIONER PCT #4

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
AMY FINCHER  
COUNTY CLERK

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TERRI JORDAN  
ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR





**KERMIT A. KENNEDY**

Commissioner Precinct No. 2

P.O. Box 908

Lufkin, Texas

75902

February 13, 2025

Judge Keith Wright  
Commissioners Court

Please place the following item on the February 25, 2025, Commissioners Court  
Agenda:

Discussion/action on a resolution opposing the elimination of the countywide  
polling place program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kermit Kennedy".

Kermit Kennedy

Commissioner, Pct. #2

RECEIVED

FEB 13 2025

COUNTY JUDGE