

AN ORDER CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD BY THE COLDSRING-OAKHURST CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING RATIFYING A VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE, MAKING PROVISION FOR THE CONDUCT OF A JOINT ELECTION, AND RESOLVING OTHER MATTERS INCIDENT AND RELATED TO SUCH ELECTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the *Board*) of the Coldspring-Oakhurst Consolidated Independent School District (the *District*), located in San Jacinto County, Texas (the *County*) has set the District's tax rate at \$0.8067 per \$100 of taxable assessed valuation, which is a rate that exceeds the District's voter-approval tax rate, and therefore the Board is obligated to call an election to ratify such tax rate pursuant to Section 26.08, Texas Tax Code, as hereinafter ordered (the *Election*); and

WHEREAS, the District will contract with the elections administrator (the *Administrator*) of the County to conduct all aspects of the Election; and

WHEREAS, the Election will be conducted by the County and held jointly with other political subdivisions for which the County is also conducting their elections (such other political subdivisions, collectively, the *Participants*), as provided pursuant to the provisions of an election agreement and/or a joint election or similar agreement between or among (as applicable) the District, the County, and/or any Participants, entered into in accordance with the provisions of Section 271.002, as amended, Texas Election Code; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby finds and determines that the actions hereinbefore described are in the best interests of the residents of the District; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE COLDSRING-OAKHURST CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT:

SECTION 1: The Election shall be held in the Coldspring-Oakhurst Consolidated Independent School District on the 5th day of November, 2024 (*Election Day*), which is a uniform election date under the Texas Election Code, as amended, and is 78 or more days from the date of the adoption of this order (the *Order*), for the purpose of submitting the following measure to the qualified voters of the District:

MEASURE A

“Shall the Board of Trustees of the Coldspring-Oakhurst Consolidated Independent School District be authorized to levy, pursuant to an order of such Board adopted on August 19, 2024, an ad valorem tax rate of \$0.8067 per \$100 of the taxable assessed valuation of property within the Coldspring-Oakhurst Consolidated Independent School District for the current tax year, being a rate that is comprised of a maintenance and operations tax rate of \$0.7275 per \$100 of such taxable

assessed valuation (the maximum rate for maintenance and operations for which the District may, if now approved by the district's electorate at this Election, levy in each year hereafter, being then subject only to annual Board approval) and a debt service tax rate of \$0.0792 per \$100 of such taxable assessed value (an amount that is set annually by the Board), which combined tax rate of \$0.8067 adopted by the Board on August 19, 2024 represents an increase of an additional \$1,185,726 to the District in the 2024-2025 school year, which is approximately 9.63% higher than the amount collected last year pursuant to section 26.08, as amended, Texas Tax Code?"

SECTION 2: One or more school election precincts are hereby established for the purpose of holding the Election, and one or more polling places are hereby designated for holding the Election in the school election precincts as identified in Exhibit A to this Order (which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes). If any locations are changed, this will be reflected on the County elections website. At least 79 days prior to the scheduled Election Day, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable, the President, Board of Trustees, the Superintendent of Schools, or the respective designees thereof, in coordination with the Administrator, will appoint 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, the Administrator, and the Participants, if any and as applicable, to the extent permitted by applicable law.

A. The Presiding Judge shall appoint not less than two resident qualified voters of the District 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.

San Jacinto County participates in the Countywide Polling Place Program under Section 43.007, as amended, Texas Election Code, meaning that any District voter registered in the County can vote in the Election at any polling place identified in Exhibit A for the County.

C. The main early voting locations are designated in Exhibit B to this Order (which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes). If any locations are changed, this will be reflected on the County elections website. The individual named as the Early Voting Clerk for the County as designated in Exhibit B is hereby appointed as the Early Voting Clerk for the County to conduct such early voting in the Election. Each Early Voting Clerk shall appoint the Deputy Early Voting Clerks for the County. This office or place shall remain open to permit early voting on the days and at the times 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.

Additionally, permanent and/or temporary branch offices for early voting by personal appearance may be established and maintained in accordance with the Texas Election Code. In the event such permanent and/or temporary branch locations are established, information regarding the locations, dates, and hours of operation for early voting at these offices shall be determined by the Administrator, as identified in Exhibit B hereto.

An Early Voting Ballot Board is hereby established for the purpose of processing early voting results. Each individual designated in Exhibit B as the Presiding Judge of the Early Voting Ballot Board for the County is hereby appointed the Presiding Judge of the Early Voting Ballot Board for the County. Each Presiding Judge shall appoint not less than two resident qualified voters of the District to serve as members of the Early Voting Ballot Board for the County.

SECTION 3: 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 Section 61.012, as amended, Texas Election Code, the District 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. Any legally permissible voting method may be used for early voting and Election Day voting by personal appearance. Certain early voting may be conducted by mail.

SECTION 4: The District authorizes the Administrator to utilize a Central Counting Station (individually, the *Station*) as provided by Section 127.001, *et seq.*, as amended, Texas Election Code. The Administrator, or the designees thereof, are hereby appointed as the Manager of the Station, who will establish a written plan for the orderly operation of the Station in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code. The Board hereby authorizes the Administrator, or the designees thereof, to appoint the Presiding Judge of the Station, the Tabulation Supervisor, and the Programmer for the Station and may appoint Station clerks as needed or desirable. The Administrator will publish (or cause to be published) notice and conduct testing on the automatic tabulation equipment relating to the Station and conduct instruction for the officials and clerks for the Station in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code.

SECTION 5: The official ballot shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code, as amended, and Texas Tax Code, as amended, so as to permit voters to vote "FOR" or "AGAINST" the aforesaid measure which shall appear on the ballot substantially as follows:

PROPOSITION A

"RATIFYING THE AD VALOREM TAX RATE OF \$0.8067 PER \$100 VALUATION IN COLDSRING-OAKHURST CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, A RATE THAT WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE OF 9.63% IN MAINTENANCE AND

OPERATIONS TAX REVENUE FOR THE DISTRICT FOR THE CURRENT YEAR AS COMPARED TO THE PRECEDING YEAR, WHICH IS AN ADDITIONAL \$1,185,726.”

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, except as modified by the provisions of the Texas Education 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: Notice of election, including a Spanish translation thereof, shall be provided in accordance with State law.

SECTION 8: The Board authorizes the President, Board of Trustees, the Superintendent of Schools, the Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, or the respective designee of either of such parties, to negotiate and enter into one or more joint election agreements, election services contracts, and/or similar contracts or agreements with the County, acting by and through the Administrator, and any Participants 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, Board of Trustees, the Superintendent of Schools, the Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, or the respective designee of either 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. By incorporating all essential terms necessary for a joint election agreement, this Order is intended to satisfy Section 271.002(d) of the Texas Election Code, as amended, without further action of the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 9: 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 10: 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 11: This Order shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and the United States of America.

SECTION 12: 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 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, this the 19th day of August, 2024.

COLDSRING-OAKHURST
CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT

President, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

Secretary, Board of Trustees

(DISTRICT SEAL)

Exhibit A

ELECTION DAY PRECINCT AND POLLING INFORMATION

Presiding Judges and Alternates: to be appointed by the administrator

Election Day: November 5, 2024

Election Day Polling Locations open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Box 1	Elections Administration	51 E. Pine Ave, Coldspring, Texas 77331
Box 2	Shepherd Community Center	10251 State Hwy 150, Shepherd, Texas 77371
Box 3	Evergreen Community Center	7550 State Hwy 150 W, Coldspring, Texas 77331
Box 5	Bear Creek VFD	11550 FM 1725, Cleveland, Texas 77328
Box 7	Point Blank, Precinct 4 Annex	221 Boat Launch Rd., Point Blank, Texas 77364
Box 8	Oakhurst Fire Department	990 US Hwy 190, Oakhurst, Texas 77359
Box 10	New Hope Baptist Church	13200 FM 2025, Cleveland, Texas 77328

Subject to change: check the County's website.

San Jacinto County participates in the Countywide Polling place program under Section 43.007, Texas Election Code, as amended. Registered voters will be able to cast their Election Day ballots at any of the Vote Centers identified on the County's website.

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Exhibit B

EARLY VOTING

Early voting begins Monday, October 21, 2024 and ends on Friday, November 1, 2024.

Elections Administrator
Cheri Walker
51 East Pine Avenue
Coldspring, Texas 77331

Presiding Judge of the Early Voting Ballot Board: to be appointed by the administrator.

Voters entitled to vote an early ballot by personal appearance may do so at any Early Voting Site.

Main Early Voting Polling Place, Dates, and Times

San Jacinto County Elections
Administration Building
51 E Pine Ave.
Coldspring, Texas 77331

Dates

Monday, October 21, 2024 through Friday, October 25, 2024
Saturday, October 26, 2024
Sunday, October 27, 2024
Monday, October 28, 2024 through Friday, November 1, 2024

Times

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Subject to change: check the County's website.

Early Voting By Mail

Applications for voting by mail should be received no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Friday, October 25, 2024.

Applications should be sent to:

Elections Administrator
Cheri Walker
51 East Pine Avenue
Coldspring, Texas 77331
Fax: 936-653-5808
Email: cwalker@san-jac.us