Second Polling Location

By Texas Rising

Sponsored by Aggies Vote, Texas Aggie Democrats, TAMU Amnesty International, Young Democrats of BCS
Presenters

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ABOUT TEXAS RISING
Who is Texas Rising? What have we done?

OPENING A NEW POLLING LOCATION
The Importance and Costs

CONCLUSION
Recap of the Presentation
We hope to open a dialogue and form a relationship with the Brazos County Commissioners Court.

We aim to provide the information and reasons as to why we need a new polling location on or near the Texas A&M University - College Station campus.

We wish to walk away from this with an idea on how we can help decrease the voting wait lines for our community.
Texas Rising
What are we? What have we accomplished?
Who are we?

About

Texas Rising aims to build the power of young people in our communities and at the ballot box. We organize young Texans in a multi-issue way.

What do we focus on?

We focus on voter registration and turnout of young Texans, organizing on college campuses, youth leadership, grassroots and digital organizing, and issue advocacy.
We have registered over 1,300 people to vote by tabling on the Texas A&M Campus and in Downtown Bryan.

We advocate for all of our members to become Volunteer Deputy Registrars. We have a total of 15 in our local chapter.

We have had nearly 1500 people in the community pledge to vote with our organization.
Polling Location

The Importance and Costs
According to Texas A&M University’s Data and Research Services, there were a total of **59,837** students enrolled at the College Station campus for the Spring 2020 semester. 

*Source: Texas A&M University*

According to a 2014 Federal report, “No citizen should have to wait more than 30 minutes to vote.” 

*Source: The American Voting Experience, Report and Recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration*
Robert Stein et al (2019) found higher rates of people leaving the line at polling places with longer waiting lines. The waiting time has a negative effect on the prospect of a voter voting at that polling place. Source: “Waiting to Vote in the 2016 Presidential Election: Evidence from a Multi-County Study.”

The importance of a second polling location on/near campus
The Costs of a Polling Location

These are the costs of a Polling Location according to EA Trudy Hancock:

- Equipment: $5,000.00
- Supplies: $400.00
- Payroll: $12,636.00
- Internet: $100.00

The above costs include early voting and election day. It does not include a rental fee for the location itself.
The Hurdles of Opening a new Polling Location

Potential Location: Annenberg Presidential Conference Center with the access of Lot 41 Route 5

Contacted the Associate Director of Hospitality and Event Services on June 23, 2020. I was informed that the University cannot request or add another polling location until the Brazos County Election Office initiates the conversation.
Texas A&M does offer free to bus to students, faculty, and staff that provide the proper identification. Although there is a multitude of bus stops, most are placed at a general location causing the passenger to walk and then search for the destination.

Voters would additionally have to work around the bus schedule to be able to vote.

Public transit can be uncomfortable especially now with the added health risk.

University hasn’t come out with a statement about voting. However, they made an announcement on June 15th that the time in between classes will extend to 30 minutes.
Conclusion

A Brief Recap of the Presentation
Important Takeaways

Population and Waiting Times
The lines and waiting times at the MSC Polling location are simply too long. As the Texas A&M University’s student population increases, the MSC location will become increasingly overwhelmed.

Voter Turnout
Long lines and waiting times have a negative effect on voter turnout at a polling place. An additional polling place on or near campus will decrease the waiting lines and increase the voter turnout.
THANK YOU!

Do you have any questions?

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WE ARE THE RISING GENERATION.

We are young. We are diverse.

Texas Rising is a grassroots, non-partisan organization that is dedicated to building the power of young Texans in our communities and at the ballot box. We organize young Texans in a multi-issue way to achieve equality.

We focus on voter registration and turnout of young Texans, organizing on college campuses, youth leadership, grassroots and digital organizing, and issue advocacy.

GOALS

1. We hope to open a dialogue and form a relationship with the Brazos County Commissioners Court.

2. We aim to provide the information and reasons as to why we need a new polling location on or near the Texas A&M University - College Station campus.

3. We wish to walk away from this with an idea on how we can help decrease the voting wait lines for our community.

LOCAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1,300</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>1,500</th>
<th>1/3</th>
<th>+20</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>young voters registered in Brazos County by our chapter</td>
<td>of our members are Volunteer Deputy Registrars</td>
<td>young voters pledged to vote with our chapter</td>
<td>of eligible voters in Texas will soon be under 30</td>
<td>established Texas Rising chapters across the state</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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2ND POLLING LOCATION: THE IMPORTANCE & COSTS

- A total of 59,837 students enrolled at Texas A&M, but only 1 polling location at the Memorial Student Center.

- No citizen should have to wait more than 30 minutes, according to the 2014 American Voting Experience, a Federal Report.

- Long wait times have a negative effect on the prospect of the voter voting at a polling place, according to 2019 research on “Waiting Time in the 2016 Presidential Election.”

- The cost of a polling location is about $18,186 for equipment, supplies, payroll, and internet, according to Election Administrator Trudy Hancock.
  *The above costs include early voting and election day. It does not include the rental fee.

The lines and wait times are already too long for young voters attending Texas A&M. As the student population increases, alongside the implementation of social distancing requirements under COVID-19, the 1 polling location (at the Memorial Student Center) will become increasingly overwhelmed. Long lines and wait times have a negative effect on voter turnout at a polling place. An additional polling place on or near campus will decrease the waiting lines and increase the voter turnout, which is vital during this pandemic.

CONTACT US

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