

Andy Sommerman Dallas County Commissioner District 2 Newsletter

October 2023

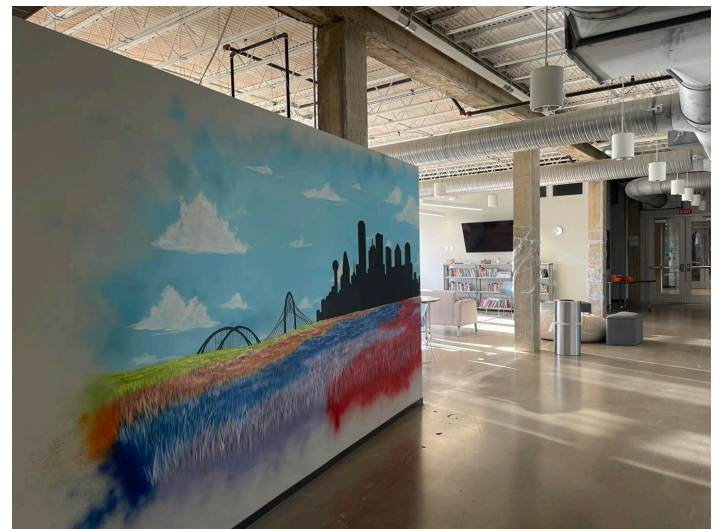
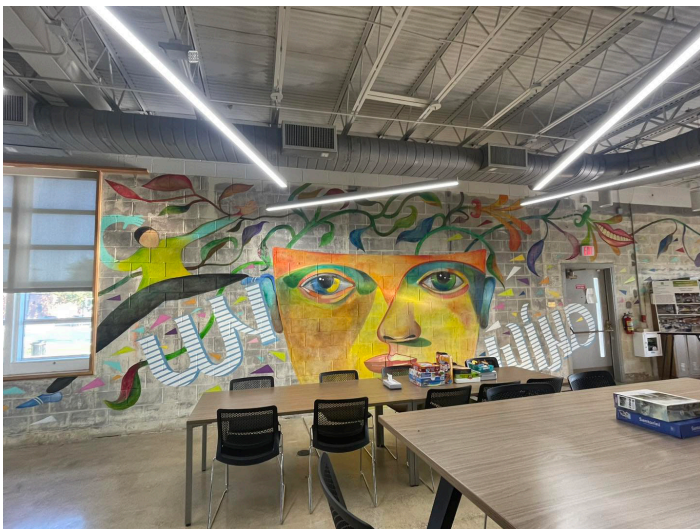


Touring the Fannie C. Harris Center

The Fannie C. Harris Youth Center operates a drop-in center and residential services for homeless youth ages 14-21. This vulnerable age group is often overlooked, but organizations like Fannie C. Harris help fill in the gaps. My team and I were glad to visit with them this month to discuss how Dallas County can help with their mission of helping homeless youth.

A visit to a homeless youth center is not merely an observation, but a profound encounter with the strength of the human spirit. Centers like Fannie C. Harris play a crucial role in providing practical support, fostering a sense of community, and empowering young individuals to reclaim control of their lives. By understanding the challenges faced by homeless youth and the impactful interventions offered by such centers, we can collectively work toward creating a society that supports and uplifts those who need it most.

Fannie C. Harris has 35 beds available as an emergency youth shelter and transitional program services, and they offer academic, emotional and social support services such as tutoring, job training, counseling, and family reunification resources. Youth who use these resources are able to take control over their lives with the good decisions they make. The volunteers at the Fannie C. Harris Center let youth know that hope is a resilient force that fuels perseverance, reminding them that even during hard times, possibilities for positive change exists.





Have Great News in District 2 to add to the newsletter? Would you like Commissioner Sommerman to attend your next neighborhood meeting? Contact us at District2Office@dallascounty.org

NORTHAVEN TRAIL BRIDGE OPENING

December 2
9 am
11222 N. Central
Expy

NEW ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTED

Selecting the right elections administrator is a critical step in safeguarding the democratic process. By prioritizing experience, legal knowledge, communication skills, technological proficiency, ethical standards, crisis management skills, inclusivity, and collaboration, the Dallas County Elections Commission can ensure that the chosen candidate is well-equipped to manage the complexities of elections and uphold the principles of democracy.

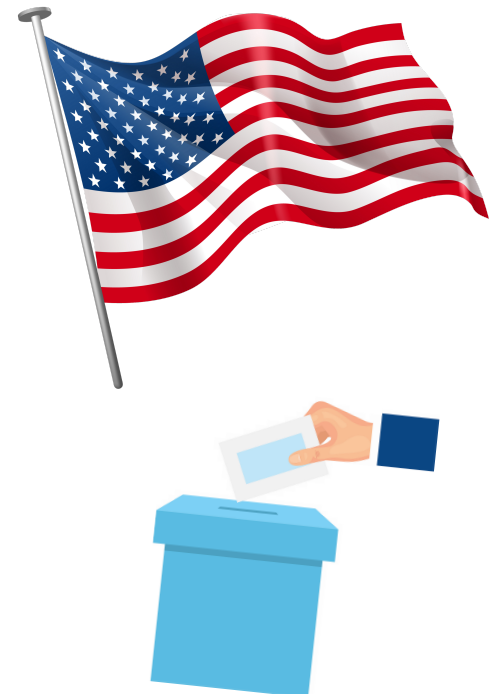
The landscape of elections is ever evolving. A successful administrator should be open to continuous learning, staying informed about new developments in electoral technology, legislation, and best practices. Adaptability to changing circumstances is key to overcoming emerging challenges.

After reviewing and interviewing the qualified candidates, the Dallas County Elections Commission voted to appoint Heider Garcia as the next Dallas County Elections Administrator, effective December 20, 2023.

Mr. Garcia has extensive experience in large-scale election programs, working in this field for the last 20 years. He served as the Elections Manager in Placer County, California from 2016-2018, the Elections Administrator in Tarrant County, Texas from 2018-2023, and is currently a Senior Election Subject Matter Expert for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

According to the Texas Tribune, in this age of distrust and rancor, Mr. Garcia has engaged with skeptics and activists, inviting them to ask as many questions as they want, and walking them through the elections process behind the scenes. His open approach has won him praise from both parties and has made his Election Department a program to emulate. "If you were building a prototype for an election administrator, you would just copy Heider Garcia," Former Texas Secretary of State John Scott said. Dallas County is lucky to have him managing our elections!

ELECTIONS COMMISSION MEETING





Drive thru voter registration



Commissioner Sommerman interviewing with NBC 5



Dallas County Celebrates Halloween!



Solar charging station at the North Dallas Government Center



Resolution Honoring National Manufacturing Day

AROUND DISTRICT 2

