Purpose

The Collin County Elections Department is responsible for conducting federal, state, county elections and provides election services contracts to political subdivisions for the conduct of local elections. The department is responsible for facilitating voter registration and for maintaining an accurate and up-to-date database of the registered voters in the county. Additionally, the department is responsible for maintaining campaign finance files, redistricting of voting precincts and maintenance/programming/testing of election equipment.
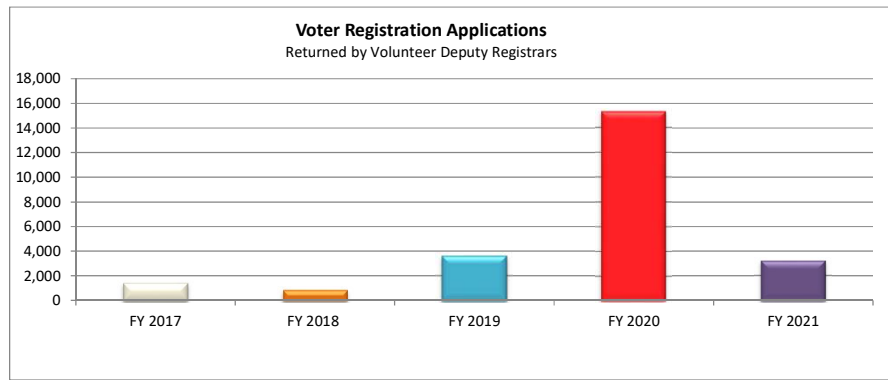
MAJOR PROGRAMS

VOTER REGISTRATION DATABASE MAINTENANCE

The List of Registered Voters is maintained for 641,000+ voters in accordance with state law. Proper street file maintenance is critical for precinct and district assignment. The office interfaces with cities, school districts, special utility districts, the Central Appraisal district, and the County's GIS Department for current street information. The list is maintained and provided to jurisdictions prior to elections. Voter History is maintained for elections conducted by the county and provided to interested parties.

FY 2021 Goals & Objectives

1. Implement the Mail Ballot Activity Portal which will provide voters with a real-time search function to review the status of their mail ballot.
2. Create and implement online Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) training classes.
3. Pursue creation of online poll worker training classes.
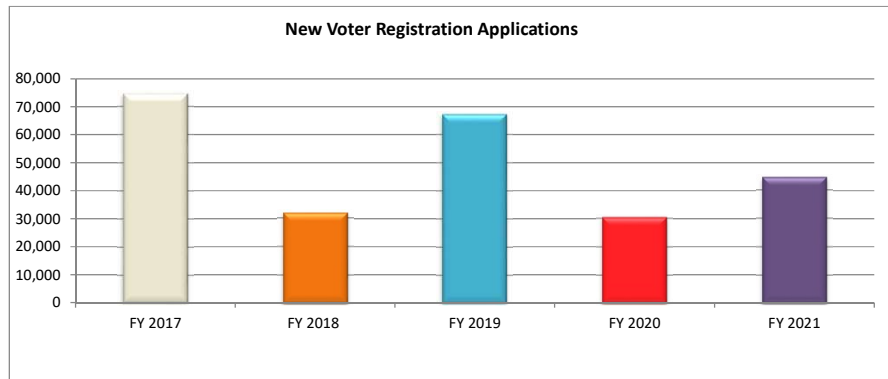
Elections Held

FY 2017	11/8/16	Presidential & Special (City/School) Election
	2/18/17	City of Frisco Special Election
	3/25/17	City of Frisco Runoff Election
	5/6/17	General & Special (City/School) Election
	6/10/17	General & Special Runoff Election
FY 2018	11/7/17	General Election - Proposed Constitutional Amendments
	12/9/17	City of Princeton Runoff Election
	3/6/18	2018 Primary Election
	5/5/18	General & Special (City/School) Election
	5/22/18	Primary Runoff Election
	6/16/18	General & Special Runoff Election
FY 2019	11/16/18	General & Special Election
	5/4/19	Joint Election-City/School
	6/18/19	City Runoff Election
FY 2020	11/5/19	General Election
	1/7/20	City of Sachse Special Election
	2/1/20	City of Sachse Special Runoff Election
	5/2/20	Joint Election (Postponed to November 2020)
	5/26/20	Primary Runoff Election (Postponed to July 2020)
	6/20/20	City Runoff Election (Postponed to December 2020)
	7/14/20	Primary Runoff Election
	9/29/20	Senate District 30 Special Election
FY 2021	11/3/20	General & Special (City/School) Election
	12/8/20	2020 City Runoff Election
	12/19/20	2020 Senate District 30 Runoff Election
	5/1/21	2021 City/School Election
	6/5/21	2021 City Runoff Election

Voter Registration Applications
Returned by Volunteer Deputy Registrars

Data Sourse - VEMACS Voter Registration Database
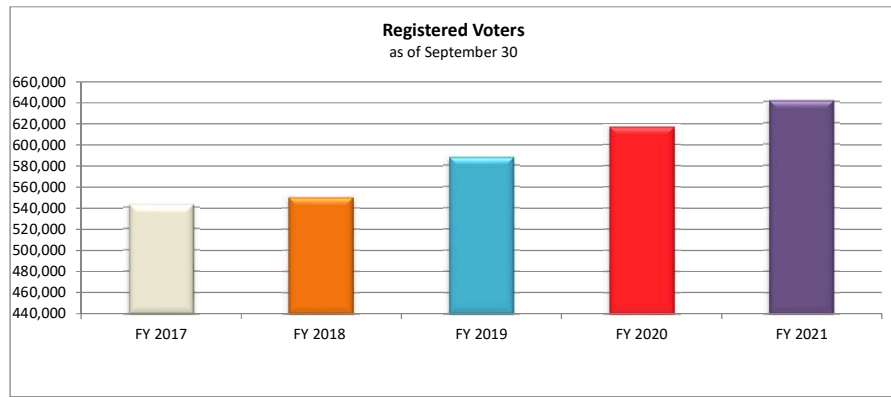
Applications	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
	1,397	841	3,605	15,346	3,202
		-40%	329%	326%	-79%

Section 13.031 of the Texas Election Code permits deputizing persons as Volunteer Deputy Registrars who can distribute voter registration application forms throughout the county and receive registration applications submitted to the deputy in person.

New Voter Registration Applications

Data Sourse - VEMACS Voter Registration Database
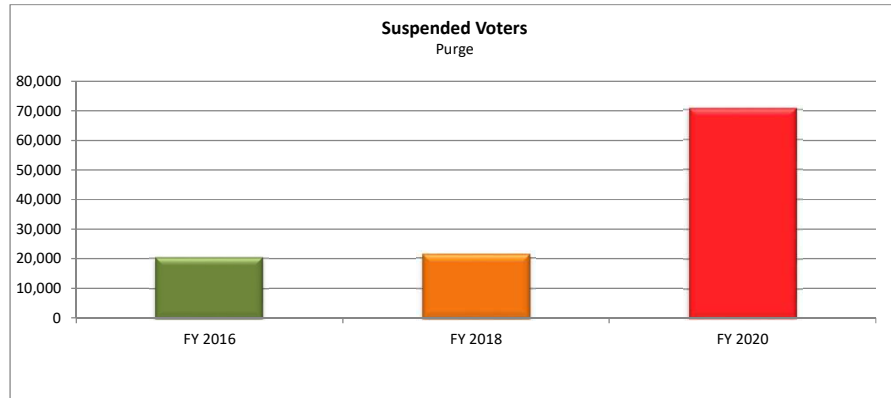
New Applications	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
	74,627	31,870	67,241	30,507	44,536
		-57%	111%	-55%	46%

*Disaster Declaration issued by County Judge March 16, 2020 due to COVID-19

Registered Voters
as of September 30

Data Sourse - VEMACS Voter Registration Database

Registered Voters as of September 30
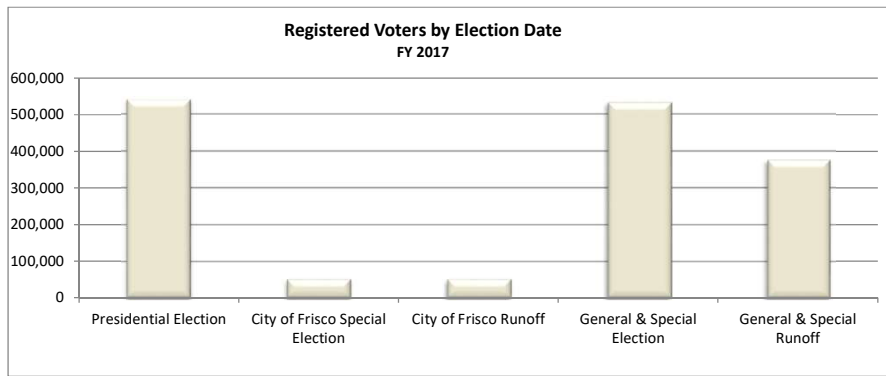
	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Registered Voters	543,035	550,347	587,844	616,959	641,366
Registered Voters % Increase		**1%**	**7%**	**5%**	**4%**

Suspended Voters
Purge

Data Sourse - VEMACS Voter Registration Database
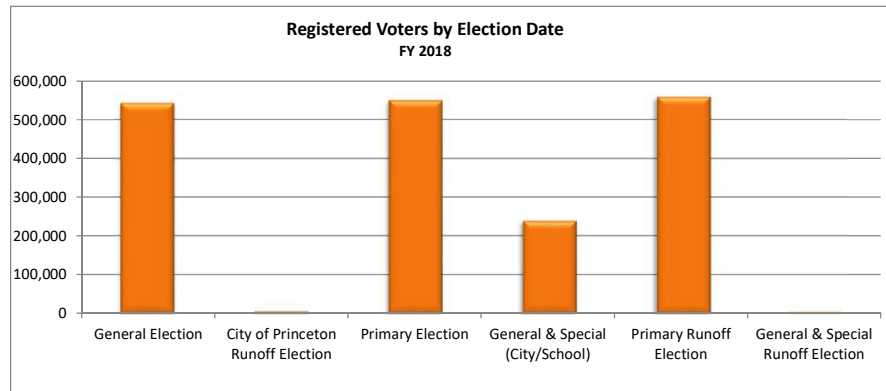
|	FY 2016	FY 2018	FY 2020
Purge	20,353	21,362	70,594

PURGE - Biannual purge of suspended voters occurs in addition to the daily changes, corrections and deletions.

Registered Voters by Election Date
FY 2017
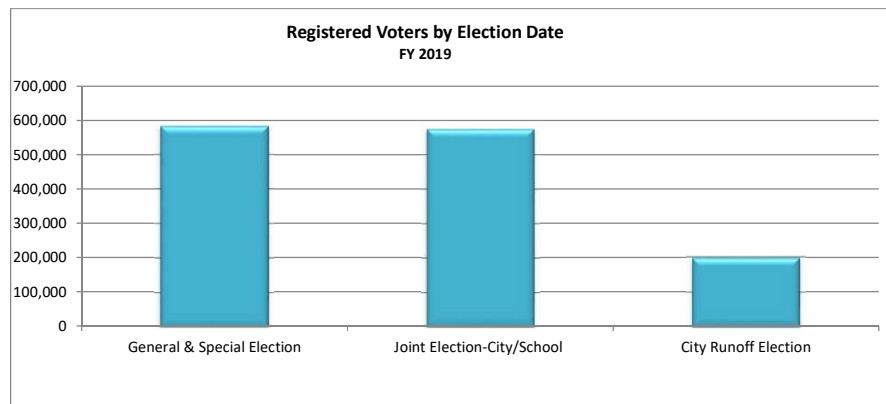
Data Sourse - VEMACS Voter Registration Database

	Election Date	FY 2017
11/8/16	Presidential Election	540,084
2/18/17	City of Frisco Special Election	51,483
3/25/17	City of Frisco Runoff	51,588
5/6/17	General & Special Election	531,652
6/10/17	General & Special Runoff	375,368

Registered Voters by Election Date
FY 2018
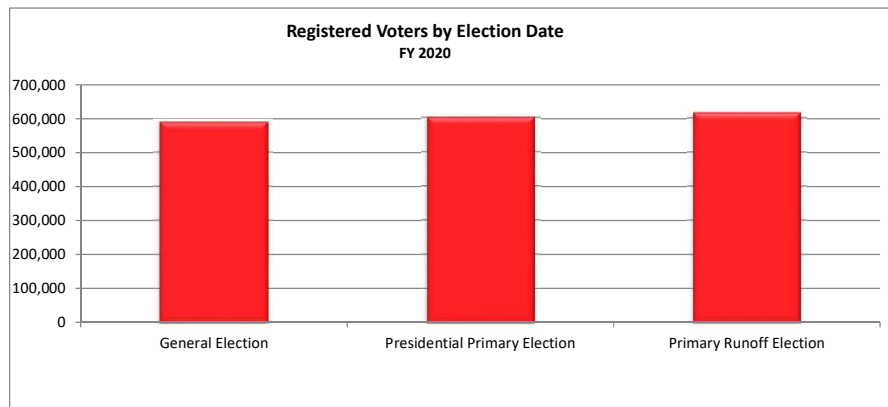
Data Sourse - VEMACS Voter Registration Database

	Election	FY 2018
11/7/17	General Election	543,035
12/9/17	City of Princeton Runoff Election	5,080
3/6/18	Primary Election	550,347
5/5/18	General & Special (City/School)	238,418
5/22/18	Primary Runoff Election	559,433
6/16/18	General & Special Runoff Election	3,238

Registered Voters by Election Date
FY 2019
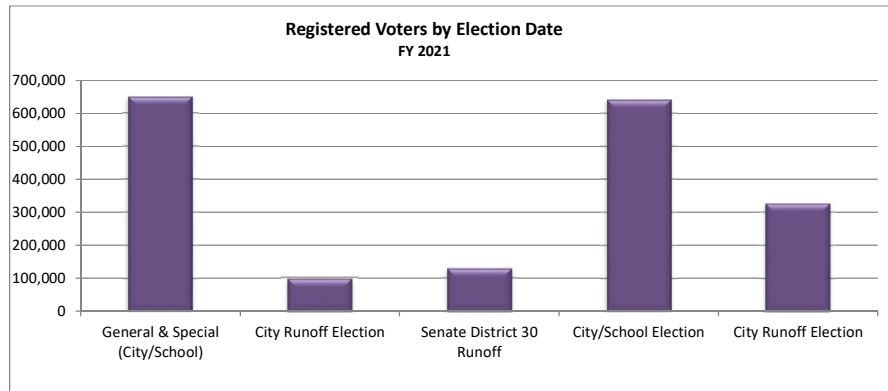
Data Sourse - VEMACS Voter Registration Database

	Election	FY 2019
11/16/18	General & Special Election	581,684
5/4/19	Joint Election-City/School	573,492
6/18/19	City Runoff Election	197,221

Registered Voters by Election Date
FY 2020
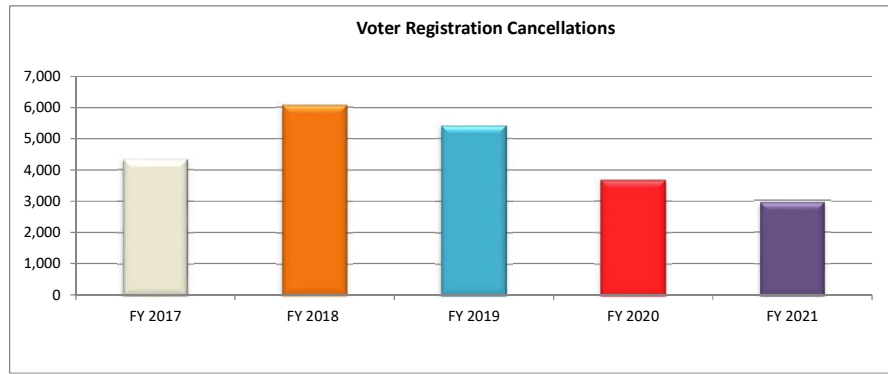
Data Sourse - VEMACS Voter Registration Database

	Election	FY 2020
11/5/19	General Election	590,266
3/3/20	Presidential Primary Election	602,791
7/14/20	Primary Runoff Election	616,959

Registered Voters by Election Date
FY 2021

Data Sourse - VEMACS Voter Registration Database
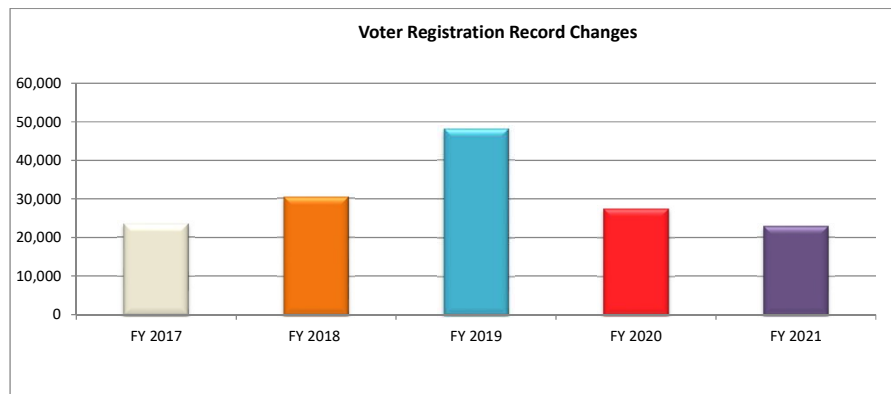
	Election	FY 2021
11/3/20	General & Special (City/School)	650,134
12/8/20	City Runoff Election	96,692
12/19/20	Senate District 30 Runoff	128,680
5/1/21	City/School Election	641,789
6/5/21	City Runoff Election	327,131

Voter Registration Cancellations

Data Sourse - VEMACS Voter Registration Database

Cancellations	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
	4,336	6,081	5,423	3,676	2,944
		40%	**-11%**	**-32%**	**-20%**

The Secretary of State quarterly report obtains available information from the United States Social Security Administration relating to deceased residents of the state. The Collin County Clerk's office also provides vital statistics and direct individual notifications.

Voter Registration Record Changes
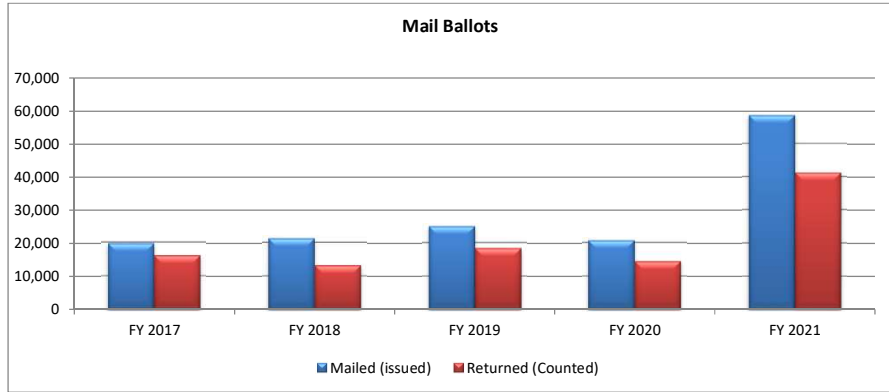
Data Sourse - VEMACS Voter Registration Database

Changes	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
	23,474	30,461	48,116	27,511	22,888
		30%	**58%**	**-43%**	**-17%**

Active voter registration records with changes made to them. Examples of changes are corrections, additional information, address changes, Social Security numbers, Date of Birth etc.

Elections
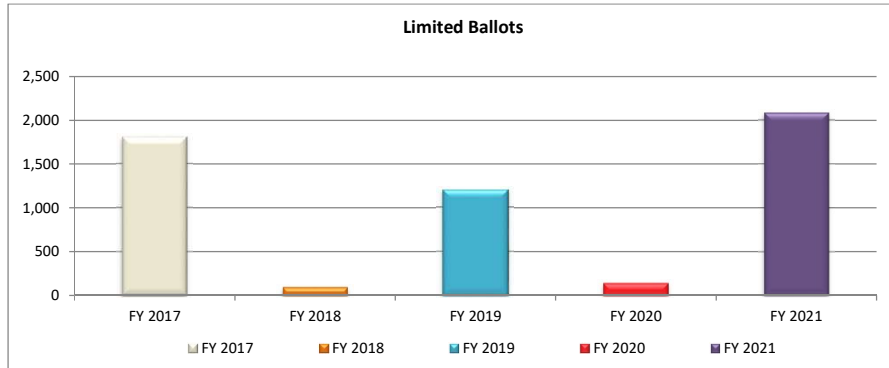
To conduct Federal, State, County and local contracted elections within the timeframe defined by statute. Ballots are prepared, election equipment and supplies furnished, and logistical and managerial components are coordinated by election staff. Polling locations, sample ballots, interactive maps and election information are posted to the County's website. Legal notices are published in compliance with election law. Ballots are tabulated and election results are released to the entities and the public in a timely manner. Early voting by person appearance, absentee ballot by mail and election day vote centers are conducted as prescribed by law. Quantities of voting equipment, polling locations, supplies and election workers must be adequate to accommodate anticipated voter turnout.

Mail Ballots

Data Source - VEMACS Voter Registration Database

Mail Ballots	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	% Increase FY17-FY21
Mailed	19,699	21,281	24,984	20,698	58,548	197%
Returned	16,138	13,209	18,410	14,478	41,293	156%
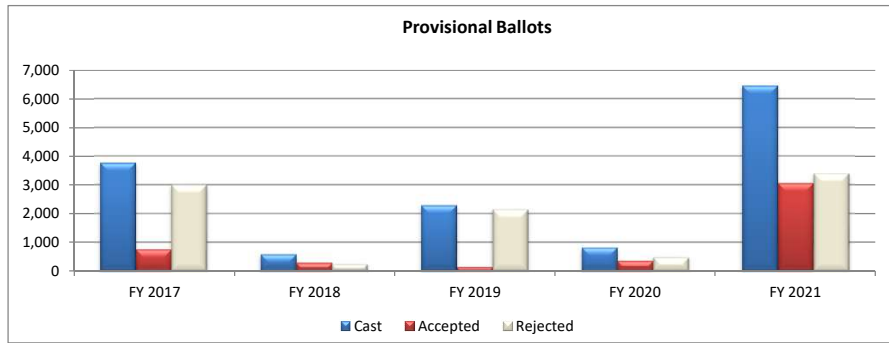
Expected absence from the County during both the early voting period and election day (Ballot must be mailed out an out-of-county address), Disability, 65 years of age or older, confinement in jail and not finally convicted of a felony.

Limited Ballots

Data Source - VEMACS Voter Registration Database

Limited Ballots	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Cast	1,806	88	1,201	138	2,085
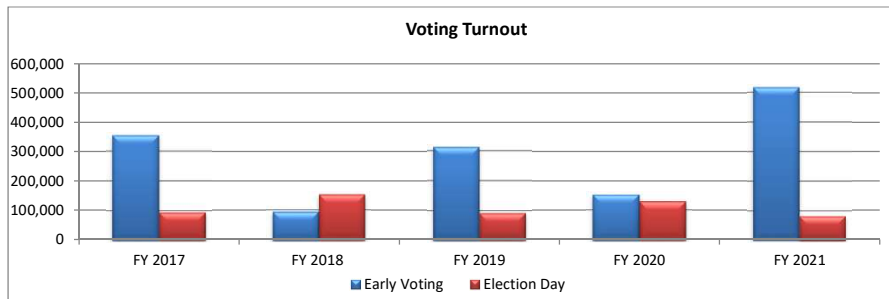
After changing residence to another county, a person is eligible to vote a limited ballot by personal appearance during the early voting period or by mail if: The person would have been eligible to vote in the county of former residence on election day if still residing in that county, is registered to vote in the county of former residence at the time the person and offers to vote in the county of new residence or submitted a voter registration application in the county of new residence, and a voter registration for the person in the county of new residence is not effective on or before election day.

Provisional Ballots

Data Sourse - Election Tabulation

Provisional Ballots	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Cast	3,771	589	2,294	826	6,460
Accepted	760	291	143	356	3,064
Rejected	3,007	246	2,151	484	3,396

A provisional ballot is used to record a vote when there are questions about a given voter's eligibility. It would be cast when:
The voter does not posses an acceptable form of photo ID, voter's name does not appear on the electoral roll for the given precinct., voter's registration contains inaccurate or outdated information such as the wrong address or a misspelled name, voter's ballot has already been recorded
**Whether a provisional ballot is counted is contingent upon the verification of that voter's eligibility.**
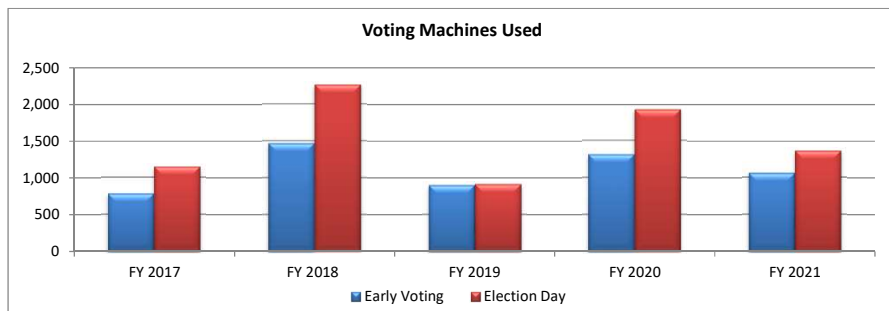
Voting Turnout

Data Sourse - Election Tabulation

Turnout	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	% Increase FY17-FY21
Early Voting	354,096	94,558	313,349	150,897	518,198	46%
Election Day	94,704	151,199	91,964	128,436	82,948	-12%
TOTAL	448,800	245,757	405,313	279,333	601,146	
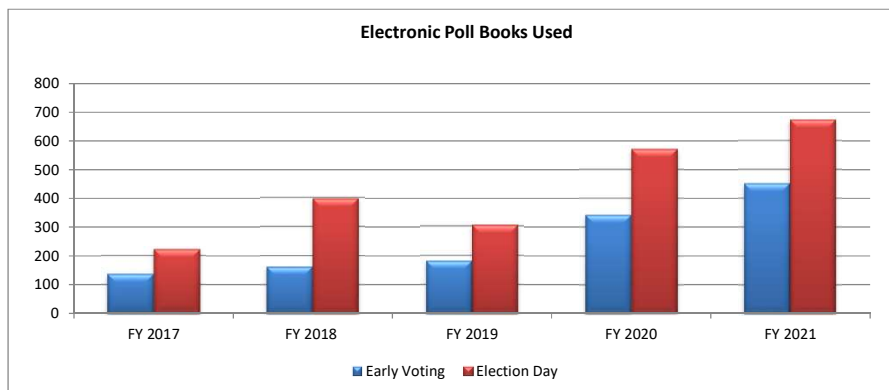
VOTING EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY

The preparation, maintenance and testing of each voting machine and tabulation equipment is required by statute. The security management and tracking of all components is essential for the integrity of the election processes. Thorough auditing and record keeping before, during and after elections is required.

Voting Machines Used

Data Source - Election Department

Machines Used	5 Elections FY 2017	6 Elections FY 2018	3 Elections FY 2019	6 Elections FY 2020	5 Elections FY 2021	% increase FY17-FY21
Early Voting	784	1,468	900	1,314	1,061	35%
Election Day	1,148	2,263	913	1,921	1,360	18%
Total	1,932	3,731	1,813	3,235	2,421	

Electronic Poll Books Used

Data Sourse - Manual Process depending on locations and expected tutnout

Computers Used	5 Elections FY 2017	6 Elections FY 2018	3 Elections FY 2019	6 Elections FY 2020	5 Elections FY 2021	% Increase FY17-FY21
Early Voting	137	162	182	343	452	230%
Election Day	222	397	305	571	673	203%
Total	359	559	487	914	1,125	

*Disaster Declaration issued by County Judge March 16, 2020 due to COVID-19

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Public education and training programs are provided for citizens and voters in Collin County that cover election law, voter registration, polling place procedures and the use of the voting equipment. Volunteer Deputy Registrars are trained and deputized to conduct voter registration drives and assist in the voter registration processes. Election workers are thoroughly trained on proper procedures, legal requirements and use of equipment for conducting elections.

FY 2021 Goals & Objectives

1. Implement the Mail Ballot Activity Portal which will provide voters with a real-time search function to review the status of their mail ballot.
2. Create and implement online Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) training classes.
3. Pursue creation of online poll worker training classes.

Elections Office Enhancements

Enhancement #1

In preparation for the November 2016 presidential elections, the following enhancements were put into place. An additional 400 voting machines were leased do to the record high voter turnouts. An additional (50) E-Pollbooks, licenses and peripherals were purchased and put in place at high voting sites. The voter registration temp pool and overflow phone bank included (25) additional workstations. (2) additional ballot printers were purchased as a result of recent legislation which states that qualified voters can request on their mail ballot application that a ballot will be mailed to them for each election that year instead of submitting individual requests for each election. In response to significant increases in mail and limited balloting, (5) additional optical scan ballot counters along with a desktop computer for use in the event of hardware failure were also purchased. Additional (15) early voting workstations were in place to accommodate the additional voter qualification units deployed.

Enhancement #2

Standardizing the types of laptops used at polling places minimized the challenges relating to equipment failure. (78) laptops with expired warranties were replaced. Also out of warranty was the replacement of the server that operates the ballot counting software in the tabulation room. With the 12 person overflow phone bank, additional switch equipment was purchased.

Enhancement #3

The ballot tabulation room was relocated to a larger area. As part of this space expansion additional tables, racking and cabinets were purchased. Tables were also needed when changes were made to the early voting room and provisional ballot processing areas.

Enhancement #4

The BallotBoard Signature Verification software and equipment purchased to address the challenges of processing the Absentee Ballot by Mail documents (ABBM). The ABBM procedures were amended in the 83th Legislature (2013) to permit voters to make a single application for ballot by mail for a calendar instead of an application for every election. Reduction in the repeated handling of ABBM application and improving the method used to perform signature verification of the mail balloting documents has provided enhanced security and streamline the mandated processes.

Enhancement #5

Needed enhancements were identified in relation to transitioning to the new ExpressVote Voting System and in preparation for the 2020 Presidential Primary and General Elections. The enhancements included: new asset management and tracking software for improved chain of custody of the equipment and supplies; election services contract management software for a comprehensive and interactive software solution for election contracting services; upgrade and increase inventory of e-Pollbook laptops that are used for voter qualification in polling places; increase inventory of Ballot Board computers to better accommodate mail balloting processes.