

NOTICE OF ELECTION

THE STATE OF TEXAS	§
	§
COUNTIES OF TAYLOR AND JONES	§
	§
MERKEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	§

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TO THE RESIDENT, QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE
MERKEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE ELECTION HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED CAN BE FOUND AT:

<https://www.taylorcounty.texas.gov/212/Elections>

<https://www.co.jones.tx.us/page/jones.Elections>

and

<https://www.merkelisd.net/>

TAKE NOTICE that an election will be held in the Merkel Independent School District on November 7, 2023 concerning the issuance of bonds in accordance with an order duly entered by the Board of Trustees of the Merkel Independent School District, which order reads substantially as follows:

AN ORDER CALLING A BOND ELECTION

**TO BE HELD BY THE MERKEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT,
MAKING PROVISION FOR THE CONDUCT OF A JOINT ELECTION,
AND RESOLVING OTHER MATTERS INCIDENT AND RELATED TO
SUCH ELECTION**

STATE OF TEXAS §
TAYLOR COUNTY AND JONES COUNTY §
MERKEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT §

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 45.001, Texas Education Code, the Board of Trustees of (the “Board”) of the MERKEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (the “District”), located in Taylor County and Jones County, Texas (the “Counties”), is authorized to issue bonds for various purposes, including the construction, acquisition, and equipping of school buildings in the District, and to levy, assess, pledge and collect annual ad valorem taxes sufficient to pay the principal and interest on such bonds as the principal and interest become due, if the issuance of such bonds is approved by the voters of the District at an election held in accordance with Section 45.003, Texas Education Code, and the Texas Election Code; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby finds and determines that an election should be held to determine whether the District shall be authorized to issue bonds of the District in the amount and for the purposes hereinafter identified (the “Election”); and

WHEREAS, the District will contract (“Election Contract”) with the Election Administrators of Taylor County and Jones County (individually, the *Election Official*; together, the *Election Officials*) to conduct all aspects of the Election; and

WHEREAS, the Election will be conducted by each County and held 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, each County, and/or any Participants, entered into in accordance with the provisions of Section 271.002, as amended, of the Texas Election Code; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby finds and determines that it is necessary to construct various capital improvements within the District and it is necessary to hold an election for the purpose of authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance the construction, capital improvements, acquisition, and equipping of schools in the District, including any necessary or related removal of existing facilities and the purchase of the necessary sites for school facilities;

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it is in the public interest to call and hold the Election at the earliest possible date to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for the purposes hereinafter identified; and

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

WHEREAS, it is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Order was passed was open to the public, and public notice of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting was given, all as required by Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MERKEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT:

1. TIME. An election shall be held between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. on *Tuesday, November 7, 2023* (“Election Day”) in the District, which date 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 proposition set out below to the qualified voters of this District.

2. PRECINCT AND POLLING PLACE. The District shall hold the election on *Tuesday, November 7, 2023*, in the precincts and polling places, as determined by the Election Officials, in accordance with the provisions of the Election Contract. When so determined, such precincts and polling places shall be attached hereto as *Exhibit A*. Each County participates in the Countywide Polling Place Program under Section 43.007, as amended, Texas Election Code, meaning that any District voter registered in either County can vote in the Election at any polling place identified in Exhibit A.

3. PRESIDING JUDGES. The Presiding Judge and the Alternate Presiding Judge for each of the election precincts and polling places shall be appointed by the Election Officials and in accordance with the Election Contract.

At least 79 days prior to the scheduled Election Day, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable, the District’s President, Board of Trustees, the Superintendent of Schools, or the respective designees thereof, in coordination with the Election Officials, will identify and formally approve the appointment of 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 Election Official, and the Participants, if any and as applicable, to the extent permitted by applicable law.

4. ELECTION CLERKS. The Election Clerks shall be appointed by the respective Presiding Judges in accordance with the provisions of the Election Contract.

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.

5. **EARLY VOTING.** Electors may cast their early votes by mail or by personal appearance at the times and places determined by the Election Officials in accordance with the Election Contract.

The main early voting location is designated in Exhibit B to this Order (which is incorporated herein by reference for all purposes). The individual named as the Early Voting Clerk as designated in Exhibit B is hereby appointed as the Early Voting Clerk to conduct such early voting in the Election. The Early Voting Clerk shall appoint the Deputy Early Voting Clerks. 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 Election Official, as identified in Exhibit B hereto.

6. **EARLY VOTING BALLOT BOARD.** The District authorizes the Election Officials to establish an Early Voting Ballot Board for the purpose of processing early voting results. The individual designated in Exhibit B as the Presiding Judge of an Early Voting Ballot Board is hereby appointed the Presiding Judge of the indicated Early Voting Ballot Board. The Presiding Judge shall appoint not less than two resident qualified voters of the District to serve as members of each such Early Voting Ballot Board.

7. **ELECTORS.** All resident, qualified electors of the District shall be entitled and 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.

8. **OFFICIAL PROPOSITION.** At said election the following PROPOSITION shall be submitted in accordance with law:

MERKEL I.S.D. PROPOSITION A

PROPOSITION A

“Shall the Board of Trustees of the Merkel Independent School District be authorized to issue and sell bonds of the District, in one or more series, in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$24,700,000 (Twenty-Four Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars) for the purposes of designing, constructing,

renovating, improving, upgrading, updating, acquiring, and equipping school facilities (and any necessary or related removal of existing facilities), the purchase of necessary sites for school facilities, and such bonds to mature serially or otherwise (not more than 40 years from their date) in accordance with law; any issue or series of such bonds to bear interest per annum at such rate or rates (fixed, floating, variable, or otherwise) as may be determined within the discretion of the Board of Trustees, provided that such rate or rates of interest shall not exceed the maximum rate per annum authorized by law at the time of the issuance of any issue or series of such bonds; and shall the Board of Trustees of the District be authorized to levy and pledge, and cause to be assessed and collected, annual ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the District sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the cost of any credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds?"

MERKEL I.S.D. PROPOSITION B

PROPOSITION B

“Shall the Board of Trustees of the Merkel Independent School District be authorized to issue and sell bonds of the District, in one or more series, in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$2,300,000 (Two Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars) for the purposes of designing, constructing, renovating, improving, upgrading, updating, acquiring, and equipping school Athletic Facilities (and any necessary or related removal of existing facilities), the purchase of necessary sites for school Athletic Facilities, and such bonds to mature serially or otherwise (not more than 40 years from their date) in accordance with law; any issue or series of such bonds to bear interest per annum at such rate or rates (fixed, floating, variable, or otherwise) as may be determined within the discretion of the Board of Trustees, provided that such rate or rates of interest shall not exceed the maximum rate per annum authorized by law at the time of the issuance of any issue or series of such bonds; and shall the Board of Trustees of the District be authorized to levy and pledge, and cause to be assessed and collected, annual ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the District sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the cost of any credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds?"

9. FORM OF BALLOT. The official ballots for said election shall be prepared in accordance with the Texas Election Code so as to permit the electors to vote “FOR” or “AGAINST” the aforesaid PROPOSITION, with the ballots to contain such provisions, markings, and language as required by law, and with such PROPOSITION to be expressed substantially as follows:

MERKEL I.S.D. PROPOSITION A

--- FOR "THE ISSUANCE OF \$24,700,000 OF BONDS BY THE
MERKEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE
PURPOSES OF DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTING,
--- AGAINST RENOVATING, IMPROVING, UPGRADING, UPDATING,
ACQUIRING, AND EQUIPPING SCHOOL FACILITIES
AND THE NECESSARY SITES FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES
AND THE LEVYING OF A TAX SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE
PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS AND
THE COSTS OF ANY CREDIT AGREEMENTS EXECUTED
IN CONNECTION WITH THE BONDS. THIS IS A
PROPERTY TAX INCREASE."

MERKEL I.S.D. PROPOSITION B

--- FOR "THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,300,000 OF BONDS BY THE
MERKEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE
PURPOSES OF DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTING,
--- AGAINST RENOVATING, IMPROVING, UPGRADING, UPDATING,
ACQUIRING, AND EQUIPPING SCHOOL ATHLETIC
FACILITIES, THE NECESSARY SITES FOR SCHOOL
ATHLETIC FACILITIES, AND THE LEVYING OF A TAX
SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND
INTEREST ON THE BONDS AND THE COSTS OF ANY
CREDIT AGREEMENTS EXECUTED IN CONNECTION
WITH THE BONDS. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX
INCREASE."

10. ELECTION CODE AND HAVA. In all respects the Election shall be conducted in accordance with the Texas Election Code. Pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act (“HAVA”) and the Code, at each polling place there shall be at least one voting system that is equipped for disabled individuals, and each such voting system shall be a system that has been certified by the Texas Secretary of State as compliant with HAVA and the Code. The Superintendent is hereby authorized to enter into any necessary agreements required to comply with this section.

11. BILINGUAL ELECTION MATERIALS. All election materials (including notice of the election, ballots, instruction cards, affidavits, and other forms which voters may be required to sign) and all early voting materials shall be printed in both English and Spanish, or Spanish translations thereof, and/or other assistance shall be provided, as required by the Texas Election Code and the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, each as amended.

12. ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES. 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.

13. CENTRAL COUNTING STATION. The District authorizes the Election Official to utilize a Central Counting Station (the “Station”) as provided by Section 127.001, *et seq.*, as amended, Texas Election Code. The Election Official, or designee thereof, is 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 authorizes the Election Official, or the designee thereof, to appoint the Presiding Judges, the Tabulation Supervisors, and the Programmers of the Station and may appoint Station clerks as needed or desirable. The Election Official 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.

14. GENERAL STATEMENTS. In accordance with the provisions of Section 3.009(b), Texas Election Code, it is hereby found and determined that:

- (a) The proposition language that will appear on the ballot is set forth in Section 9 hereof.
- (b) The purpose for which the bonds are to be authorized is set forth in Section 8 hereof.
- (c) The principal amount of the debt obligations to be authorized is set forth in Sections

8 and 9 hereof.

(d) As set forth in Sections 8 and 9 hereof, if the bonds are approved by the voters, the Board of Trustees will be authorized to levy annual ad valorem taxes, on all taxable property in the District, sufficient, without limit as to rate or amount, to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and the cost of any credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds.

(e) Based upon the bond market conditions at the date of adoption of this Order, the maximum interest rate for any series of the bonds authorized at the Election is estimated to be 5.00% (expressed as a net effective interest rate applicable to any such series of bonds) as calculated in accordance with applicable law. Such estimate takes into account a number of factors, including the issuance schedule, maturity schedule and the expected bond ratings of the proposed bonds. Such estimated maximum interest rate is provided as a matter of information and for Texas statutory compliance, but is not a limitation on the interest rate at which the bonds, or any series thereof, may be sold or the amortization period for bonds that are the subject of this Election.

(f) As set forth in Section 8 hereof, if the bonds are approved, they may be issued in one or more series, to mature serially, over a period not to exceed 40 years, though the District estimates that, based on current bond market conditions, such bonds will amortize over a 25-year period from their respective date of issue.

(g) The aggregate amount of the outstanding principal of the District's debt obligations, through respective maturity, (all of which are secured by an unlimited tax levied for debt service purposes) as of the beginning of the District's 2023-24 fiscal year is \$8,715,000.

(h) The aggregate amount of the outstanding interest of the District's debt obligations, through respective date of issue (all of which are secured by an unlimited tax levied for debt service purposes), as of the beginning of the District's 2023-24 fiscal year is \$1,985,265.73.

(i) The ad valorem debt service tax rate for the District for the 2023-24 fiscal year is \$0.1828 per \$100 of taxable assessed valuation.

15. NOTICE OF ELECTION. Notice of election, including a Spanish translation thereof, shall be published at least one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the District, with such publication occurring not more than 30 days and not less than 10 days before Election Day. Moreover, a substantial copy of this Order and the voter information document attached as Exhibit C, including a Spanish translation thereof, shall be posted (i) on the bulletin board used for posting notices of Board meetings not less than 21 days prior to Election Day, (ii) in three additional public places within the District's boundaries not later than 21 days prior to Election Day, (iii) in a prominent location at each polling place on Election Day and during early voting, and (iv) in a prominent location on the District's internet website not less than 21 days prior to Election Day. The Superintendent is authorized to correct, complete and revise the Notice to conform to changes that occur subsequent to the passage of this Order.

16. AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS AND APPROVE TECHNICAL CHANGES TO ORDER. The Board authorizes the President, Board of Trustees, the Superintendent of Schools, 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 each County, acting by and through the Election Officials, 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, or the respective designee of either of such parties to make such technical modifications to this Order, upon consultation with the District's Bond Counsel, that are necessary to correct any ambiguity or mistake or 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.

The District is authorized to pay the fees charged by the County for services rendered in connection with the Election.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. This Order shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and the United States of America.

20. 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.

21. 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.

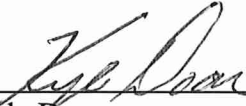
22. EFFECTIVE DATE. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1201.028, Texas Government Code, this Order shall become effective immediately upon adoption thereof.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

* * *

PASSED AND APPROVED, this the 14TH day of August 2023.

MERKEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Kyle Doan,
President, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:



Matt Travis,
Secretary, Board of Trustees

(DISTRICT SEAL)

[Signature Page to Merkel Independent School District Bond Election Order]

Exhibit A
(Anexo A)

ELECTION DAY PRECINCT AND POLLING INFORMATION
INFORMACIÓN DE PRECINTOS Y LUGARES DE VOTACIÓN DEL DÍA DE LA
ELECCIÓN

Election Day: Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Día de la Elección: martes, 7 de noviembre de 2023

Election Day Polling Locations open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Lugares de Votación del Día de la Elección abiertos de 7 a.m. a 7 p.m.

Presiding Judges and Alternates: to be determined by the Election Official.
Jueces Titulares y Suplentes: a ser determinados por el Funcionario Electoral.

District's website (*Sitio web del Distrito*): <https://www.merkelisd.net>

Counties' websites (*Sitio web del Condado*):
<https://www.taylorcounty.texas.gov/212/Elections>
<https://www.co.jones.tx.us/page/jones.Elections>

Taylor County (Condado del Taylor):

Taylor County participates in the Countywide Polling Place program under Section 43.007, as amended, Texas Election Code. Registered voters of Taylor County will be able to cast their Election Day ballots at any of the Vote Centers identified on Taylor County's website.
(El Condado de Taylor participa en el Programa de Lugares de Votación del Condado bajo la Sección 43.007, según enmendada, del Código Electoral de Texas. Los votantes registrados del Condado de Taylor podrán votar el Día de la Elección en cualquiera de los Centros de Votación identificados en el sitio web del Condado de Taylor.)

LOCATIONS OF POLLING PLACES* (UBICACIÓN DE LOS LUGARES DE VOTACIÓN*):

Vote Center (Centro de Votación)	Physical Address (Dirección física)	Location (Ubicación)
Abilene City Hall	555 Walnut Street, Abilene, TX 79601	East Entrance, Main Lobby
Beltway Park Church North Campus	2850 Highway 351, Abilene, TX 79601	Rm #111 – Multi Purpose R
Buffalo Gap Church of Christ	741 Litel Street, Buffalo Gap, TX 79508	Fellowship Hall
Cesar Chavez Recreation Center	2250 Ambler Ave., Abilene, TX 79603	Gym
Church of Christ–S. 11 th & Willis	3333 S. 11 th Street, Abilene, TX 79605	West Building, multi-purpose room

First Baptist Church – Merkel	307 Locust Street, Merkel, TX 79536	Family Life Center
Hillcrest Church of Christ	650 E. Ambler Ave., Abilene, TX 79601	Gym
Lawn Baptist Church	518 Avenue D, Lawn, TX 79530	Family Life Center
New Beginnings United Pentecostal Church	5535 Buffalo Gap Rd., Abilene, TX 79606	Main Foyer
Oldham Lane Church of Christ	5049 Oldham Lane, Abilene, TX 79602	Special Events Room
River of Life Church	539 Hwy 83/84, Abilene, TX 79606	Main Foyer
Southern Hills Church of Christ	3666 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene, TX 79605	Main Foyer
Taylor County Plaza	400 Oak Street, Abilene, TX 79602	Suite 101-A
Thomas Elementary School	1240 Lakeside Drive, Abilene, TX 79602	Gym
Tuscola Community Center	1202 Turner Lane, Tuscola, TX 79562	
View Baptist Church	250 Boynton Road, Abilene, TX 79606	Fellowship Hall, W side of building
Westminster Presbyterian Church	4515 South 14 th Street, Abilene, TX 79605	Gym
Woodlawn Church of Christ	922 Woodlawn Drive, Abilene, TX 79603	Multi-Purpose Room
Zion Lutheran Church	2801 Antilley Road, Abilene, TX 79606	East Entrance, Large Fellowship Hall

*Subject to change. For additional polling locations, please visit:

<https://www.taylorcounty.texas.gov/212/Elections>

**Sujeto a cambio. Para ver otros lugares de votación, por favor consulte el sitio web del Condado de Taylor:*

<https://www.taylorcounty.texas.gov/212/Elections>

Jones County (Condado del Jones):

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

(El Condado de Jones participa en el Programa de Lugares de Votación del Condado bajo la Sección 43.007, según enmendada, del Código Electoral de Texas. Los votantes registrados del Condado de Jones podrán votar el Día de la Elección en cualquiera de los Centros de Votación identificados en el sitio web del Condado de Jones.)

LOCATIONS OF POLLING PLACES* (UBICACIÓN DE LOS LUGARES DE VOTACIÓN*):

Location (Lugar)	Address (Dirección)
Hamlin High School Gym Foyer	650 SW 5 th Street Hamlin, TX 79520
Stamford VIP Community Center	508 East Gould Stamford, TX 79553

Lueders Baptist Church Fellowship Hall	325 East Cook Lueders, TX 79553
Ft Phantom Baptist Church Fellowship Hall	11343 FM 600 Abilene, TX 79601
Hawley Church of Christ Fellowship Hall	410 4 th Street Hawley, TX 79525
Hodges Baptist church Fellowship Hall	13933 CR 495 Hawley, TX 79525
Jones County Activity Center	1108 West Court Plaza Anson, TX 79501

*Subject to change. For additional polling locations, please visit:

<https://www.co.jones.tx.us/page/jones.Elections>

**Sujeto a cambio. Para ver otros lugares de votación, por favor consulte el sitio web del Condado de Jones:*

<https://www.co.jones.tx.us/page/jones.Elections>

Exhibit B
(Anexo B)

EARLY VOTING
VOTACIÓN ANTICIPADA

Early voting begins Monday, October 23, 2023 and ends on Friday, November 3, 2023.

(La votación anticipada comienza el lunes 23 de octubre de 2023 y termina el viernes 3 de noviembre de 2023.)

Voters entitled to vote an early ballot by personal appearance may do so at any Early Voting site in the County of their voter registration.

(Los votantes con derecho a voto en una votación anticipada en persona lo pueden hacer en el sitio de Votación Anticipada del Condado donde estén registrados como votantes.)

Applications for voting by mail (ABBM) and applications for Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) should be received no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Friday, October 27, 2023. If an application for ballot by mail is faxed or emailed (or if a federal postcard application is faxed), the applicant must also mail the original application so that the early voting clerk receives the original no later than four days after receiving the emailed or faxed copy.

(Las solicitudes para votar por correo (ABBM) y los pedidos de la Solicitud de Tarjeta Postal Federal (FPCA) deben ser recibidos a más tardar al cierre del día útil (5:00 p. m.) del viernes 27 de octubre de 2023. Si una solicitud de boleta por correo se envía por fax o correo electrónico (o si una solicitud de tarjeta postal federal se envía por fax), el solicitante también debe enviar por correo la solicitud original para que el secretario de votación anticipada reciba el original, a más tardar, cuatro días después de recibir la copia enviada por correo electrónico o fax.)

Taylor County Voters

District's website (*Sitio web del Distrito*): <https://www.merkelisd.net/>

County's websites (*Sitio web del Condado*): <https://www.taylorcounty.texas.gov/212/Elections>

Early Voting Clerk (*Secretario de Votación Anticipada*): **Freda Ragan**

Presiding Judge of the Early Voting Ballot Board: **To be determined.**

(Juez Presidente de la Junta de Boletas para la Votación Anticipada: A ser determinado.)

Early Voting Locations* and Times
(Lugares y Horario para la Votación Anticipada)

Main Early Voting Polling Location
(Lugar Principal de Votación Anticipada)

Taylor County Plaza
400 Oak Street, Suite 101-A
Abilene, TX 79602

October 23rd – October 27th (Monday – Friday)
23 de octubre - 27 de octubre (lunes - viernes)

<u>Taylor County Plaza</u> – 400 Oak Street, Suite 101A	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
<u>Mall of Abilene</u> – 4310 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene, TX (<i>Movie theatre corridor</i>)	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
<u>Abilene City Hall</u> – 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, TX (<i>East entrance, main foyer</i>)	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
<u>Wylie Performing Arts Center</u> – 6251 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene, TX (<i>Main foyer</i>)	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
<u>Merkel ISD Administration Building</u> – 314 Manchester, Merkel, TX 79536	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
<u>Jim Ned CISD Administration Building</u> - 441 Graham Street, Tuscola, TX 79562	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

October 28th (Saturday)
28 de octubre (sábado)

<u>Taylor County Plaza</u> – 400 Oak Street, Suite 101A	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
<u>Mall of Abilene</u> – 4310 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene, TX (<i>Movie theatre corridor</i>)	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

October 29th (Sunday)
29 de octubre (domingo)

<u>Taylor County Plaza</u> – 400 Oak Street, Suite 101A	1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
<u>Mall of Abilene</u> – 4310 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene, TX (<i>Movie theatre corridor</i>)	1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

October 30th – November 1st (Monday-Wednesday)
30 de octubre – 1 de noviembre (lunes – miércoles)

<u>Taylor County Plaza</u> – 400 Oak Street, Suite 101A	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
<u>Wylie Performing Arts Center</u> – 6251 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene, TX (<i>Main foyer</i>)	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

October 30th – November 3rd (Monday-Friday)
30 de octubre – 3 de noviembre (lunes –viernes)

<u>Mall of Abilene</u> – 4310 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene, TX (<i>Movie theatre corridor</i>)	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
<u>Abilene City Hall</u> – 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, TX (<i>East entrance, main foyer</i>)	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
<u>Merkel ISD Administration Building</u> – 314 Manchester, Merkel, TX 79536	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
<u>Jim Ned CISD Administration Building</u> - 441 Graham Street, Tuscola, TX 79562	8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

EXTENDED HOURS – HORAS EXTENDIDAS

November 2nd & November 3rd (Thursday & Friday)
2 de noviembre y 3 de noviembre (jueves y viernes)

<u>Taylor County Plaza</u> – 400 Oak Street, Suite 101A	7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
<u>Wylie Performing Arts Center</u> – 6251 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene, TX (<i>Main foyer</i>)	7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

*Subject to change

For additional voting locations, please check Taylor County Elections website

<https://www.taylorcounty.texas.gov/212/Elections>

**Sujeto a cambio. Para ver otros lugares de votación, por favor consulte el sitio web del Condado de Taylor:*

<https://www.taylorcounty.texas.gov/212/Elections>

Early Voting By Mail (*Votación Anticipada por correo*)

Applications should be sent to (*Las solicitudes deben dirigirse a*):

Freda Ragan, Elections Administrator
Taylor County Elections Office
400 Oak Street, Suite 101
Abilene, TX 79602
P.O. Box 3318
Abilene, TX 79604
Phone: (325) 674-1216
Fax: (325) 674-1340
Email: vote@taylorcounty.texas.gov

Jones County Voters

District’s website (*Sitio web del Distrito*): <https://www.merkelisd.net/>

County’s websites (*Sitio web del Condado*): <https://www.co.jones.tx.us/page/jones.Elections>

Early Voting Clerk (*Secretario de votación Anticipada*): **LeeAnn Jennings**

Presiding Judge of the Early Voting Ballot Board: **To be determined.**

(*Juez Presidente de la Junta de Boletas para la votación Anticipada: A ser determinado.*)

Early Voting Locations* and Times
(*Lugares y Horario para la votación Anticipada*)

Dates (<i>Fechas</i>)	Times (<i>Horario</i>)
October 23, 2023 – November 1, 2023 <i>23 de octubre 2023 – 1 de noviembre 2023</i>	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
November 2, 2023 – November 3, 2023 <i>2 de noviembre 2023 – 3 de noviembre 2023</i>	7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Main Early Voting Polling Location
(*Lugar Principal de votación Anticipada*)

Jones County Activity Center
1108 West Court Plaza
Anson, TX 79501

*Subject to change

For additional voting locations, please check Jones County Elections website

<https://www.co.jones.tx.us/page/jones.Elections>

**Sujeto a cambio. Para ver otros lugares de votación, por favor consulte el sitio web del Condado de Jones:*

<https://www.co.jones.tx.us/page/jones.Elections>

Early Voting By Mail (*Votación Anticipada por correo*)

Applications should be sent to (*Las solicitudes deben dirigirse a*):

**Jones County Clerk
LeeAnn Jennings
100 Courthouse Square 1st Floor
P.O. Box 552
Anson, TX 79501
Phone: (325) 823-3762
Fax: (325) 823-3979
Email: leeann.jennings@co.jones.tx.us**

Exhibit C

VOTER INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Merkel Independent School District **Proposition A:**

---	FOR	<p>“THE ISSUANCE OF \$24,700,000 OF BONDS BY THE MERKEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSES OF DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTING, RENOVATING, IMPROVING, UPGRADING, UPDATING, ACQUIRING, AND EQUIPPING SCHOOL FACILITIES AND THE NECESSARY SITES FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES AND THE LEVYING OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.”</p>
---	AGAINST	

1. principal of debt obligations to be authorized	\$24,700,000.00
2. estimated interest for the debt obligations to be authorized presuming an interest rate of 4.25%	\$20,046,393.00
3. estimated combined principal and interest required to pay on time and in full the debt obligations to be authorized amortized over 25 years	\$44,746,393.00
4. as of the date the election was ordered, principal of all outstanding debt obligations	\$8,715,000.00
5. as of the date the election was ordered, the estimated interest on all outstanding debt obligations	\$1,985,265.73
6. estimated combined principal and interest required to pay on time and in full all outstanding debt obligations amortized over 12 years	\$10,700,265.73
7. estimated maximum annual increase in the amount of taxes on a residence homestead with an appraised value of \$100,000 to repay the debt obligations to be authorized, if approved <p>This figure assumes the amortization of the District’s debt obligations, including outstanding debt obligations and the proposed debt obligation; changes in estimated future appraised values within the District; changes in estimated future appraised values within the political subdivision; and the assumed interest rate on the proposed debt obligations.</p> <p>It is also anticipated that taxpayers with frozen rolls (such as those over age 65 who have filed the appropriate exemption) will not see any impact to their taxes unless they make substantial improvements to their homes or change homesteads.</p>	\$0.00

Major Assumptions for Statement 7 Above:

- (1) Assumed amortization of the District’s debt obligations, including outstanding debt obligations and the proposed debt obligations:

Term	Principal	Interest	Total Proposed Debt Service	Total Proposed Debt Service + Existing Debt Service
25 Years	\$24,700,000	\$20,046,393.00	\$44,746,393.00	\$55,446,658.73

- (2) Assumed changes in estimated future appraised values within the District:

Presently, given the timeline for the addition of 313 values, the proposed new money bonds will be structured without any reliance on appraised value impact from 313 agreements within the district.

- (3) Assumed tax collection percentage: 97%
- (4) Assumed one potential bond issue series which would be likely occur prior to 8/31/2024.
- (5) Assumed interest rate on the proposed debt obligations: 4.25%
- (6) Assumes some potential use of Interest and Sinking Fund balance.
- (7) Assumes the availability of the Permanent School Fund Guarantee for each series of the proposed debt obligations.
- (8) Assumes no material change in the prevailing market and economic conditions at the times of issuance of the proposed debt obligations.
- (9) Assumes the proposed debt obligations are paid on time and in full.

The estimates contained in this voter information document are (i) based on certain assumptions (including assumptions concerning prevailing market and economic conditions at the time(s) of issuance of the bonds) and derived from projections obtained from the District’s financial advisor, (ii) subject to change to the extent that actual facts, circumstances and conditions prevailing at the time that the bonds are issued differ from such assumptions and projections, (iii) provided solely in satisfaction of the requirements of Section 1251.052, Texas Government Code, and for no other purpose, without any assurance that such projections will be realized, and (iv) not intended to and do not give rise to a contract with voters or limit the authority of the District to issue bonds in accordance with the Propositions submitted by the District’s Election Order.

Merkel Independent School District **Proposition B:**

---	FOR	<p>“THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,300,000 OF BONDS BY THE MERKEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSES OF DESIGNING, CONSTRUCTING, RENOVATING, IMPROVING, UPGRADING, UPDATING, ACQUIRING, AND EQUIPPING SCHOOL ATHLETIC FACILITIES, THE NECESSARY SITES FOR SCHOOL ATHLETIC FACILITIES, AND THE LEVYING OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.”</p>
---	AGAINST	
1. principal of debt obligations to be authorized		\$2,300,000
2. estimated interest for the debt obligations to be authorized presuming an interest rate of 4.25%		\$1,719,973.85
3. estimated combined principal and interest required to pay on time and in full the debt obligations to be authorized amortized over 25 years		\$4,019,973.85
4. as of the date the election was ordered, principal of all outstanding debt obligations		\$8,715,000.00
5. as of the date the election was ordered, the estimated interest on all outstanding debt obligations		\$1,985,265.73
6. estimated combined principal and interest required to pay on time and in full all outstanding debt obligations amortized over 12 years		\$10,700,265.73
7. estimated maximum annual increase in the amount of taxes on a residence homestead with an appraised value of \$100,000 to repay the debt obligations to be authorized, if approved		\$0.00
<p>This figure assumes the amortization of the District’s debt obligations, including outstanding debt obligations and the proposed debt obligation; changes in estimated future appraised values within the District; changes in estimated future appraised values within the political subdivision; and the assumed interest rate on the proposed debt obligations.</p> <p>It is also anticipated that taxpayers with frozen rolls (such as those over age 65 who have filed the appropriate exemption) will not see any impact to their taxes unless they make substantial improvements to their homes or change homesteads.</p>		

Major Assumptions for Statement 7 Above:

(1) Assumed amortization of the District’s debt obligations, including outstanding debt obligations and the proposed debt obligations:

Term	Principal	Interest	Total Proposed Debt Service	Total Proposed Debt Service + Existing Debt Service
25 Years	\$2,300,000	\$1,719,973.85	\$4,019,973.85	\$14,720,239.58

(2) Assumed changes in estimated future appraised values within the District:

Presently, given the timeline for the addition of 313 values, the proposed new money bonds will be structured without any reliance on appraised value impact from 313 agreements within the district.

- (3) Assumed tax collection percentage: 97%
- (4) Assumed one potential bond issue series which would be likely occur prior to 8/31/2024.
- (5) Assumed interest rate on the proposed debt obligations: 4.25%
- (6) Assumes some potential use of Interest and Sinking Fund balance.
- (7) Assumes the availability of the Permanent School Fund Guarantee for each series of the proposed debt obligations.
- (8) Assumes no material change in the prevailing market and economic conditions at the times of issuance of the proposed debt obligations.
- (9) Assumes the proposed debt obligations are paid on time and in full.

The estimates contained in this voter information document are (i) based on certain assumptions (including assumptions concerning prevailing market and economic conditions at the time(s) of issuance of the bonds) and derived from projections obtained from the District’s financial advisor, (ii) subject to change to the extent that actual facts, circumstances and conditions prevailing at the time that the bonds are issued differ from such assumptions and projections, (iii) provided solely in satisfaction of the requirements of Section 1251.052, Texas Government Code, and for no other purpose, without any assurance that such projections will be realized, and (iv) not intended to and do not give rise to a contract with voters or limit the authority of the District to issue bonds in accordance with the Propositions submitted by the District’s Election Order.