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November 4 election results canvassed

As required by Section 67.003 of the Texas Election Code, Ellis County Commissioners' Court conducted a special meeting on November 13, 2008 to consider the canvass of the General Election and the City of Waxahachie Local Option held on November 4, 2008.

The total number of ballots cast in Ellis County is 54,157 with 37,012 of those being cast early. With 68% of voters casting their ballots early, the court was curious as to why results were not available until early Wednesday morning.

"How can we make responses faster and still be accurate?" asked County Judge Chad Adams.

Ellis County Elections Administrator Jane Anderson explained the process of counting ballots when there is a write in candidate requires each ballot to be reviewed by hand as well as being run through the scanning machine. Having a write in candidate for president on one side of the ballot and a write in candidate for sheriff on the other side of the ballot slowed the process down further because both sides of every ballot had to be examined.

"The focus of the counting process is always on accurately recording the votes on each individual ballot," Anderson said.

Dan Altman of Midlothian, the Mail-in, Early Voting, and Central Voting Location Judge for Ellis County said that while early ballots were gathered and organized for counting on Sunday, they could not begin counting until Monday.

"Teams of three people go through all the ballots individually and keep a tally," said Altman, noting that the tallies for each team member must agree or they are required to re-count.

A technical glitch, which initially caused totals to be doubled, had to be overcome as well.

"Were there any instances of people voting twice such as we heard about on the national level?" asked Adams.

Anderson replied that a handful of people may have attempted to vote more than once. "It was not allowed," she assured the Court.

Ellis County results are as follows:

District Judge, 378 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District	
Al Scoggins (REP)	40,115

County Court at Law Judge Place 1, Unexpired Term	
Greg Wilhelm (REP)	40,154

County Attorney	
Joe F. Grubbs (REP)	40,377
Sheriff	
Johnny Brown (REP)	39,298
WRITE-IN	2,831
County Tax Assessor-Collector	
John W. Bridges (REP)	37,723
Linda Gallegos (LIB)	8,071
County Treasurer, Unexpired Term	
Judy Cook Burden (REP)	36,246
Cathy Kennedy (LIB)	8,637
County Commissioner, Precinct No. 1	
Dennis Robinson (REP)	5,558
Broderick Sargent (DEM)	4,182
County Commissioner, Precinct No. 3	
Heath Sims (REP)	11,619
James Schico (DEM)	3,376
Constable, Precinct No. 1	
Ben P. Fry (REP)	9,266
Constable, Precinct No. 2	
Terry L. Nay (REP)	11,835
Constable, Precinct No. 3	
Jimmie "Coach" Ray (DEM)	2,396
Constable, Precinct No. 4	
Mike Jones (REP)	17,397
Waxahachie Proposition 1	
For	4,880
Against	4,694
Waxahachie Proposition 2	
For	5,694
Against	3,737