



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert Pitman
Western District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2012

CONTACT: DARYL FIELDS
(210) 384-7440

U.S. ATTORNEY PITMAN NAMES WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS ELECTIONS OFFICER FOR THE NOVEMBER 2012 ELECTIONS

Assistant United States Attorney Tom Moore will lead this office's efforts in connection with the Justice Department's nationwide Election Day Program for the upcoming November 6, 2012, general elections announced United States Attorney Robert Pitman today. AUSA Moore has been appointed to serve as the District Election Officer (DEO) for the Western District of Texas, and in that capacity is responsible for overseeing the District's handling of complaints of election fraud and voting rights abuses in consultation with Justice Department Headquarters in Washington.

United States Attorney Pitman said, "Every citizen must be able to vote without interference or discrimination and to have that vote protected against manipulation by fraud. The Department of Justice will act promptly and aggressively to protect the integrity of the election process."

The Department of Justice has an important role in deterring election fraud and discrimination at the polls, and combating these violations whenever and wherever they occur. The Department's long-standing Election Day Program furthers these goals, and also seeks to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by providing local points of contact within the Department for the public to report possible election fraud and voting rights violations while the polls are open on Election Day.

Federal law protects against such crimes as intimidating or bribing voters, buying and selling votes, altering vote tallies, stuffing ballot boxes, and marking ballots for voters against their wishes or without their input. It also contains special protections for the rights of voters and provides that they can vote free from acts that intimidate or harass them. For example, actions of persons designed to interrupt or intimidate voters at polling places by questioning or challenging them, or by photographing or videotaping them, under the pretext that these are actions to uncover illegal voting may violate federal voting rights law. Further, federal law protects the right of voters to mark their own ballot or to be assisted by a person of their choice.

The franchise is the cornerstone of American democracy. We all must ensure that those who are entitled to the franchise exercise it if they choose, and that those who seek to corrupt it are brought to justice. In order to respond to complaints of election fraud or voting rights abuses on November 6, 2012, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, United States Attorney Pitman stated that AUSA/DEO Moore will be on duty in this District while the polls are open. AUSA Moore can be reached by the public at the following telephone number: (210) 384-7188.

(more)

Election 2012 release

October 23, 2012

Page 2

The following Assistant United States Attorneys (by Division) will also be available in the Western District of Texas.

<u>Contact</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Alpine - Jay Miller	432-837-7332
Austin – Ashley Hoff	512-916-5858
Del Rio – Erica Giese	830-703-2025
El Paso - Jose Luis Gonzalez	915-534-6884
Midland - John Klassen	432-686-4110
Waco - Mark Frazier	254-750-1580
San Antonio - Tom Moore	210-384-7188

In addition, the FBI will have special agents available in each field office and resident agency throughout the country to receive allegations of election fraud and other election abuses on Election Day. The San Antonio FBI field office can be reached by the public at (210) 225-6741; El Paso FBI field office, at (915) 832-5000.

Complaints about ballot access problems or discrimination can be made directly to the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section in Washington at 1-800-253-3931 or (202) 307-2767.

United States Attorney Pitman said, "Ensuring free and fair elections depends in large part on the cooperation of the American electorate. It is imperative that those who have specific information about discrimination or election fraud make that information available immediately to my Office, the FBI, or the Civil Rights Division."

#####