**What is a Municipal Utility District (MUD)?**

A MUD primarily supplies water, drainage and sewage utilities for residents living within its district. It can also help provide funding for park development and additional security. In addition, MUDS engage in the supply of water, conservation, irrigation, drainage, fire-fighting, solid waste (garbage) collection and disposal (including recycling activities), wastewater (sewage) treatment, and recreational facilities in Fort Bend County neighborhoods.

 **Why is it Important to Vote in Municipal Utilities District (MUD) Elections in Fort Bend County?**

The board of directors manages and controls MUD district affairs including financial management, contracting with vendors, and purchasing. It is the board’s responsibility to establish policies in the interests of the district’s residents and customers.

We’ve got MUD districts and water control districts in Fort Bend County that typically don’t get a lot of attention. The fact, though, is that these are really the core of how government functions, especially at the local level. According to Professor Brandon Rottinghaus, a professor of Political Science at the University of Houston. “It’s critical to be able to think about who’s serving in them, but they tend to fly under the radar for most people.”

How can you participate?

* **You can run for a MUD Director’s position.** Elections are typically held in “even number years.” Jennifer Jacobs, Fort Bend County Democratic Precinct Chair for Precinct #1058 will be running for one of those positions in MUD 131. The top 3 vote getters will win the race. There are no term limits as to how often a director can serve in office. Training is available for elected directors.
* **You can cast your votes for MUD Directors in your MUD district.** For example MUD 131 will be having an election in 2018 for 3 directors whose time is up for a revote in May. Voters in Fort Bend County elect MUD directors for 4 year terms.
* **You can make sure that you cast your vote in MUD Bond elections!** Pay attention to how money is being spent in your MUD District. Obtain clarity on what the bond elections stand for, and how it might affect you and your family.