

## HURRICANE IKE AND TFRW ELECTION GUARD

Southeast Texas endured a tremendous blow from Hurricane Ike on September 13th. Galveston, Houston and Beaumont suffered significant damage. In Galveston, some of the damage reported is that 6 feet of water flooded into the County Courthouse, UT Medical Center was flooded, many historic homes and businesses were destroyed or significantly damaged. In Downtown Houston, winds stripped glass from many buildings including the 75 story JP Morgan Chase building and Reliant stadium was hammered by the hurricane. Outside Beaumont in Jefferson County, ranchers were still rounding up livestock scattered by the hurricane this weekend. As of September 22, there were still over 700,000 electric customers without power. The clean up and restart for the area is still underway with many just trying to get things back to normal. Just this last Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> Jefferson County rescinded its mandatory evacuation order. Also, many schools are still closed in the impacted areas, while some are starting again today for the first day since Ike's landfall. The area is still very much in recovery mode.

There is a great need for help in the area. As found on Congressman John Culberson, US Representative District 7 website;

“One of the biggest challenges for west Houston right now is debris removal and power restoration. I am working diligently to restore power to our neighborhoods and I am in constant contact with Centerpoint Energy getting updates on the power situation in Houston and working with them to restore power as quickly as possible.

Volunteers are urgently needed to assist with Hurricane Ike relief efforts. Individuals who are interested in volunteering can assist at various locations throughout Houston and Harris County, including the Points of Distribution Centers (P.O.D.s) and area non-profits and shelters. To volunteer or for more information, please call the volunteer line at 713.853.8802 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.”

In addition to the usual need for recovery assistance, an additional need has been identified. As our members from the area communicate back with TFRW, many note that help will be needed to make sure the general election runs smoothly for the districts that have been impacted.

Many of the clubs and candidates in the affected area have asked that TFRW have an **Election Guard** ready to roll in for the general election. The weekend before Early Voting begins, Oct. 17, 18, 19, the campaigns are asking for TFRW volunteers to come to the Houston/Galveston area to help get the Vote Out. They also need volunteers to sign up to phone bank. We are asking individual clubs to gather members to travel to the Houston/Galveston area. This can be a great Club Event and the campaigns would greatly appreciate the help. Please send in your volunteer lists with phone numbers and email addresses to TFRW Headquarters so we can put together the Election Guard needed by Southeast Texas.

### **SIGN UP YOUR CLUB FOR TFRW ELECTION GUARD.**

VOLUNTEER TO JOIN IN HELPING THE DISTRICTS IMPACTED BY HURRICANE IKE.