

AN ACT

relating to election practices and procedures.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 1.007(c), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) A delivery, submission, or filing of a document or paper under this code may be made by personal delivery, mail, telephonic facsimile machine, e-mail, or any other method of transmission.

SECTION 2. Section 2.002, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (j) to read as follows:

(b) Not later than the fifth day after the date the automatic recount required by Subsection (i) is completed or the final canvass following the automatic recount is completed, if applicable, the authority responsible for ordering the first election shall order the second election. The second election shall be held not earlier than the 20th day or later than the 45th ~~30th~~ day after the date the automatic recount required by Subsection (i) is completed or the final canvass following the automatic recount is completed, if applicable.

(j) If the recount does not resolve the tie, the tied candidates may:

(1) cast lots not later than the day before the date the authority must order the second election under Subsection (b);

1 or

2 (2) withdraw from the election not later than 5 p.m. of
3 the day after the date the automatic recount is held.

4 SECTION 3. Section 2.022(b), Election Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (b) Sections 2.023, 2.025, and 2.028 supersede a law outside
7 this subchapter to the extent of any conflict.

8 SECTION 4. Section 2.025(d), Election Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (d) A runoff election for a special election to fill a
11 vacancy in Congress or a special election to fill a vacancy in the
12 legislature, except an election ordered as an emergency election
13 under Section 41.0011 or an election held as an expedited election
14 under Section 203.013, [to which Section 101.104 applies] shall be
15 held not earlier than the 70th day or later than the 77th day after
16 the date the final canvass of the main election is completed.

17 SECTION 5. Section 2.028(c), Election Code, is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (c) A tying candidate may resolve the tie by filing with the
20 presiding officer of the final canvassing authority a written
21 statement of withdrawal signed and sworn to [~~acknowledged~~] by the
22 candidate. If the statement of withdrawal is received before the
23 automatic recount is conducted, the remaining candidate is the
24 winner, and the automatic recount is not conducted. If the
25 statement of withdrawal is received not later than 5 p.m. the day
26 after the date the automatic recount is conducted [~~On receipt of the~~
27 ~~statement of withdrawal~~], the remaining candidate is the winner,

1 and a casting of lots is not held.

2 SECTION 6. Section 2.051(b), Election Code, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 (b) In the case of an election in which any members of the
5 political subdivision's governing body are elected from
6 territorial units such as single-member districts, this subchapter
7 applies to the election in a particular territorial unit if each
8 candidate for an office that is to appear on the ballot in that
9 territorial unit is unopposed and no ~~[at-large proposition or]~~
10 opposed at-large race is to appear on the ballot. This subchapter
11 applies to an unopposed at-large race in such an election
12 regardless of whether an opposed race is to appear on the ballot in
13 a particular territorial unit.

14 SECTION 7. Section 3.005(d), Election Code, is amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (d) Except as provided by Subsection (c), an ~~[An]~~ election
17 under Section 26.08, Tax Code, to ratify a tax rate adopted by the
18 governing body of a school district under Section 26.05(g) of that
19 code shall be ordered not later than the 30th day before election
20 day.

21 SECTION 8. Section 4.003(c), Election Code, is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 (c) In addition to any other notice given, notice of an
24 election ordered by the governor, by a county authority,
25 ~~[commissioners court]~~ or by an authority of a city or school
26 district must be given by the method prescribed by Subsection
27 (a)(1).

1 SECTION 9. Section 4.004(a), Election Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

- 3 (a) The notice of a general or special election must state:
- 4 (1) the nature and date of the election;
 - 5 (2) except as provided by Subsection (c), the location
6 of each polling place;
 - 7 (3) the hours that the polls will be open; ~~and~~
 - 8 (4) the Internet website of the authority conducting
9 the election; and
 - 10 (5) any other information required by other law.

11 SECTION 10. Section 13.002(i), Election Code, is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (i) An applicant who wishes to receive an exemption from the
14 requirements of Section 63.001(b) on the basis of disability must
15 submit ~~[include with the person's application]~~:

- 16 (1) written documentation:
 - 17 (A) from the United States Social Security
18 Administration evidencing the applicant has been determined to have
19 a disability; or
 - 20 (B) from the United States Department of Veterans
21 Affairs evidencing the applicant has a disability rating of at
22 least 50 percent; and
- 23 (2) a statement in a form prescribed by the secretary
24 of state that the applicant does not have a form of identification
25 acceptable under Section 63.0101.

26 SECTION 11. Section 13.004(c), Election Code, as amended by
27 Chapters 469 (H.B. 4173), 489 (H.B. 3100), and 1146 (H.B. 2910),

1 Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, is reenacted
2 and amended to read as follows:

3 (c) The following information furnished on a registration
4 application is confidential and does not constitute public
5 information for purposes of Chapter 552, Government Code:

6 (1) a social security number;

7 (2) a Texas driver's license number;

8 (3) a number of a personal identification card issued
9 by the Department of Public Safety;

10 (4) ~~[an indication that an applicant is interested in~~
11 ~~working as an election judge,~~

12 [~~5~~] the residence address of the applicant, if the
13 applicant is a federal judge or state judge, the spouse of a federal
14 judge or state judge, the spouse of a peace officer as defined by
15 Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, or an individual to whom
16 Section 552.1175, Government Code, or Section 521.1211,
17 Transportation Code, applies and the applicant:

18 (A) included an affidavit with the registration
19 application describing the applicant's status under this
20 subdivision, if the applicant is a federal judge or state judge or
21 the spouse of a federal judge or state judge;

22 (B) provided the registrar with an affidavit
23 describing the applicant's status under this subdivision, if the
24 applicant is a federal judge or state judge or the spouse of a
25 federal judge or state judge; or

26 (C) provided the registrar with a completed form
27 approved by the secretary of state for the purpose of notifying the

1 registrar of the applicant's status under this subdivision;

2 (5) [~~(6)~~] the residence address of the applicant, if
3 the applicant, the applicant's child, or another person in the
4 applicant's household is a victim of family violence as defined by
5 Section 71.004, Family Code, who provided the registrar with:

6 (A) a copy of a protective order issued under
7 Chapter 85, Family Code, or a magistrate's order for emergency
8 protection issued under Article 17.292, Code of Criminal Procedure;
9 or

10 (B) other independent documentary evidence
11 necessary to show that the applicant, the applicant's child, or
12 another person in the applicant's household is a victim of family
13 violence;

14 (6) [~~(7)~~] the residence address of the applicant, if
15 the applicant, the applicant's child, or another person in the
16 applicant's household is a victim of sexual assault or abuse,
17 stalking, or trafficking of persons who provided the registrar
18 with:

19 (A) a copy of a protective order issued under
20 Subchapter A or B, Chapter 7B, Code of Criminal Procedure, or a
21 magistrate's order for emergency protection issued under Article
22 17.292, Code of Criminal Procedure; or

23 (B) other independent documentary evidence
24 necessary to show that the applicant, the applicant's child, or
25 another person in the applicant's household is a victim of sexual
26 assault or abuse, stalking, or trafficking of persons;

27 (7) [~~(8)~~] the residence address of the applicant, if

1 the applicant:

2 (A) is a participant in the address
3 confidentiality program administered by the attorney general under
4 Subchapter B, Chapter 58, Code of Criminal Procedure; and

5 (B) provided the registrar with proof of
6 certification under Article 58.059, Code of Criminal Procedure; or

7 (8) [~~(9)~~] the telephone number of any applicant
8 submitting documentation under Subdivision (4), (5), (6), or (7) [~~7~~
9 ~~or (8)~~].

10 SECTION 12. Section 13.072(d), Election Code, is amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (d) If an application clearly indicates that the applicant
13 resides in another county, the registrar shall forward the
14 application to the other county's registrar not later than the
15 second day after the date the application is received [~~and, if the~~
16 ~~other county is not contiguous, shall deliver written notice of~~
17 ~~that action to the applicant not later than the seventh day after~~
18 ~~the date the application is received~~]. The date of submission of a
19 completed application to the wrong registrar is considered to be
20 the date of submission to the proper registrar for purposes of
21 determining the effective date of the registration.

22 SECTION 13. Section 13.142(a), Election Code, is amended to
23 read as follows:

24 (a) After approval of a registration application, the
25 registrar shall:

26 (1) prepare a voter registration certificate [~~in~~
27 ~~duplicate~~] and issue the original certificate to the applicant; and

1 (2) enter the applicant's county election precinct
2 number and registration number on the applicant's registration
3 application.

4 SECTION 14. Section 13.143(d-2), Election Code, is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (d-2) For a registration application submitted by
7 telephonic facsimile machine to be effective, a copy of the
8 original registration application containing the voter's original
9 signature must be submitted by personal delivery or mail and be
10 received by the registrar not later than the fourth business day
11 after the transmission by telephonic facsimile machine is received.

12 SECTION 15. Section 15.001(a), Election Code, is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (a) Each voter registration certificate issued must
15 contain:

16 (1) the voter's name in the form indicated by the
17 voter, subject to applicable requirements prescribed by Section
18 13.002 and by rule of the secretary of state;

19 (2) the voter's residence address or, if the residence
20 has no address, the address at which the voter receives mail and a
21 concise description of the location of the voter's residence;

22 (3) the ~~[month, day, and]~~ year of the voter's birth;

23 (4) the number of the county election precinct in
24 which the voter resides;

25 (5) the voter's effective date of registration if an
26 initial certificate;

27 (6) the voter's registration number;

1 (7) an indication of the period for which the
2 certificate is issued;

3 (8) a statement explaining the circumstances under
4 which the voter will receive a new certificate;

5 (9) a space for stamping the voter's political party
6 affiliation;

7 (10) a statement that voting with the certificate by a
8 person other than the person in whose name the certificate is issued
9 is a felony;

10 (11) a space for the voter's signature;

11 (12) a statement that the voter must sign the
12 certificate personally, if able to sign, immediately on receipt;

13 (13) a space for the voter to correct the information
14 on the certificate followed by a signature line;

15 (14) the statement: "If any information on this
16 certificate changes or is incorrect, correct the information in the
17 space provided, sign below, and return this certificate to the
18 voter registrar.";

19 (15) the registrar's mailing address and telephone
20 number; and

21 (16) the jurisdictional or distinguishing number for
22 the following territorial units in which the voter resides, as
23 determined by the voter registrar:

24 (A) congressional district;

25 (B) state senatorial district;

26 (C) state representative district;

27 (D) commissioners precinct;

- 1 (E) justice precinct;
- 2 (F) city election precinct; and
- 3 (G) school district election precinct.

4 SECTION 16. Section 15.022(a), Election Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (a) The registrar shall make the appropriate corrections in
7 the registration records, including, if necessary, deleting a
8 voter's name from the suspense list:

9 (1) after receipt of a notice of a change in
10 registration information under Section 15.021;

11 (2) after receipt of a voter's reply to a notice of
12 investigation given under Section 16.033;

13 (3) after receipt of any affidavits executed under
14 Section 63.006, following an election;

15 (4) after receipt of a voter's statement of residence
16 executed under Section 63.0011;

17 (5) before the effective date of the abolishment of a
18 county election precinct or a change in its boundary;

19 (6) after receipt of United States Postal Service
20 information indicating an address reclassification;

21 (7) after receipt of a voter's response under Section
22 15.053; ~~or~~

23 (8) after receipt of a registration application or
24 change of address under Chapter 20; or

25 (9) after notification of a data entry error of which
26 the voter registrar is made aware under Section 63.0051.

27 SECTION 17. Section 15.023, Election Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 Sec. 15.023. TIME FOR CERTAIN DELETIONS FROM SUSPENSE LIST.
3 If the name of a voter [~~whose residence is changed~~] on the list of
4 registered voters [~~registration records to another county election~~
5 ~~precinct in the same county~~] appears on the suspense list, the
6 voter's name shall be deleted from the list on the date the voter
7 provides:

8 (1) a completed application to register to vote in
9 accordance with Section 13.002; or

10 (2) a correction of information under Section
11 15.021(d) [~~voter's registration in the precinct of new residence~~
12 ~~becomes effective~~].

13 SECTION 18. Section 15.051(d), Election Code, is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (d) The registrar shall maintain with the voter's record an
16 indication that a confirmation notice was sent to the voter [~~a list~~
17 ~~of the confirmation notices mailed to voters, which for each notice~~
18 ~~must include the voter's name and the date the notice is mailed.~~
19 ~~The registrar shall maintain and retain the list in accordance with~~
20 ~~rules prescribed by the secretary of state~~].

21 SECTION 19. Section 15.053(a), Election Code, is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 (a) The [~~Not later than the 30th day after the date a~~
24 ~~confirmation notice is mailed, the~~] voter shall submit to the
25 registrar a written, signed response to the notice that confirms
26 the voter's current residence. The response must contain all of the
27 information that a person must include in an application to

1 register to vote under Section 13.002.

2 SECTION 20. Section 15.082(b), Election Code, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 (b) The ~~[fee for each]~~ list shall be provided in accordance
5 with Chapter 552, Government Code ~~[or portion of a list furnished~~
6 ~~under this section may not exceed the actual expense incurred in~~
7 ~~reproducing the list or portion for the person requesting it and~~
8 ~~shall be uniform for each type of copy furnished. The registrar~~
9 ~~shall make reasonable efforts to minimize the reproduction~~
10 ~~expenses].~~

11 SECTION 21. Section 16.031(a), Election Code, is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (a) The registrar shall cancel a voter's registration
14 immediately on receipt of:

15 (1) notice under Section 13.072(b), ~~[or]~~ 15.021, or
16 18.0681(d) or a response under Section 15.053 that the voter's
17 residence is outside the county;

18 (2) an abstract of the voter's death certificate under
19 Section 16.001(a) or an abstract of an application indicating that
20 the voter is deceased under Section 16.001(b);

21 (3) an abstract of a final judgment of the voter's
22 total mental incapacity, partial mental incapacity without the
23 right to vote, conviction of a felony, or disqualification under
24 Section 16.002, 16.003, or 16.004;

25 (4) notice under Section 112.012 that the voter has
26 applied for a limited ballot in another county;

27 (5) notice from a voter registration official in

1 another state that the voter has registered to vote outside this
2 state;

3 (6) notice from the early voting clerk under Section
4 [101.053](#) that a federal postcard application submitted by an
5 applicant states a voting residence address located outside the
6 registrar's county; or

7 (7) notice from the secretary of state that the voter
8 has registered to vote in another county, as determined by the
9 voter's driver's license number or personal identification card
10 number issued by the Department of Public Safety or social security
11 number.

12 SECTION 22. Section [16.032](#), Election Code, is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 Sec. 16.032. CANCELLATION FOLLOWING END OF SUSPENSE LIST
15 PERIOD. If on November 30 following the second general election for
16 state and county officers that occurs after the date the voter's
17 name is entered on the suspense list a registered voter's name
18 appears on the suspense list, the registrar shall cancel the
19 voter's registration unless the name is to be deleted from the list
20 under Section [15.022](#) or [15.023](#).

21 SECTION 23. Section [16.0921](#)(a), Election Code, is amended
22 to read as follows:

23 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (c), on the filing of a
24 sworn statement under Section [16.092](#) alleging a ground based on
25 residence, the registrar shall promptly deliver to the voter whose
26 registration is challenged a confirmation notice in accordance with
27 Section [15.051](#), unless the residential address provided in the

1 challenge for the voter is different from the voter's current
2 residential address indicated on the registration records.

3 SECTION 24. Section 18.002(c), Election Code, is amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (c) An additional copy of each list shall be furnished for
6 use in early voting and as needed in order to ensure all voters
7 eligible to vote in an election appear correctly on the original
8 list.

9 SECTION 25. Section 18.003(c), Election Code, is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (c) An additional copy of each list shall be furnished for
12 use in early voting and as needed in order to ensure all voters
13 eligible to vote in an election appear correctly on the original
14 list.

15 SECTION 26. Section 18.005(a), Election Code, is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (a) Each original and supplemental list of registered
18 voters must:

19 (1) contain the voter's name, date of birth, and
20 registration number as provided by the statewide computerized voter
21 registration list;

22 (2) contain the voter's residence address, except as
23 provided by Subsections (b) and (c) [~~or Section 18.0051~~];

24 (3) be arranged alphabetically by voter name; and

25 (4) contain the notation required by Section 15.111.

26 SECTION 27. Sections 18.061(b) and (d), Election Code, are
27 amended to read as follows:

1 (b) The statewide computerized voter registration list
2 must:

3 (1) contain the name and registration information of
4 each voter registered in the state;

5 (2) assign a unique identifier to each registered
6 voter; and

7 (3) be available to any county election official in
8 the state through immediate electronic access.

9 (d) The secretary of state may contract with counties to
10 provide them with electronic data services to facilitate the
11 implementation and maintenance of the statewide computerized voter
12 registration list. The secretary shall use funds collected under
13 the contracts to defray expenses incurred in implementing and
14 maintaining the statewide computerized voter registration list.

15 SECTION 28. Section 18.0681(d), Election Code, is amended
16 to read as follows:

17 (d) If the secretary of state determines that a voter on the
18 registration list has more than one registration record on file
19 based on a strong match, the secretary shall send notice of the
20 determination to the voter registrar of the ~~[each]~~ county with the
21 oldest registration record in which the voter is registered to
22 vote. If the voter records identified are:

23 (1) located in the same county, the voter registrar
24 may merge the records following a determination that each record
25 belongs to the same voter using the procedure for the correction of
26 registration records under Section 15.022; or

27 (2) located in more than one county, the registrar of

1 the county with the oldest record may deliver a written
2 confirmation notice in accordance with Section 15.051 or cancel the
3 registration of the voter in accordance with Section 16.031(a)(1),
4 provided that the voter's record in the county with the newest
5 registration record is not on the suspense list.

6 SECTION 29. Section 18.069, Election Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 18.069. VOTING HISTORY. Not later than the 30th day
9 after the date of the primary, runoff primary, or general election
10 or any special election ordered by the governor, the general
11 custodian of election records [~~registrar~~] shall electronically
12 submit to the secretary of state the record of each voter
13 participating in the election. The record must include a notation
14 of whether the voter voted on election day, voted early by personal
15 appearance, voted early by mail under Chapter 86, or voted early by
16 mail under Chapter 101.

17 SECTION 30. The heading to Section 31.005, Election Code,
18 is amended to read as follows:

19 Sec. 31.005. PROTECTION OF VOTING RIGHTS; ENFORCEMENT.

20 SECTION 31. Section 31.005, Election Code, is amended by
21 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as
22 follows:

23 (b) The secretary of state may order [~~If the secretary~~
24 ~~determines that~~] a person performing official functions in the
25 administration of any part of the electoral processes to correct
26 offending conduct if the secretary determines that the person is
27 exercising the powers vested in that person in a manner that:

1 (1) impedes the free exercise of a citizen's voting
2 rights; or

3 (2) unless acting under an order of a court of
4 competent jurisdiction, delays or cancels an election that the
5 person does not have specific statutory authority to delay or
6 cancel.

7 (c) [the secretary may order the person to correct the
8 offending conduct.] If a [the] person described by Subsection (b)
9 fails to comply with an order from the secretary of state under this
10 section, the secretary may seek enforcement of the order by a
11 temporary restraining order or a writ of injunction or mandamus
12 obtained through the attorney general.

13 SECTION 32. Section 31.093(a), Election Code, is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (a) Subject to Section 41.001(d), if [If] requested to do so
16 by a political subdivision, the county elections administrator
17 shall enter into a contract to furnish the election services
18 requested, in accordance with a cost schedule agreed on by the
19 contracting parties.

20 SECTION 33. Section 31.096, Election Code, is amended to
21 read as follows:

22 Sec. 31.096. NONTRANSFERABLE FUNCTIONS. An election
23 services contract may not change:

24 (1) the authority with whom applications of candidates
25 for a place on a ballot are filed;

26 (2) the authority with whom documents are filed under
27 Title 15; or

1 (3) the political subdivision's requirement to
2 maintain office hours under Section 31.122 [~~authority to serve as~~
3 ~~custodian of voted ballots or other election records, except that a~~
4 ~~contract with a political subdivision other than a city may provide~~
5 ~~that the county election officer will be the custodian of voted~~
6 ~~ballots~~].

7 SECTION 34. Section 31.124(a), Election Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (a) A county election officer of each county shall hold a
10 meeting with the county chair of each political party to discuss, as
11 appropriate, the following for each primary election or general
12 election for state and county officers:

13 (1) the lists provided by each political party under
14 Section 85.009;

15 (2) the lists provided by each political party under
16 Section 87.002(c); [~~and~~]

17 (3) the implementation of Subchapters A, B, C, and D,
18 Chapter 87; and

19 (4) holding a joint primary, entering into an election
20 services contract, and polling place locations.

21 SECTION 35. Section 32.114(a), Election Code, is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 (a) The county clerk shall provide one or more sessions of
24 training using the standardized training program and materials
25 developed and provided by the secretary of state under Section
26 32.111 for the election judges and clerks appointed to serve in
27 elections ordered by the governor or a county authority. Each

1 election judge shall complete the training program. The training
2 program must include specific procedures related to the early
3 voting ballot board and the central counting station, as
4 applicable. Each election clerk shall complete the part of the
5 training program relating to the acceptance and handling of the
6 identification presented by a voter to an election officer under
7 Section 63.001.

8 SECTION 36. Section 33.054, Election Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 Sec. 33.054. HOURS OF SERVICE AT EARLY VOTING BALLOT BOARD
11 MEETING OR SIGNATURE VERIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING. (a) A
12 watcher serving at the meeting place of an early voting ballot board
13 or signature verification committee may be present at any time the
14 board or committee is processing or counting ballots and until the
15 board or committee completes its duties. The watcher may serve
16 during the hours the watcher chooses, except as provided by
17 Subsection (b).

18 (b) A watcher serving at the meeting place of an early
19 voting ballot board may not leave during voting hours on election
20 day without the presiding judge's permission if the board has
21 recorded any votes cast on voting machines or counted any ballots,
22 unless the board has completed its duties and has been dismissed by
23 the presiding judge.

24 SECTION 37. Sections 41.001(a) and (b), Election Code, are
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (a) Except as otherwise provided by this subchapter, each
27 general or special election in this state shall be held on one of

1 the following dates:

- 2 (1) the first Saturday in May in an odd-numbered year;
- 3 (2) the first Saturday in May in an even-numbered
- 4 year, for an election held by a political subdivision other than a
- 5 county, or ordered by the governor; or
- 6 (3) the first Tuesday after the first Monday in
- 7 November.

8 (b) Subsection (a) does not apply to:

- 9 (1) a runoff election;
- 10 (2) an election to resolve a tie vote;
- 11 (3) an election held under an order of a court or other
- 12 tribunal;
- 13 (4) an emergency election ordered under Section
- 14 [41.0011](#) or any resulting runoff;
- 15 (5) an expedited election to fill a vacancy in the
- 16 legislature held under Section [203.013](#);
- 17 (6) an election held under a statute that expressly
- 18 provides that the requirement of Subsection (a) does not apply to
- 19 the election; or
- 20 (7) the initial election of the members of the
- 21 governing body of a newly incorporated city.

22 SECTION 38. Sections [43.007](#)(a) and (m), Election Code, are

23 amended to read as follows:

24 (a) The secretary of state shall implement a program to

25 allow each commissioners court participating in the program to

26 eliminate county election precinct polling places and establish

27 countywide polling places for:

1 (1) any election required to be conducted by the
2 county [~~each general election for state and county officers~~];

3 (2) any election held as part of a joint election
4 agreement with a county under Chapter 271 [~~each election held on the~~
5 ~~uniform election date in May and any resulting runoff~~];

6 (3) any election held under contract for election
7 services with a county under Subchapter D, Chapter 31 [~~each~~
8 ~~election on a proposed constitutional amendment~~];

9 (4) each primary election and runoff primary election
10 if:

11 (A) the county chair or county executive
12 committee of each political party participating in a joint primary
13 election under Section 172.126 agrees to the use of countywide
14 polling places; or

15 (B) the county chair or county executive
16 committee of each political party required to nominate candidates
17 by primary election agrees to use the same countywide polling
18 places; and

19 (5) each election of a political subdivision located
20 in the county that is held jointly with an election described by
21 Subdivision [~~(1), (2)~~] (3)[~~7~~] or (4).

22 (m) In adopting a methodology under Subsection (f), the
23 county must ensure that:

24 (1) each county commissioners precinct contains at
25 least one countywide polling place; and

26 (2) the total number of [~~permanent branch and~~
27 ~~temporary branch~~] polling places open for voting in a county

1 commissioners precinct does not exceed more than twice the number
2 of [~~permanent branch and temporary branch~~] polling places in
3 another county commissioners precinct.

4 SECTION 39. Section 52.070, Election Code, is amended by
5 amending Subsections (a), (b), and (e) and adding Subsection (f) to
6 read as follows:

7 (a) A shape [~~square~~] for voting shall be printed to the left
8 of each candidate's name on a ballot.

9 (b) Immediately below "OFFICIAL BALLOT," the following
10 instruction shall be printed: "Vote for the candidate of your
11 choice in each race by placing an 'X' or filling in the shape
12 [~~square~~] beside the candidate's name."

13 (e) A shape [~~square~~] shall be printed to the left of each
14 line provided for write-in voting under Section 52.066(c), but
15 failure to place a mark in the shape [~~square~~] does not affect the
16 counting of a write-in vote.

17 (f) Any variation from this instruction must be approved by
18 the secretary of state.

19 SECTION 40. Section 52.094(d), Election Code, is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (d) The [~~For an election held at county expense or a city~~
22 ~~election, on receipt of a candidate's written request accompanied~~
23 ~~by a stamped, self-addressed envelope, the authority conducting the~~
24 ~~drawing shall mail written notice of the date, hour, and place of~~
25 ~~the drawing to the candidate. For an election held by any other~~
26 ~~political subdivision, the~~] authority conducting the drawing shall
27 provide [~~mail written~~] notice of the date, hour, and place of the

1 drawing to each candidate by:

2 (1) written notice:

3 (A) mailed to~~[, at]~~ the address stated on the
4 candidate's application for a place on the ballot, not later than
5 the fourth day before the date of the drawing; or

6 (B) provided at the time the candidate files an
7 application with the appropriate authority;

8 (2) telephone, if a telephone number is provided on
9 the candidate's application for a place on the ballot; or

10 (3) e-mail, if an e-mail address is provided on the
11 candidate's application for a place on the ballot.

12 SECTION 41. Section 63.0011, Election Code, is amended by
13 adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

14 (c-1) The statement described by Subsection (c) must
15 include a field for the voter to enter the voter's current county of
16 residence.

17 SECTION 42. Chapter 63, Election Code, is amended by adding
18 Sections 63.005 and 63.0051 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 63.005. REGISTRATION OMISSIONS LIST. (a) A
20 registration omissions list shall be maintained by an election
21 officer at the polling place.

22 (b) With respect to each voter who is accepted for voting
23 but whose name is not on the list of registered voters for the
24 precinct in which the voter is accepted, the election officer shall
25 record:

26 (1) the voter's name, residence address, and voter
27 registration number, if known; and

1 (2) a notation of the section of this code under which
2 the voter is accepted that provides for accepting voters who are not
3 on the list.

4 Sec. 63.0051. CONFIRMING REGISTRATION STATUS OF VOTER. (a)
5 If the name of a voter who is offering to vote is not on the precinct
6 list of registered voters, an election officer may contact the
7 voter registrar regarding the voter's registration status.

8 (b) If the election officer determines the voter is a
9 registered voter of the territory covered by the election but is
10 offering to vote in the incorrect precinct, the election officer
11 shall provide the correct precinct location information to the
12 voter.

13 (c) Notwithstanding Section 63.009, a voter shall be
14 accepted for voting if the voter's identity has been verified from
15 documentation as required by Section 63.001(b) and it can be
16 determined from the voter registrar that:

17 (1) the voter's registration was improperly canceled
18 and has been reinstated under Section 16.037;

19 (2) an error in the voter registration record caused
20 the voter's name to not appear on the list of registered voters, and
21 the error has been corrected under Section 15.022; or

22 (3) the voter's name has been inadvertently left off
23 the list of registered voters for the precinct.

24 (d) After the voter is accepted under Subsection (c), an
25 election officer shall enter the voter's name on the registration
26 omissions list.

27 (e) The voter shall be accepted for provisional voting under

1 Section 63.011 if the election officer cannot determine that the
2 voter is a registered voter of the territory covered by the election
3 in which the voter is offering to vote.

4 SECTION 43. Section 65.052, Election Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Sec. 65.052. DUTY OF VOTER REGISTRAR. The secretary of
7 state shall prescribe procedures by which the voter registrar of
8 the county in which a provisional ballot is cast shall provide
9 assistance to the early voting ballot board in executing its
10 authority under this subchapter. In an election described by
11 Section 65.051(a-1), the procedures must allow for 10 [~~seven~~]
12 calendar days for the voter registrar to review a provisional
13 voter's eligibility.

14 SECTION 44. Subchapter B, Chapter 65, Election Code, is
15 amended by adding Section 65.0581 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 65.0581. PUBLIC INSPECTION OF PROVISIONAL VOTING
17 RECORDS. Provisional voting records are not available for public
18 inspection until the first business day after the date the early
19 voting ballot board completes the verification and counting of
20 provisional ballots under Section 65.051 and delivers the
21 provisional ballots and other provisional voting records to the
22 general custodian of election records.

23 SECTION 45. Chapter 82, Election Code, is amended by adding
24 Section 82.008 to read as follows:

25 Sec. 82.008. INVOLUNTARY CIVIL COMMITMENT. A qualified
26 voter is eligible for early voting by mail if, at the time the
27 voter's early voting ballot application is submitted, the voter is

1 a person who is civilly committed as a sexually violent predator
2 under Chapter 841, Health and Safety Code, and is ordered as a
3 condition of civil commitment to reside in a facility operated by or
4 under contract with the Texas Civil Commitment Office.

5 SECTION 46. Section 83.010, Election Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 83.010. PUBLIC NOTICE OF CLERK'S MAILING ADDRESS. An
8 election order and the election notice must state the early voting
9 clerk's official mailing address or street address at which the
10 clerk may receive delivery by common or contract carrier, if
11 different, phone number, e-mail address, and Internet website, if
12 the early voting clerk has an Internet website~~[, except for an~~
13 ~~election in which a county clerk or city secretary is the early~~
14 ~~voting clerk under Section 83.002 or 83.005].~~

15 SECTION 47. Section 84.002(a), Election Code, is amended to
16 read as follows:

- 17 (a) An early voting ballot application must include:
- 18 (1) the applicant's name and the address at which the
19 applicant is registered to vote;
 - 20 (2) for an application for a ballot to be voted by mail
21 on the ground of absence from the county of residence, the address
22 outside the applicant's county of residence to which the ballot is
23 to be mailed;
 - 24 (3) for an application for a ballot to be voted by mail
25 on the ground of age or disability, the address of the hospital,
26 nursing home or other long-term care facility, or retirement
27 center, or of a person related to the applicant within the second

1 degree by affinity or the third degree by consanguinity, as
2 determined under Chapter 573, Government Code, if the applicant is
3 living at that address and that address is different from the
4 address at which the applicant is registered to vote;

5 (4) for an application for a ballot to be voted by mail
6 on the ground of confinement in jail, the address of the jail or of a
7 person related to the applicant within the degree described by
8 Subdivision (3);

9 (5) for an application for a ballot to be voted by mail
10 on any ground, an indication of each election for which the
11 applicant is applying for a ballot; ~~and~~

12 (6) an indication of the ground of eligibility for
13 early voting; and

14 (7) for an application for a ballot to be voted by mail
15 on the ground of involuntary civil commitment, the address of the
16 facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Civil
17 Commitment Office or of a person related to the applicant within the
18 degree of consanguinity described by Subdivision (3).

19 SECTION 48. Section 84.007(e), Election Code, is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (e) The early voting clerk shall designate an e-mail address
22 for receipt of an application under Subsection (b)(4). The
23 secretary of state shall include the e-mail address designated by
24 each early voting clerk ~~addresses~~ on the secretary of state's
25 website.

26 SECTION 49. Section 84.008(a), Election Code, is amended to
27 read as follows:

1 (a) Except as otherwise provided by this code, an [An]
2 applicant for a ballot to be voted by mail may submit the
3 application by delivering it in person to the early voting clerk if
4 the application is submitted not later than the deadline provided
5 by Section 84.007(c) [~~close of regular business in the clerk's~~
6 ~~office on the day before the first day of the period for early~~
7 ~~voting by personal appearance~~].

8 SECTION 50. Section 84.011(a), Election Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (a) The officially prescribed application form for an early
11 voting ballot must include:

12 (1) immediately preceding the signature space the
13 statement: "I certify that the information given in this
14 application is true, and I understand that giving false information
15 in this application is a crime.";

16 (2) a statement informing the applicant of the
17 offenses prescribed by Sections 84.003 and 84.004;

18 (3) spaces for entering an applicant's voter
19 registration number and county election precinct of registration,
20 with a statement informing the applicant that failure to furnish
21 that information does not invalidate the application; and

22 (4) on an application for a ballot to be voted by mail:

23 (A) a space for an applicant applying on the
24 ground of absence from the county of residence to indicate the date
25 on or after which the applicant can receive mail at the address
26 outside the county;

27 (B) a space for indicating the fact that an

1 applicant whose application is signed by a witness cannot make the
2 applicant's mark and a space for indicating the relationship or
3 lack of relationship of the witness to the applicant;

4 (C) a space for entering an applicant's telephone
5 number, with a statement informing the applicant that failure to
6 furnish that information does not invalidate the application;

7 (D) a space or box for an applicant applying on
8 the ground of age or disability to indicate that the address to
9 which the ballot is to be mailed is the address of a facility or
10 relative described by Section 84.002(a)(3), if applicable;

11 (E) a space or box for an applicant applying on
12 the ground of confinement in jail or involuntary civil commitment
13 to indicate that the address to which the ballot is to be mailed is
14 the address of a relative described by Section 84.002(a)(4) or (7),
15 if applicable;

16 (F) a space for an applicant applying on the
17 ground of age or disability to indicate if the application is an
18 application under Section 86.0015;

19 (G) spaces for entering the signature, printed
20 name, and residence address of any person assisting the applicant;

21 (H) a statement informing the applicant of the
22 condition prescribed by Section 81.005; and

23 (I) a statement informing the applicant of the
24 requirement prescribed by Section 86.003(c).

25 SECTION 51. Section 85.004, Election Code, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 Sec. 85.004. PUBLIC NOTICE OF MAIN POLLING PLACE LOCATION.

1 The election order and the election notice must designate and state
2 the location of the main early voting polling place.

3 SECTION 52. Section 85.007(d), Election Code, is amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (d) Any notice required under this section must also be
6 posted:

7 (1) on the Internet website of the authority ordering
8 the election, if the authority maintains a website; and

9 (2) for a primary election or the general election for
10 state and county officers, by the secretary of state on the
11 secretary's Internet website.

12 SECTION 53. Section 85.062(d), Election Code, is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (d) In a primary election, the general election for state
15 and county officers, or a special election to fill a vacancy in the
16 legislature or in congress:

17 (1) the commissioners court of a county with a
18 population of 400,000 or more shall establish one or more early
19 voting polling places other than the main early voting polling
20 place in each state representative district containing territory
21 covered by the election, except that the polling place or places
22 shall be established in the state senatorial or congressional
23 district, as applicable, in a special election to fill a vacancy in
24 the office of state senator or United States representative;

25 (2) the commissioners court of a county with a
26 population of 120,000 or more but less than 400,000 shall establish
27 one or more early voting polling places other than the main early

1 voting polling place in each commissioners precinct containing
2 territory covered by the election; and

3 (3) the early voting clerk [~~commissioners court~~] of a
4 county with a population of 100,000 or more but less than 120,000
5 shall establish one or more early voting polling places as
6 described by Subdivision (2) in each precinct for which the early
7 voting clerk [~~commissioners court~~] receives in time to enable
8 compliance with Section 85.067 a written request for that action
9 submitted by at least 15 registered voters of that precinct.

10 SECTION 54. The heading to Section 85.064, Election Code,
11 is amended to read as follows:

12 Sec. 85.064. DAYS AND HOURS FOR VOTING: TEMPORARY BRANCH IN
13 POPULOUS COUNTY.

14 SECTION 55. Section 85.064, Election Code, is amended by
15 adding Subsection (a) to read as follows:

16 (a) This section applies only to an election in which the
17 territory served by the early voting clerk is situated in a county
18 with a population of 100,000 or more. In an election in which the
19 territory served by the clerk is situated in more than one county,
20 this section applies if the sum of the populations of the counties
21 is 100,000 or more.

22 SECTION 56. Subchapter C, Chapter 85, Election Code, is
23 amended by adding Section 85.065 to read as follows:

24 Sec. 85.065. DAYS AND HOURS FOR VOTING: TEMPORARY BRANCH IN
25 LESS POPULOUS COUNTY. (a) This section applies only to an election
26 in which the territory served by the early voting clerk is situated
27 in a county with a population under 100,000. In an election in which

1 the territory served by the clerk is situated in more than one
2 county, this section applies if the sum of the populations of the
3 counties is under 100,000.

4 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), voting at a
5 temporary branch polling place may be conducted on any days and
6 during any hours of the period for early voting by personal
7 appearance, as determined by the authority establishing the branch.
8 The authority authorized under Section 85.006 to order early voting
9 on a Saturday or Sunday may also order, in the manner prescribed by
10 that section, early voting to be conducted on a Saturday or Sunday
11 at any one or more of the temporary branch polling places.

12 (c) Voting at a temporary branch polling place must be
13 conducted on at least two consecutive business days and for at least
14 eight consecutive hours on each of those days.

15 (d) The schedules for conducting voting are not required to
16 be uniform among the temporary branch polling places.

17 SECTION 57. Section 85.068(a), Election Code, is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (a) The early voting clerk shall post notice for each
20 election stating any dates and the hours that voting on Saturday or
21 Sunday will be conducted under Section 85.064(d) or 85.065(b), if
22 the early voting clerk is a county clerk or city secretary under
23 Section 83.002 or 83.005.

24 SECTION 58. Section 86.0015(c), Election Code, is amended
25 to read as follows:

26 (c) In an election of a political subdivision located in a
27 county in which the county clerk is not the early voting clerk, the

1 county clerk shall provide the early voting clerk of the political
2 subdivision that is holding the election a list of voters in the
3 portion of the political subdivision located in the county who have
4 ballot applications on file under this section along with copies of
5 the applications submitted by those voters. The early voting clerk
6 shall provide a ballot to be voted by mail to each voter on the list
7 for whom the early voting clerk received a copy of an application
8 submitted under this section.

9 SECTION 59. Section 86.002(f), Election Code, is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (f) The clerk shall include with the balloting materials:

12 (1) a notice of the clerk's physical address for
13 purposes of return by common or contract carrier or personal
14 delivery in accordance with Section 86.006(a-1); and

15 (2) the list of declared write-in candidates for the
16 election, if applicable.

17 SECTION 60. Sections 86.003(c) and (d), Election Code, are
18 amended to read as follows:

19 (c) The address to which the balloting materials must be
20 addressed is the address at which the voter is registered to vote,
21 or the registered mailing address if different, unless the ground
22 for voting by mail is:

23 (1) absence from the county of residence, in which
24 case the address must be an address outside the voter's county of
25 residence;

26 (2) confinement in jail, in which case the address
27 must be the address of the jail or of a relative described by

1 Section 84.002(a)(4); [~~or~~]

2 (3) age or disability and the voter is living at a
3 hospital, nursing home or other long-term care facility, or
4 retirement center, or with a relative described by Section
5 84.002(a)(3), in which case the address must be the address of that
6 facility or relative; or

7 (4) involuntary civil commitment, in which case the
8 address must be the address of the facility or of a relative
9 described by Section 84.002(a)(7).

10 (d) If the applicable address specified in a voter's
11 application is an address other than that prescribed by Subsection
12 (c) or subject to Section 86.002(a), the voter's application shall
13 be rejected in accordance with Section 86.001(c).

14 SECTION 61. Section 86.009, Election Code, is amended by
15 amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsection (f) to read as
16 follows:

17 (e) Except as provided by Subsection (f), a [A] voter's
18 defective ballot that is timely returned to the clerk as a marked
19 ballot shall be treated as:

20 (1) a marked ballot not timely returned if the
21 corrected ballot is timely returned as a marked ballot by the close
22 of the polls on election day; or

23 (2) as the voter's ballot for the election if the
24 corrected ballot is not timely returned by the close of the polls on
25 election day.

26 (f) A ballot to be voted by mail under Chapter 101 corrected
27 under this section may be counted if it is timely returned as

1 required by Section 101.057.

2 SECTION 62. Section 87.0222(a), Election Code, is amended
3 to read as follows:

4 (a) Notwithstanding Section 87.024, in an election
5 conducted by an authority of a county with a population of 100,000
6 or more, or conducted jointly with such a county or conducted with
7 such a county through a contract for election services, the jacket
8 envelopes containing the early voting ballots voted by mail may be
9 delivered to the board between the end of the ninth day before the
10 last day of the period for early voting by personal appearance and
11 the closing of the polls on election day, or as soon after closing
12 as practicable, at the time or times specified by the presiding
13 judge of the board.

14 SECTION 63. Section 87.0241(b), Election Code, is amended
15 to read as follows:

16 (b) The board may not count early voting ballots until:

17 (1) the polls open on election day; or

18 (2) in an election conducted by an authority of a
19 county with a population of 100,000 or more, or conducted jointly
20 with such a county or conducted with such a county through a
21 contract for election services, the end of the period for early
22 voting by personal appearance.

23 SECTION 64. Section 101.001, Election Code, is amended to
24 read as follows:

25 Sec. 101.001. ELIGIBILITY. A person is eligible for early
26 voting by mail as provided by this chapter if:

27 (1) the person is qualified to vote in this state or,

1 if not registered to vote in this state, would be qualified if
2 registered; and

3 (2) the person is:

4 (A) a member of the armed forces of the United
5 States, or the spouse or a dependent of a member;

6 (B) a member of the merchant marine of the United
7 States, or the spouse or a dependent of a member;

8 (B-1) a member of the Texas National Guard or the
9 National Guard of another state or a member of a reserve component
10 of the armed forces of the United States serving on active duty
11 under an order of the president of the United States or activated on
12 state orders, or the spouse or dependent of a member; or

13 (C) domiciled in this state but temporarily
14 living outside the territorial limits of the United States and the
15 District of Columbia.

16 SECTION 65. Section 101.003(1), Election Code, is amended
17 to read as follows:

18 (1) "Federal postcard application" means an
19 application for a ballot to be voted under this chapter submitted on
20 the official federal form prescribed under the federal Uniformed
21 and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. Sections 20301
22 through 20311) [~~(42 U.S.C. Section 1973ff et seq.)~~].

23 SECTION 66. Section 101.008, Election Code, is amended to
24 read as follows:

25 Sec. 101.008. STATUS OF APPLICATION OR BALLOT VOTED. The
26 secretary of state, in coordination with county [~~local~~] election
27 officials, shall implement an electronic free-access system by

1 which a person eligible for early voting by mail under this chapter
2 or Chapter 114 may determine by telephone, by e-mail, or over the
3 Internet whether:

4 (1) the person's federal postcard application or other
5 registration or ballot application has been received and accepted;
6 and

7 (2) the person's ballot has been received and the
8 current status of the ballot.

9 SECTION 67. Sections 101.052(a-1) and (c), Election Code,
10 are amended to read as follows:

11 (a-1) A federal postcard application must be submitted by:

12 (1) mail; ~~or~~

13 (2) electronic transmission of an image of the
14 application under procedures prescribed by the secretary of state;

15 (3) in-person delivery in accordance with Section
16 84.008; or

17 (4) common or contract carrier.

18 (c) An application is considered submitted in the following
19 calendar year for purposes of this section if:

20 (1) the applicant is eligible to vote in an election
21 occurring in January or February of the next calendar year; and

22 (2) the application is submitted in the last 60 days of
23 a calendar year but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of

24 the January or February election [~~A federal postcard application~~
25 ~~requesting a ballot for an election to be held in January or~~

26 ~~February may be submitted in the preceding calendar year but not~~
27 ~~earlier than the earliest date for submitting a regular application~~

1 ~~for a ballot to be voted by mail]~~.

2 SECTION 68. Section 101.054(c), Election Code, is amended
3 to read as follows:

4 (c) An application shall be treated as if it requests a
5 ballot for a runoff election that results from an election for which
6 a ballot is requested, including a runoff election that occurs in
7 the next calendar year.

8 SECTION 69. Section 101.056(a), Election Code, is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 (a) The balloting materials provided under this subchapter
11 shall be airmailed to the voter free of United States postage, as
12 provided by the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee
13 Voting Act (52 U.S.C. Sections 20301 through 20311) [~~42 U.S.C.~~
14 ~~Section 1973ff et seq.~~], in an envelope labeled "Official Election
15 Balloting Material - via Airmail." The secretary of state shall
16 provide early voting clerks with instructions on compliance with
17 this subsection.

18 SECTION 70. Section 101.057(b), Election Code, is amended
19 to read as follows:

20 (b) A ballot voted by a voter described by Section
21 101.001(2)(A), ~~[or]~~ (B), or (B-1) shall be counted if the ballot
22 arrives at the address on the carrier envelope not later than the
23 sixth day after the date of the election, except that if that date
24 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal state or national holiday,
25 then the deadline is extended to the next regular business day.

26 SECTION 71. Section 101.058, Election Code, is amended to
27 read as follows:

1 Sec. 101.058. OFFICIAL CARRIER ENVELOPE. The officially
2 prescribed carrier envelope for voting under this subchapter shall
3 be prepared so that it can be mailed free of United States postage,
4 as provided by the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee
5 Voting Act (52 U.S.C. Sections 20301 through 20311) [~~42 U.S.C.~~
6 ~~Section 1973ff et seq.~~], and must contain the label prescribed by
7 Section 101.056(a) for the envelope in which the balloting
8 materials are sent to a voter. The secretary of state shall provide
9 early voting clerks with instructions on compliance with this
10 section.

11 SECTION 72. Section 101.102(b), Election Code, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 (b) The early voting clerk shall grant a request made under
14 this section for the e-mail transmission of balloting materials if:

15 (1) the requestor has submitted a valid federal
16 postcard application and:

17 (A) if the requestor is a person described by
18 Section 101.001(2)(C), has provided a current mailing address that
19 is located outside the United States; or

20 (B) if the requestor is a person described by
21 Section 101.001(2)(A), ~~or~~ (B), or (B-1), has provided a current
22 mailing address that is located outside the requestor's county of
23 residence;

24 (2) the requestor provides an e-mail address:

25 (A) that corresponds to the address on file with
26 the requestor's federal postcard application; or

27 (B) stated on a newly submitted federal postcard

1 application;

2 (3) the request is submitted on or before the deadline
3 prescribed by Section 84.007 [~~seventh day before the date of the~~
4 ~~election~~]; and

5 (4) a marked ballot for the election from the
6 requestor has not been received by the early voting clerk.

7 SECTION 73. Section 101.107(a), Election Code, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 (a) A voter described by Section 101.001(2)(A) , [~~or~~] (B) , or
10 (B-1) must be voting from outside the voter's county of residence.
11 A voter described by Section 101.001(2)(C) must be voting from
12 outside the United States.

13 SECTION 74. Section 102.002, Election Code, is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 Sec. 102.002. CONTENTS OF APPLICATION. An application for
16 a late ballot must comply with the applicable provisions of Section
17 84.002 and must include or be accompanied by a certificate of a
18 licensed physician or chiropractor or accredited Christian Science
19 practitioner in substantially the following form:

20 "This is to certify that I know that _____ has a sickness
21 or physical condition that will prevent him or her from appearing at
22 the polling place for an election to be held on the _____ day
23 of _____, 20 [~~19~~]____, without a likelihood of needing personal
24 assistance or of injuring his or her health and that the sickness or
25 physical condition originated on or after _____.

26 "Witness my hand at _____, Texas, this _____ day of
27 _____, 20 [~~19~~]____.

1 _____
2 (signature of physician,
3 chiropractor, or practitioner)"

4 SECTION 75. Section 113.003, Election Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Sec. 113.003. SUBMITTING APPLICATION FOR MAIL BALLOT. An
7 application for a presidential ballot to be voted by mail must be
8 submitted to the early voting clerk serving the county of the
9 applicant's most recent registration to vote by the deadline
10 prescribed by Section 84.007.

11 SECTION 76. Section 141.032(g), Election Code, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 (g) Except as otherwise provided by this code [~~After the~~
14 ~~filing deadline~~]:

15 (1) a candidate may not amend an application filed
16 under Section 141.031; and

17 (2) the authority with whom the application is filed
18 may not accept an amendment to an application filed under Section
19 141.031.

20 SECTION 77. Section 141.034(a), Election Code, is amended
21 to read as follows:

22 (a) An application for a place on the ballot may not be
23 challenged for compliance with the applicable requirements as to
24 form, content, and procedure after the 50th day before the date of
25 ~~[day before any ballot to be voted early by mail is mailed to an~~
26 ~~address in the authority's jurisdiction for]~~ the election for which
27 the application is made.

1 SECTION 78. The heading to Section 141.040, Election Code,
2 is amended to read as follows:

3 Sec. 141.040. NOTICE OF DEADLINES AND FILING METHODS.

4 SECTION 79. Section 141.040, Election Code, is amended by
5 adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

6 (c) An authority shall designate an e-mail address in the
7 notice required by this section for the purpose of filing an
8 application for a place on the ballot under Section 143.004.

9 SECTION 80. Section 141.063, Election Code, is amended by
10 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

11 (e) The signer's residence address and registration address
12 are not required to be the same if the signer would otherwise be
13 able to vote for that office under Section 11.004 or 112.002.

14 SECTION 81. Chapter 141, Election Code, is amended by
15 adding Subchapter D, and a heading is added to that subchapter to
16 read as follows:

17 SUBCHAPTER D. COERCION OF CANDIDACY

18 SECTION 82. Section 2.054, Election Code, is transferred to
19 Subchapter D, Chapter 141, Election Code, as added by this Act,
20 redesignated as Section 141.101, Election Code, and amended to read
21 as follows:

22 Sec. 141.101 [~~2.054~~]. COERCION AGAINST CANDIDACY
23 PROHIBITED. (a) A [~~In an election that may be subject to this~~
24 ~~subchapter, a~~] person commits an offense if by intimidation or by
25 means of coercion the person influences or attempts to influence a
26 person to:

27 (1) not file an application for a place on the ballot

1 or a declaration of write-in candidacy; or

2 (2) withdraw as a candidate.

3 (b) In this section, "coercion" has the meaning assigned by
4 Section 1.07, Penal Code.

5 (c) An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor
6 unless the intimidation or coercion is a threat to commit a felony,
7 in which event it is a felony of the third degree.

8 SECTION 83. Section 143.004, Election Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 Sec. 143.004. APPLICATION REQUIRED. (a) Subject to
11 Section 143.005, to be entitled to a place on the ballot, a
12 candidate must make an application for a place on the ballot.

13 (b) An application, other than an application required to be
14 accompanied by fee, may be filed through e-mail transmission of the
15 completed application in a scanned format to the e-mail address
16 designated by the filing authority in the notice required under
17 Section 141.040.

18 SECTION 84. Section 144.003(a), Election Code, is amended
19 to read as follows:

20 (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, to be entitled to a
21 place on the ballot, a candidate must make an application for a
22 place on the ballot. An application, other than an application
23 required to be accompanied by fee, may be filed through e-mail
24 transmission of the completed application in a scanned format to
25 the e-mail address designated by the filing authority in the notice
26 required under Section 141.040.

27 SECTION 85. Section 145.003, Election Code, is amended by

1 adding Subsection (j) to read as follows:

2 (j) This section does not apply to a challenge on an
3 application under Section 141.034.

4 SECTION 86. Section 192.033(d), Election Code, is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (d) In conjunction with the certification required under
7 Subsection (a), the secretary of state shall include appropriate
8 ballot translation language, as applicable, for each language
9 certified statewide or in a specific county by the director of the
10 census under the federal Voting Rights Act (52 U.S.C. Section
11 10503) [42 U.S.C. Section 1973aa-1a].

12 SECTION 87. Subchapter B, Chapter 201, Election Code, is
13 amended by adding Section 201.030 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 201.030. VACANCY RESULTING FROM RECALL ELECTION. For
15 cities conducting recall elections, a vacancy in the officer's
16 office occurs on the date of the final canvass of a successful
17 recall election.

18 SECTION 88. Section 203.004(b), Election Code, is amended
19 to read as follows:

20 (b) If the election is to be held as an emergency election,
21 it shall be held on a Tuesday or Saturday occurring on or after the
22 36th day and on or before the 64th [~~50th~~] day after the date the
23 election is ordered.

24 SECTION 89. Section 212.001, Election Code, is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 Sec. 212.001. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOUNT DOCUMENT. A
27 recount document submitted under this title must:

- 1 (1) be in writing;
- 2 (2) identify the office or measure for which a recount
3 is desired;
- 4 (3) state the grounds for the recount;
- 5 (4) state the side of the measure that the person
6 requesting the recount represents, if applicable;
- 7 (5) identify the election precincts, grouped by county
8 or other appropriate territorial unit if the election involves more
9 than one local canvassing authority, for which a recount is desired
10 and must indicate the method of voting used in each precinct;
- 11 (6) be signed by:
 - 12 (A) the person requesting the recount or, if
13 there is more than one, any one or more of them; or
 - 14 (B) an agent of the person requesting the
15 recount;
- 16 (7) state each requesting person's name, residence
17 address, and, if authorization to obtain the recount is based on
18 eligibility to vote in the election, voter registration number, and
19 county of registration if the election covers territory in more
20 than one county;
- 21 (8) designate an agent who is a resident of this state
22 to receive notice under this title on behalf of the person
23 requesting the recount if:
 - 24 (A) the person requesting the recount is not a
25 resident of this state; or
 - 26 (B) there is more than one person requesting the
27 recount;

1 (9) state the mailing address and at least one
2 telephone number, if any, at which the person requesting the
3 recount or an agent, identified by name, may receive notice given
4 under this title;

5 (10) state the mailing address, e-mail address, if
6 any, and at least one telephone number, if any, at which the
7 opposing candidates for the office or their agents, identified by
8 name, may receive notice given under this title; and

9 (11) be accompanied by a deposit as provided by
10 Subchapter E.

11 SECTION 90. Section 212.002(b), Election Code, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 (b) The designation is not effective unless the document
14 states the designee's name, address, e-mail address, if any, and
15 telephone number, if any.

16 SECTION 91. Section 212.028(a), Election Code, is amended
17 to read as follows:

18 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a petition for an
19 initial recount must be submitted by ~~[the later of:~~

20 ~~[(1) 5 p.m. of the fifth day after election day, or~~

21 ~~[(2)]~~ 5 p.m. of the second day after the date the
22 canvassing authority to whose presiding officer the petition must
23 be submitted completes its canvass of the original election
24 returns.

25 SECTION 92. Section 212.031(a), Election Code, is amended
26 to read as follows:

27 (a) If a recount petition complies with the applicable

1 requirements, the recount coordinator shall approve the petition
2 and note on the petition its approved status and the date of the
3 approval. The recount coordinator shall immediately notify the
4 recount supervisor of the approval. The recount supervisor shall,
5 with the written approval of the recount coordinator, order the
6 recount to be held on the later of [~~a date occurring not later than~~]
7 the seventh day after the date the petition is determined to comply
8 with the applicable requirements or the day after all ballots have
9 been delivered to the general custodian of election records.

10 SECTION 93. Section 212.083, Election Code, is amended to
11 read as follows:

12 Sec. 212.083. DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING PETITION. The
13 deadline for submitting a recount petition under this subchapter is
14 [~~the later of:~~

15 [~~(1) 2 p.m. of the third day after election day; or~~

16 [~~(2)~~] 2 p.m. of the first day after the date of the
17 local canvass.

18 SECTION 94. Section 212.112, Election Code, is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 Sec. 212.112. AMOUNT OF DEPOSIT. The amount of the recount
21 deposit is:

22 (1) \$60 for each election day polling location or
23 precinct, whichever results in a smaller amount, in which regular
24 paper ballots were used; and

25 (2) \$100 for each election day polling location or
26 precinct, whichever results in a smaller amount, in which an
27 electronic voting system was used.

1 SECTION 95. Section 216.003, Election Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 Sec. 216.003. INITIATING AUTOMATIC RECOUNT. For purposes
4 of initiating an automatic recount, the authority designated under
5 Section 212.026 shall order the recount [~~request the recount in the~~
6 ~~same manner as a recount petitioner under this title~~].

7 SECTION 96. Section 272.009, Election Code, is amended by
8 adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

9 (c) To be eligible to serve as a clerk under this section, a
10 person must:

11 (1) be a qualified voter of the state and satisfy any
12 additional eligibility requirements prescribed by written order of
13 the commissioners court; or

14 (2) meet the eligibility requirements of a student
15 election clerk under Section 32.0511.

16 SECTION 97. Section 277.002, Election Code, is amended by
17 adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

18 (f) The signer's residence address and the address listed on
19 the signer's registration are not required to be the same if the
20 signer is eligible to vote under Section 11.004 or 112.002.

21 SECTION 98. Section 277.0024, Election Code, is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 Sec. 277.0024. COMPUTING NUMBER OF SIGNATURES. (a) Except
24 as provided by Subsection (b), if [~~if~~] the minimum number of
25 signatures required for a petition is determined by a computation
26 applied to the number of registered voters of a particular
27 territory, voters whose names appear on the list of registered

1 voters with the notation "S", or a similar notation, shall be
2 excluded from the computation.

3 (b) The signature of a voter whose name appears on the list
4 of registered voters with the notation "S", or a similar notation,
5 is considered valid if the voter:

6 (1) is otherwise eligible to vote in the territory;
7 and

8 (2) provides a residence address located in the
9 territory.

10 SECTION 99. The following provisions of the Election Code
11 are repealed:

- 12 (1) Sections 15.082(c) and (d);
- 13 (2) Subchapter F, Chapter 15;
- 14 (3) Section 18.0051;
- 15 (4) Section 18.008(c);
- 16 (5) Section 31.099(b);
- 17 (6) Section 42.061(c);
- 18 (7) Section 84.008(b); and
- 19 (8) Section 105.002.

20 SECTION 100. As soon as practicable after the effective
21 date of this Act, the secretary of state shall adopt a statement of
22 residence form as required by Section 63.0011, Election Code, as
23 amended by this Act.

24 SECTION 101. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3107 was passed by the House on May 7, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 137, Nays 3, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3107 on May 28, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3107 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 26, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor