

AN ACT

relating to ineligibility to serve as a poll watcher.

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

SECTION 1. Section 33.006(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A certificate of appointment must:

(1) be in writing and signed by the appointing authority or, for an appointment for a write-in candidate under Section 33.004, by each of the voters making the appointment;

(2) indicate the capacity in which the appointing authority is acting;

(3) state the name, residence address, and voter registration number of the appointee and be signed by the appointee;

(4) identify the election and the precinct polling place or other location at which the appointee is to serve;

(5) in an election on a measure, identify the measure if more than one is to be voted on and state which side of the measure the appointee represents; and

(6) contain an affidavit executed by the appointee stating that the appointee:

(A) will not have possession of a device capable of recording images or sound or that the appointee will disable or deactivate the device while serving as a watcher; and

1 (B) has not been finally convicted of a felony of
2 the first or second degree or a felony offense in connection with
3 conduct directly attributable to an election.

4 SECTION 2. Section 33.035, Election Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Sec. 33.035. INELIGIBILITY OF PERSON CONVICTED OF CERTAIN
7 OFFENSES [~~ELECTION OFFENSE~~]. A person is ineligible to serve as a
8 watcher in an election if the person has been finally convicted of a
9 felony:

10 (1) of the first or second degree; or

11 (2) [an offense] in connection with conduct directly
12 attributable to an election.

13 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

H.B. No. 493

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 493 was passed by the House on May 13, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 86, Nays 52, 3 present, not voting; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 493 on May 28, 2025, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 493 on June 1, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 90, Nays 44, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

H.B. No. 493

I certify that H.B. No. 493 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 26, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 26, Nays 5; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 493 on June 1, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 23, Nays 8.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor