

By: Shaheen

H.B. No. 493

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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 an offense in connection with conduct
3 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:

9 (1) a felony of the first or second degree; or

10 (2) an offense in connection with conduct directly
11 attributable to an election.

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