

By: Schofield

H.B. No. 951

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to requiring a voter to be affiliated with a political  
3 party to vote in that party's primary election or otherwise  
4 participate in that party's affairs; creating a criminal offense.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 13.002(c), Election Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (c) A registration application must include:

- 9 (1) the applicant's first name, middle name, if any,  
10 last name, and former name, if any;
- 11 (2) the month, day, and year of the applicant's birth;
- 12 (3) a statement that the applicant is a United States  
13 citizen;
- 14 (4) a statement that the applicant is a resident of the  
15 county;
- 16 (5) a statement that the applicant has not been  
17 determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate  
18 jurisdiction to be:
- 19 (A) totally mentally incapacitated; or  
20 (B) partially mentally incapacitated without the  
21 right to vote;
- 22 (6) a statement that the applicant has not been  
23 finally convicted of a felony or that the applicant is a felon  
24 eligible for registration under Section 13.001;

1           (7) the applicant's residence address or, if the  
2 residence has no address, the address at which the applicant  
3 receives mail and a concise description of the location of the  
4 applicant's residence;

5           (8) the following information:

6                   (A) the applicant's Texas driver's license number  
7 or the number of a personal identification card issued by the  
8 Department of Public Safety;

9                   (B) if the applicant has not been issued a number  
10 described by Paragraph (A), the last four digits of the applicant's  
11 social security number; or

12                   (C) a statement by the applicant that the  
13 applicant has not been issued a number described by Paragraph (A) or  
14 (B);

15           (9) if the application is made by an agent, a statement  
16 of the agent's relationship to the applicant; ~~and~~

17           (10) the city and county in which the applicant  
18 formerly resided; and

19           (11) the applicant's political party affiliation, if  
20 any.

21           SECTION 2. Section 13.122(a), Election Code, is amended to  
22 read as follows:

23           (a) In addition to the other statements and spaces for  
24 entering information that appear on an officially prescribed  
25 registration application form, each official form must include:

26                   (1) the statement: "I understand that giving false  
27 information to procure a voter registration is perjury and a crime

1 under state and federal law.";

2 (2) a space for the applicant's registration number;

3 (3) a space for the applicant's Texas driver's license  
4 number or number of a personal identification card issued by the  
5 Department of Public Safety;

6 (4) a space for the applicant's telephone number;

7 (5) a space for the applicant's social security  
8 number;

9 (6) a space for the applicant's sex;

10 (7) a statement indicating that the furnishing of the  
11 applicant's telephone number and sex is optional;

12 (8) a space or box for indicating whether the  
13 applicant or voter is submitting new registration information or a  
14 change in current registration information;

15 (9) a statement instructing a voter who is using the  
16 form to make a change in current registration information to enter  
17 the voter's name and the changed information in the appropriate  
18 spaces on the form;

19 (10) a statement that if the applicant declines to  
20 register to vote, that fact will remain confidential and will be  
21 used only for voter registration purposes;

22 (11) a statement that if the applicant does register  
23 to vote, information regarding the agency or office to which the  
24 application is submitted will remain confidential and will be used  
25 only for voter registration purposes;

26 (12) a space or box for indicating whether the  
27 applicant is interested in working as an election judge;

1           (13) a statement warning that a conviction for making  
2 a false statement may result in imprisonment for up to the maximum  
3 amount of time provided by law, a fine of up to the maximum amount  
4 provided by law, or both the imprisonment and the fine; ~~and~~

5           (14) a space for the applicant's political party  
6 affiliation; and

7           (15) any other voter registration information  
8 required by federal law or considered appropriate and required by  
9 the secretary of state.

10           SECTION 3. Section 15.001(a), Election Code, is amended to  
11 read as follows:

12           (a) Each voter registration certificate issued must  
13 contain:

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

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

20           (3) the year of the voter's birth;

21           (4) the number of the county election precinct in  
22 which the voter resides;

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

25           (6) the voter's registration number;

26           (7) an indication of the period for which the  
27 certificate is issued;

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

3           (9) a space for indicating [~~stamping~~] the voter's  
4 political party affiliation;

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

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

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

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

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

17           (15) the registrar's mailing address and telephone  
18 number; and

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

22                   (A) congressional district;

23                   (B) state senatorial district;

24                   (C) state representative district;

25                   (D) commissioners precinct;

26                   (E) justice precinct;

27                   (F) city election precinct; and

1 (G) school district election precinct.

2 SECTION 4. Section 15.025(a), Election Code, is amended to  
3 read as follows:

4 (a) Except as provided by Subsections (b) and (d) and  
5 Section 162.003, the registration of a voter described by this  
6 subsection whose information is changed on the registration records  
7 becomes effective as to the change on the 30th day after:

8 (1) the date the voter submits to the registrar a  
9 notice of a change in registration information under Section 15.021  
10 or a response under Section 15.053, indicating the change; or

11 (2) the date the voter submits a statement of  
12 residence to an election officer under Section 63.0011 or a  
13 registration application or change of address to an agency employee  
14 under Chapter 20, indicating the change.

15 SECTION 5. 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);

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

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

26 and

27 (5) contain the voter's political party affiliation,

1 if any.

2 SECTION 6. Section 63.011(a), Election Code, is amended to  
3 read as follows:

4 (a) A person to whom Section 63.001(g), ~~[or]~~ 63.009, or  
5 172.1115(c) applies may cast a provisional ballot if the person  
6 executes an affidavit stating that the person:

7 (1) is a registered voter in the precinct in which the  
8 person seeks to vote; and

9 (2) is eligible to vote in the election.

10 SECTION 7. Section 112.002, Election Code, is amended by  
11 adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

12 (g) If the voter seeks a limited ballot for a party primary  
13 election, the voter must indicate the political party the voter was  
14 affiliated with at the address where the voter was previously  
15 registered on the statement executed under Subsection (c). If the  
16 early voting clerk can establish the voter's affiliation from the  
17 previous registration, the voter is entitled to vote a limited  
18 ballot in that party's primary.

19 SECTION 8. Section 142.004(a), Election Code, is amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 (a) To be entitled to a place on the general election  
22 ballot, a candidate must:

23 (1) make an application for a place on the ballot; and

24 (2) not be affiliated with a political party at the  
25 time the application is made.

26 SECTION 9. Section 142.008, Election Code, is amended to  
27 read as follows:

1           Sec. 142.008. STATEMENT ON PETITION.       The following  
2 statement must appear at the top of each page of a candidate's  
3 petition:    "I know the purpose of this petition.    I am not  
4 affiliated with a political party that holds a primary election  
5 ~~[have not voted in the general primary election or runoff primary~~  
6 ~~election of any political party that has nominated, at either~~  
7 ~~election, a candidate for the office of (insert office title) for~~  
8 ~~which (insert candidate's name) is a candidate]."~~

9           SECTION 10. Section 142.009, Election Code, is amended to  
10 read as follows:

11           Sec. 142.009. PETITION TO BE CIRCULATED AFTER PRIMARY. A  
12 signature on a candidate's petition is invalid if the signer:

13                   (1) signed the petition on or before general primary  
14 election day or, if a runoff primary is held for the office sought  
15 by the candidate, on or before runoff primary election day; or

16                   (2) is affiliated with a political party that holds a  
17 primary election ~~[voted in the general or runoff primary election~~  
18 ~~of a political party that made a nomination, at either primary, for~~  
19 ~~the office sought by the candidate].~~

20           SECTION 11. Section 161.005(a), Election Code, is amended  
21 to read as follows:

22           (a) To be eligible to be a candidate for or to serve as an  
23 officer of a political party, a person must:

24                   (1) except as provided by Subsection (c), not be a  
25 candidate for nomination or election to, or be the holder of, an  
26 elective office of the federal, state, or county government; and

27                   (2) if the office is a county or precinct chair of a



1 political party, be a qualified voter of the county and affiliated  
2 with that political party.

3 SECTION 12. Section 162.001(a), Election Code, is amended  
4 to read as follows:

5 (a) A person must be affiliated with a political party to be  
6 eligible:

7 (1) to serve as a delegate to or otherwise participate  
8 in a convention held by the party under this code;

9 (2) to be elected as a member of or be appointed to  
10 fill a vacancy on a state executive committee;

11 (3) to be appointed to fill a vacancy on a county  
12 executive committee;

13 (4) to vote in the party's primary election;

14 (5) to be a candidate in the party's primary election;

15 (6) to be the party's nominee for an office elected at  
16 the general election for state and county officers;

17 (7) to be a presidential elector for the political  
18 party; or

19 (8) [~~4~~] for any other purpose within the party as  
20 adopted by state party rules.

21 SECTION 13. Section 162.003, Election Code, is amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 Sec. 162.003. AFFILIATION PROCEDURE [~~BY VOTING IN PRIMARY~~].

24 (a) A person becomes affiliated with a political party by notifying  
25 the registrar of the person's affiliation [~~when the person:~~

26 [~~(1) is accepted to vote in the party's primary~~  
27 ~~election; or~~

1           ~~[(2) returns an early voting or limited primary ballot~~  
2 ~~voted by mail].~~

3           (b) At the time a person registers to vote the person may:

4           (1) affiliate with a political party that holds a  
5 primary election or a political party that makes its nominations by  
6 convention regardless of whether the party has a state  
7 organization; or

8           (2) indicate no affiliation with any political party.

9           (c) A registered voter who does not indicate an affiliation  
10 with a political party of this state shall be listed as  
11 "independent" on the voter's registration certificate and on the  
12 list of registered voters.

13           (d) A registered voter may change the voter's affiliation  
14 status by notifying the registrar as provided by Section 15.021.

15           (e) An affiliation under this section takes effect on the  
16 following second Monday in December.

17           (e-1) A person may affiliate with a party when the person is  
18 accepted to vote in the party's primary election. This subsection  
19 expires September 1, 2026.

20           (f) A person may also indicate a party affiliation at the  
21 time the person submits a federal postcard application under  
22 Chapter 101.

23           (g) The secretary of state shall prescribe any additional  
24 procedures necessary to implement this section.

25           SECTION 14. Section 162.010(a), Election Code, is amended  
26 to read as follows:

27           (a) A ~~[Except as provided by Subsection (b), a]~~ party

1 affiliation expires on cancellation of a voter's registration or at  
2 the time a change in affiliation takes effect under Section 162.003  
3 ~~[at the end of the voting year in which the person became~~  
4 ~~affiliated]~~.

5 SECTION 15. Section 162.013, Election Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 162.013. VOID VOTE. A vote in a primary election is  
8 void if the voter is not affiliated with the political party holding  
9 the primary ~~[previously voted in a primary election of another~~  
10 ~~party or participated in a convention of another party during the~~  
11 ~~same voting year]~~.

12 SECTION 16. Sections 162.014(a), (c), and (d), Election  
13 Code, are amended to read as follows:

14 (a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly  
15 votes or attempts to vote in a primary election or participates or  
16 attempts to participate in a convention of a party without being  
17 affiliated with that party ~~[after having voted in a primary~~  
18 ~~election or participated in a convention of another party during~~  
19 ~~the same voting year]~~.

20 (c) An offense under this section is a felony of the second  
21 degree if the conduct constituting an offense under Subsection (a)  
22 consists of knowingly voting in a primary election of a party  
23 without being affiliated with that party ~~[after having voted in a~~  
24 ~~primary election of another party during the same voting year]~~.

25 (d) An offense under this section is a state jail felony if  
26 the conduct constituting an offense under Subsection (a) consists  
27 of knowingly attempting to vote in a primary election of a party

1 without being affiliated with that party [~~after having voted in a~~  
2 ~~primary election of another party during the same voting year~~].

3 SECTION 17. Section 162.017(e), Election Code, is amended  
4 to read as follows:

5 (e) The preregistration process must [~~include the statement~~  
6 ~~described by Section 162.004(a) and~~] require a preregistering  
7 attendee who is not affiliated with the party to affiliate with the  
8 party in accordance with Section 162.003 [~~by taking the oath~~  
9 ~~described in Section 162.007(b)~~].

10 SECTION 18. Section 172.021, Election Code, is amended by  
11 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (b-3) and (d-1) to  
12 read as follows:

13 (b) In [~~An application must, in~~] addition to complying with  
14 Section 141.031, an application must:

15 (1) indicate that, at the time of the application, the  
16 applicant is affiliated with the political party whose nomination  
17 for office the candidate seeks; and

18 (2) be accompanied by the appropriate filing fee or a  
19 petition in lieu of the filing fee that satisfies the requirements  
20 prescribed by Section 141.062. [~~A political party may not require~~  
21 ~~payment of a fee as a condition to applying for a place on the ballot~~  
22 ~~as a candidate for county chair or precinct chair.~~]

23 (b-3) A political party may not require payment of a fee  
24 under this section as a condition to applying for a place on the  
25 ballot as a candidate for county chair or precinct chair.

26 (d-1) A signature on a petition under this section is not  
27 valid if at the time of signing the signer is affiliated with a

1 political party other than the party whose nomination for office  
2 the candidate seeks. A signature on a petition under this section  
3 is valid for purposes of this subsection if at the time of signing  
4 the signer is unaffiliated with a political party.

5 SECTION 19. Section 172.026, Election Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 172.026. RESTRICTION ON PETITION SIGNER. On signing a  
8 petition to be filed under Section 172.021, the signer becomes  
9 ineligible to affiliate with [~~vote in a primary election or~~  
10 ~~participate in a convention of~~] another political party during the  
11 voting year in which the primary election is held.

12 SECTION 20. Section 172.027, Election Code, is amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 Sec. 172.027. STATEMENT ON PETITION. The following  
15 statement must appear at the top of each page of a petition to be  
16 filed under Section 172.021: "I know that the purpose of this  
17 petition is to entitle (insert candidate's name) to have his or her  
18 name placed on the ballot for the office of (insert office title,  
19 including any place number or other distinguishing number) for the  
20 (insert political party's name) primary election. I understand  
21 that by signing this petition I become ineligible to affiliate with  
22 another political party or to vote [~~in a primary election~~] or  
23 participate in a primary election or convention of another party,  
24 including a party not holding a primary election, during the voting  
25 year in which this primary election is held."

26 SECTION 21. Section 172.086, Election Code, is amended to  
27 read as follows:

1           Sec. 172.086. PLEDGE ON BALLOT. The following pledge shall  
2 be placed on the primary election ballot above the listing of  
3 candidates' names: "I am a (insert appropriate political party)  
4 and understand that I am ineligible to affiliate with another  
5 political party or to vote or participate in another political  
6 party's primary election or convention during this voting year."

7           SECTION 22. Section 172.088(c), Election Code, is amended  
8 to read as follows:

9           (c) A petition signer may not at the time of signing be  
10 affiliated with another political party. A political party by rule  
11 may provide for permitting voters who are not affiliated with any  
12 political party to be eligible to sign a petition under this section  
13 ~~[restricting petition signers on the basis of party alignment or~~  
14 ~~preference].~~

15           SECTION 23. Effective September 1, 2026, Subchapter E,  
16 Chapter 172, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 172.1115  
17 to read as follows:

18           Sec. 172.1115. AFFILIATION WITH PARTY REQUIRED. (a) The  
19 signature roster for a primary election must state at the top of  
20 each page "A person commits a criminal offense if the person  
21 knowingly votes in a primary election or participates in a  
22 convention of a party without being affiliated with that party."

23           (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a person may not  
24 be accepted for voting in a primary election of a political party  
25 unless:

26                   (1) the list of registered voters indicates that the  
27 person is affiliated with that political party; or

1           (2) the voter's registration certificate indicates  
2 that the voter is affiliated with that political party.

3           (c) A person who seeks to vote in a primary election but  
4 cannot establish the person's party affiliation under Subsection  
5 (b) may be accepted only for provisional voting under Section  
6 63.011.

7           SECTION 24. Section 172.126(g), Election Code, is amended  
8 to read as follows:

9           (g) A separate set of ballot boxes or other suitable  
10 containers approved by the secretary of state shall be used for each  
11 party's primary, except that one set of ballot boxes or other  
12 containers may be used in a joint primary using an electronic voting  
13 system in which the ballots are deposited by the voters directly  
14 into a unit of automatic tabulating equipment. [~~The lists of~~  
15 ~~registered voters and the voters' registration certificates shall~~  
16 ~~be marked and stamped to show the appropriate party affiliation for~~  
17 ~~each voter.] A separate list of registered voters shall be used for  
18 each party's primary. The secretary of state by rule shall  
19 prescribe requirements to ensure that one party's ballot is readily  
20 distinguished from another's, which may include the use of  
21 different colors of ink.~~

22           SECTION 25. Sections 181.006(f) and (g), Election Code, are  
23 amended to read as follows:

24           (f) The following statement must appear at the top of each  
25 page of the petition: "I know that the purpose of this petition is  
26 to entitle the \_\_\_\_\_ Party to have its nominees placed on the  
27 ballot in the general election for state and county officers. I am

1 not affiliated with another political party. [~~I have not voted in a~~  
2 ~~primary election or participated in a convention of another party~~  
3 ~~during this voting year, and I understand that I become ineligible~~  
4 ~~to do so by signing this petition.~~] I understand that signing more  
5 than one petition to entitle a party to have its nominees placed on  
6 the general election ballot in the same election is prohibited."

7 (g) A person who is affiliated with another political party  
8 [~~has voted in a primary election or participated in a convention of~~  
9 ~~another party during the voting year in which the petition is~~  
10 ~~circulated~~] is ineligible to sign the petition, and the signature  
11 of such a person is invalid.

12 SECTION 26. Section 181.031(a), Election Code, is amended  
13 to read as follows:

14 (a) To be entitled to be considered for nomination by a  
15 convention held under this chapter, a person must:

- 16 (1) make an application for nomination; and  
17 (2) be affiliated with the political party whose  
18 nomination for office the candidate seeks.

19 SECTION 27. Section 181.065, Election Code, is amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 Sec. 181.065. PARTICIPANT TO BE AFFILIATED WITH PARTY  
22 [~~REGISTERED VOTER~~]. To be eligible to participate in a precinct  
23 convention held under this chapter, a person must be affiliated  
24 with the political party [~~a registered voter of the precinct or a~~  
25 ~~precinct resident who is eligible to vote a limited ballot~~].

26 SECTION 28. Section 182.0041(a), Election Code, is amended  
27 to read as follows:



1 (a) To be entitled to be considered for nomination by a  
2 convention held under this chapter, a person must:

3 (1) make an application for nomination; and

4 (2) be affiliated with the political party whose  
5 nomination for office the candidate seeks.

6 SECTION 29. Sections 192.032(f) and (g), Election Code, are  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (f) The following statement must appear at the top of each  
9 page of the petition: "I am not affiliated with a political party  
10 that has held [~~did not vote this year in~~] a presidential primary  
11 election this year."

12 (g) A signature on the petition is invalid if the signer:

13 (1) signs the petition on or before the date of the  
14 presidential primary election in the presidential election year; or

15 (2) is affiliated with a political party that has held  
16 [~~voted in~~] a presidential primary election during the presidential  
17 election year.

18 SECTION 30. Section 203.011, Election Code, is amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 Sec. 203.011. PARTY ALIGNMENT ON BALLOT. The party  
21 alignment of each candidate shall be printed on the official ballot  
22 next to the candidate's name. If a candidate is affiliated with a  
23 political party, that party shall be printed next to the  
24 candidate's name regardless of the party alignment provided on the  
25 application under Section 203.005(b).

26 SECTION 31. The following provisions of the Election Code  
27 are repealed:

- 1 (1) Section 162.001(b);
- 2 (2) Sections 162.004, 162.005, 162.006, 162.007,
- 3 162.008, and 162.009;
- 4 (3) Section 162.010(b);
- 5 (4) Sections 162.011, 162.012, and 172.1141;
- 6 (5) Section 172.115(c); and
- 7 (6) Section 172.125.

8 SECTION 32. (a) Not later than October 1, 2025, the voter  
9 registrar of each county shall mail to each registered voter in the  
10 county notice of the affiliation requirement necessary to vote in a  
11 party primary election or to participate in the affairs of a  
12 political party. The notice must:

13 (1) inform the voter that to vote in a party primary  
14 election or to otherwise participate in the affairs of a political  
15 party the voter must be affiliated with that party;

16 (2) inform the voter of the process of affiliation  
17 with the voter registrar and state that if a voter does not provide  
18 an affiliation, the voter's next registration certificate will  
19 indicate that the voter is "independent" and unable to vote in a  
20 party's primary;

21 (3) include a postage paid postcard that may be  
22 returned to the voter registrar to indicate the voter's  
23 affiliation; and

24 (4) be in the form prescribed by the secretary of  
25 state.

26 (b) If a registered voter does not indicate a party  
27 affiliation before December 11, 2025, the voter registrar shall

1 list the voter's initial affiliation status as "independent." A  
2 person whose initial affiliation status is established as  
3 independent under this subsection may affiliate with a political  
4 party, notwithstanding Section 162.001(a), Election Code, as  
5 amended by this Act, by voting in a primary election in 2026.

6 (c) The change in law made by Section 18.005(a), Election  
7 Code, as amended by this Act, requiring that each list of registered  
8 voters must indicate the political affiliation of each voter  
9 applies only to a list of registered voters produced by a voter  
10 registrar on or after December 11, 2025.

11 (d) The change in law made by Section 15.001(a), Election  
12 Code, as amended by this Act, requiring that each voter  
13 registration certificate must indicate the political affiliation  
14 of the voter applies only to a certificate effective for voting on  
15 or after January 1, 2026.

16 SECTION 33. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this  
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.