

By: West, Royce

S.B. No. 1246

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a program allowing for countywide voting locations in
3 certain elections.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 43, Election Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 43.007 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 43.007. COUNTYWIDE POLLING PLACE PROGRAM. (a) The
8 secretary of state shall implement a program to use countywide
9 polling places for each general election for state and county
10 officers in addition to the polling place located in each county
11 election precinct.

12 (b) The commissioners court of a county that desires to
13 participate in the program authorized by this section shall hold a
14 public hearing on the county's participation in the program. The
15 commissioners court shall submit a transcript or electronic
16 recording of the public comments made at the hearing to the
17 secretary of state.

18 (c) In conducting the program, the secretary of state shall
19 provide for an audit of the direct recording electronic voting
20 units before and after the election, and during the election to the
21 extent such an audit is practicable.

22 (d) The secretary of state shall select to participate in
23 the program each county that:

24 (1) has held a public hearing under Subsection (b);

1 (2) has implemented a computerized voter registration
2 list that allows an election officer at the polling place to verify
3 that a voter has not previously voted in the election;

4 (3) uses direct recording electronic voting machines;
5 and

6 (4) is determined by the secretary of state to have the
7 appropriate technological capabilities.

8 (e) The secretary of state may select a county to
9 participate in the program that has previously participated in a
10 similar program.

11 (f) A county that participates in a program under this
12 section shall establish countywide polling places:

13 (1) at locations in central business districts;

14 (2) at the location of the main early voting polling
15 place;

16 (3) at the location of a permanent branch polling
17 place established under Section 85.061;

18 (4) at the location of a temporary branch polling
19 place established under Section 85.062; and

20 (5) outside a central business district, based on
21 geography and population to promote even distribution outside
22 central business districts.

23 (g) In selecting locations under Subsection (f), a county
24 shall ensure that more countywide polling places are located in
25 central business districts than in other areas of similar size.

26 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.