

By: Ortiz, Jr.

H.B. No. 820

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain ballot access requirements.

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

SECTION 1. Section 142.007, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 142.007. NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES REQUIRED. The minimum number of signatures that must appear on a candidate's petition is:

(1) 500, for a statewide office [~~, one percent of the total vote received by all candidates for governor in the most recent gubernatorial general election~~]; or

(2) for a district, county, or precinct office, the lesser of:

(A) 100 [~~500~~]; or

(B) two [~~five~~] percent of the total vote received in the district, county, or precinct, as applicable, by all candidates for governor in the most recent gubernatorial general election, unless that number is under 25, in which case the required number of signatures is the lesser of:

(i) 25; or

(ii) five [~~10~~] percent of that total vote.

SECTION 2. Section 181.005(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) To be entitled to have the names of its nominees placed

1 on the general election ballot, a political party required to make
2 nominations by convention must file with the secretary of state,
3 not later than the 75th day after the date of the precinct
4 conventions held under this chapter, lists of precinct convention
5 participants indicating that the number of participants equals at
6 least 500 [~~one percent of the total number of votes received by all~~
7 ~~candidates for governor in the most recent gubernatorial general~~
8 ~~election~~]. The lists must include each participant's residence
9 address and voter registration number.

10 SECTION 3. Section 181.006(b), Election Code, is amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (b) A petition must:

13 (1) satisfy the requirements prescribed by Section
14 141.062 for a candidate's petition;

15 (2) contain 500 signatures [~~in a number that, when~~
16 ~~added to the number of convention participants indicated on the~~
17 ~~lists, equals at least one percent of the total number of votes~~
18 ~~received by all candidates for governor in the most recent~~
19 ~~gubernatorial general election~~]; and

20 (3) be filed with the secretary of state by the state
21 chair before the deadline for filing the lists of precinct
22 convention participants.

23 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.