

By: Larson

H.B. No. 1214

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the date of the primary election and related  
3 procedures.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 41.007(a), (b), and (c), Election Code,  
6 are amended to read as follows:

7 (a) The general primary election date is the fourth [~~first~~]  
8 Tuesday in January [~~March~~] in each even-numbered year.

9 (b) The runoff primary election date is the fourth Tuesday  
10 in March [~~May~~] following the general primary election.

11 (c) The presidential primary election date is the fourth  
12 [~~first~~] Tuesday in January [~~March~~] in each presidential election  
13 year.

14 SECTION 2. Section 141.031(a), Election Code, is amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 (a) A candidate's application for a place on the ballot that  
17 is required by this code must:

18 (1) be in writing;

19 (2) be signed and sworn to by the candidate and  
20 indicate the date that the candidate swears to the application;

21 (3) be timely filed with the appropriate authority;  
22 and

23 (4) include:

24 (A) the candidate's name;

1 (B) the candidate's occupation;

2 (C) the office sought, including any place number  
3 or other distinguishing number;

4 (D) an indication of whether the office sought is  
5 to be filled for a full or unexpired term if the office sought and  
6 another office to be voted on have the same title but do not have  
7 place numbers or other distinguishing numbers;

8 (E) a statement that the candidate is a United  
9 States citizen;

10 (F) a statement that the candidate has not been  
11 determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate  
12 jurisdiction to be:

13 (i) totally mentally incapacitated; or

14 (ii) partially mentally incapacitated  
15 without the right to vote;

16 (G) a statement that the candidate has not been  
17 finally convicted of a felony from which the candidate has not been  
18 pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities;

19 (H) the candidate's date of birth;

20 (I) the candidate's residence address or, if the  
21 residence has no address, the address at which the candidate  
22 receives mail and a concise description of the location of the  
23 candidate's residence;

24 (J) the candidate's length of continuous  
25 residence in the state and in the territory from which the office  
26 sought is elected as of the date the candidate swears to the  
27 application;

1 (K) the statement: "I, \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_  
2 County, Texas, being a candidate for the office of \_\_\_\_\_,  
3 swear that I will support and defend the constitution and laws of  
4 the United States and of the State of Texas"; ~~and~~

5 (L) a statement that the candidate is aware of  
6 the nepotism law, Chapter 573, Government Code; and

7 (M) a statement that the candidate is aware of  
8 the provisions of Section 65, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

9 SECTION 3. Section 162.003, Election Code, is amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 Sec. 162.003. AFFILIATION BY VOTING IN PRIMARY. (a) A  
12 person becomes affiliated with a political party when the person:

13 (1) is accepted to vote in the party's primary  
14 election; or

15 (2) applies for and is provided an early voting or  
16 limited primary ballot to be voted by mail.

17 (b) An affiliation under Subsection (a)(2) applies to the  
18 voting year in which the primary election is held.

19 SECTION 4. Section 172.023(a), Election Code, is amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 (a) An application for a place on the general primary  
22 election ballot must be filed not later than 6 p.m. on the second  
23 Monday in October [~~December~~] of an odd-numbered year unless the  
24 filing deadline is extended under Subchapter C.

25 SECTION 5. Section 173.010, Election Code, is amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 Sec. 173.010. FURNISHING RULES. During September

1 ~~[November]~~ preceding each primary election year, the secretary of  
2 state shall deliver to the state chair and each county chair of each  
3 political party holding a primary election a current set of the  
4 rules adopted under this subchapter. If a rule or amendment of a  
5 rule is adopted after delivery of the set, the secretary shall  
6 deliver a copy of the rule or amendment not later than the 10th day  
7 after the date of its adoption.

8 SECTION 6. Section 181.0041, Election Code, is amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 Sec. 181.0041. REGISTRATION OF PARTY REQUIRED. A political  
11 party that intends to make nominations under this chapter for the  
12 general election for state and county officers must register with  
13 the secretary of state, in the manner prescribed by the secretary,  
14 not later than the regular filing deadline for candidates in the  
15 general primary election ~~[January 2 of the election year]~~.

16 SECTION 7. Sections 181.061(b) and (c), Election Code, are  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 (b) A party nominating by convention must make its  
19 nominations for offices of districts situated in more than one  
20 county at district conventions held on the second Saturday after  
21 general primary election day ~~[the second Tuesday in March]~~. A  
22 district convention consists of delegates selected at the county  
23 conventions held under Subsection (c).

24 (c) A party nominating by convention must make its  
25 nominations for county and precinct offices and for offices of  
26 districts not situated in more than one county at county  
27 conventions held on the first Saturday after general primary

1 election day [~~the second Tuesday in March~~]. A county convention  
2 consists of delegates selected at precinct conventions held on  
3 general primary election day [~~the second Tuesday in March~~] in the  
4 regular county election precincts.

5 SECTION 8. Section 182.005, Election Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 182.005. NOMINATIONS MADE BY COUNTY CONVENTION. A  
8 political party must make its nominations under this chapter at a  
9 county convention held on the first Saturday after general primary  
10 election day [~~the second Tuesday in March of the election year~~].  
11 The convention consists of delegates selected at precinct  
12 conventions held on general primary election day [~~the second~~  
13 ~~Tuesday in March~~] in the regular county election precincts.

14 SECTION 9. Section 204.005, Election Code, is amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 Sec. 204.005. VACANCY FILLED AT SPECIAL ELECTION. An [~~If a~~  
17 ~~vacancy occurs during an odd-numbered year or after the 62nd day~~  
18 ~~before general primary election day in an even-numbered year, the~~  
19 ~~remainder of the~~] unexpired term shall be filled by a special  
20 election in the same manner as provided by Chapter 203 for the  
21 legislature, except that:

22 (1) the minimum number of signatures that must appear  
23 on a petition accompanying a candidate's application for a place on  
24 the ballot is 5,000; and

25 (2) Section 203.013 does not apply.

26 SECTION 10. Sections 204.003 and 204.004, Election Code,  
27 are repealed.

1           SECTION 11. The term of a person who is serving as a county  
2 or precinct chair of a political party on the effective date of this  
3 Act ends on the 20th day after the fourth Tuesday in March 2016.

4           SECTION 12. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.