

By: Blanco

H.B. No. 2644

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to notice given of election precinct boundary changes.

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

SECTION 1. Section 42.034, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 42.034. NOTICE TO REGISTRAR; REGISTRAR TO MAKE MAP AVAILABLE. (a) The commissioners court shall deliver a certified copy of an order changing a county election precinct boundary to the voter registrar not later than the seventh day after the date the order is adopted.

(b) The registrar shall make an electronic version of the precinct boundary map available on the website of the county. If no county website is maintained, the registrar shall provide copies of the precinct boundary map upon written request.

SECTION 2. Sections 42.035(a) and (c), Election Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Not later than ~~Beginning with~~ the first week following the week in which an order changing a county election precinct boundary is adopted, the commissioners court shall publish notice of the change on the website of the county ~~[in a newspaper in the county once a week for three consecutive weeks]~~.

(c) If no county website is maintained ~~[newspaper is published in the county]~~, the commissioners court shall post the notice at the county courthouse on the bulletin board used for

1 posting notice of meetings of the commissioners court. The notice
2 must remain posted continuously for three consecutive weeks.

3 SECTION 3. The heading to Section 42.036, Election Code, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Sec. 42.036. ADDITIONAL NOTICE TO CERTAIN COUNTY CHAIRS [~~IN~~
6 ~~POPULOUS COUNTIES~~].

7 SECTION 4. Section 42.036(b), Election Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (b) The commissioners court shall deliver written notice of
10 each proposed change and of each order making a change in a county
11 election precinct boundary to[+]

12 [~~(1)~~] the county chair of each political party that
13 held a primary election in the county on the most recent general
14 primary day[+]

15 [~~(2) the political party's precinct chair of each~~
16 ~~affected election precinct; and~~

17 [~~(3) the presiding judge appointed by the~~
18 ~~commissioners court for each affected election precinct~~].

19 SECTION 5. Sections 42.037(a) and (c), Election Code, are
20 amended to read as follows:

21 (a) Not later than the 120th day after the date an order
22 changing a county election precinct boundary is adopted, the county
23 clerk shall deliver to the secretary of state a map depicting the
24 affected precinct's boundary as changed and showing the number of
25 the precinct. The map may be delivered in an electronic format.

26 (c) The state librarian shall retain the map for 20 years
27 after receipt, except that for a map delivered in electronic

1 format, the state librarian may retain the map for more than 20
2 years to follow standard retention practices.

3 SECTION 6. Section 42.036(a), Election Code, is repealed.

4 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.