

By: Hall

S.B. No. 2091

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an election authorizing the issuance of bonds or an increase in taxes by a political subdivision.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Chapter 2, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 2. VOTE REQUIRED FOR ELECTION [~~TO OFFICE~~]

SECTION 2. Chapter 2, Election Code, is amended by adding Subchapter E to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER E. TURNOUT REQUIREMENTS

Sec. 2.101. POLITICAL SUBDIVISION BOND OR TAX ELECTION. An election held by a political subdivision to authorize the issuance of bonds or a tax increase has no effect regarding the issuance of the bonds or the tax increase unless more than 25 percent of the registered voters of the political subdivision vote in the election in which the bond or tax proposition is on the ballot.

SECTION 3. Section 85.062, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (h) to read as follows:

(h) In an election held by a political subdivision for which the ballot includes a proposition seeking voter approval of the issuance of bonds or a tax increase, a temporary branch polling place must:

(1) remain at the same location for the entire period during which early voting by personal appearance is conducted in

1 the district; and

2 (2) allow for early voting by personal appearance to
3 be conducted during the same days and hours as voting is conducted
4 at the main early voting polling place under Section 85.005.

5 SECTION 4. Chapter 271, Election Code, is amended by adding
6 Section 271.015 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 271.015. JOINT ELECTIONS REQUIRED FOR POLITICAL
8 SUBDIVISION BOND OR TAX INCREASE APPROVAL. (a) Notwithstanding
9 any other law, an election authorizing the issuance of bonds or a
10 tax increase by a political subdivision shall be held as a joint
11 election under this chapter.

12 (b) A single ballot containing all the offices or
13 propositions stating measures to be voted on at a particular
14 polling place must be used in a joint election required under this
15 section.

16 (c) The secretary of state shall prescribe procedures to
17 implement this section.

18 SECTION 5. Section 1251.001, Government Code, is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 Sec. 1251.001. BOND ELECTION REQUIRED. (a) A political
21 subdivision [county or municipality] may not issue bonds [that are
22 to be paid from ad valorem taxes] unless the issuance is first
23 approved by the qualified voters of the political subdivision
24 [county or municipality] in an election.

25 (b) To the extent of a conflict between this section and
26 another law, this section controls.

27 SECTION 6. Section 1251.003(d), Government Code, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 (d) In addition to the notice required by Section 4.003(c),
3 Election Code, notice of the election shall be given by:

4 (1) posting a substantial copy of the election order
5 at:

6 (A) three public places in the political
7 subdivision [~~county or municipality~~] holding the election; and

8 (B) the county courthouse of any county in which
9 the political subdivision is located, if the election is held by a
10 political subdivision other than a municipality [~~a county~~
11 ~~election~~], or the city hall, if the election is a municipal
12 election; and

13 (2) publishing notice of the election in a newspaper
14 of general circulation published in the political subdivision
15 [~~county or municipality~~] holding the election.

16 SECTION 7. Section 1251.004, Government Code, is amended to
17 read as follows:

18 Sec. 1251.004. IMPOSITION OF TAX. At an election ordered on
19 the issuance of bonds of a [~~county or municipality, or of a~~]
20 political subdivision or a defined district of a county or
21 municipality payable from ad valorem taxes, the governing body of
22 the political subdivision [~~county or municipality~~] shall also
23 submit the question of whether to impose a tax on property in the
24 [~~county, municipality,~~] political subdivision[~~7~~] or defined
25 district to pay interest on the bonds and to provide a sinking fund
26 to redeem the bonds.

27 SECTION 8. Section 1251.006, Government Code, is repealed.

1 SECTION 9. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
2 bonds authorized to be issued or a tax increase authorized on or
3 after the effective date of this Act. Bonds or a tax increase
4 authorized before the effective date of this Act are governed by the
5 law in effect when the bonds were authorized, and the former law is
6 continued in effect for that purpose.

7 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect immediately if it
8 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
9 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
10 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
11 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2017.