

By: Bucy

H.B. No. 933

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to posting of election information on the secretary of
3 state's and each county's Internet website.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 4.003(b), Election Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (b) In addition to any other notice given for an election
8 under Subsection (a), not later than the 21st day before election
9 day, the authority responsible for giving notice of the election
10 shall post a copy of the notice, which must include the location of
11 each polling place, on the county's Internet website and may post a
12 copy of the notice on the bulletin board used for posting notices of
13 the meetings of the governing body of the political subdivision
14 that the authority serves. For each precinct that is combined to
15 form a consolidated precinct under Section 42.008, not later than
16 the 10th day before election day, the authority shall also post, at
17 the polling place used in the preceding general election, notice of
18 the precinct's consolidation and the location of the polling place
19 in the consolidated precinct. A notice posted under this
20 subsection must remain posted continuously through election day.

21 SECTION 2. Section 31.012(a), Election Code, as effective
22 September 1, 2020, is amended to read as follows:

23 (a) The secretary of state and the voter registrar of each
24 county [~~that maintains a website~~] shall provide notice of the

1 identification requirements for voting prescribed by Chapter 63 and
2 that straight ticket voting has been eliminated pursuant to H.B.
3 25, Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, on each
4 entity's respective website in each language in which voter
5 registration and election materials are available. The secretary
6 of state shall prescribe the wording of the notice to be included on
7 the websites.

8 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 31, Election Code, is
9 amended by adding Section 31.016 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 31.016. VOTER INFORMATION ON SECRETARY OF STATE'S
11 WEBSITE. (a) The secretary of state shall prescribe procedures
12 requiring the county officer responsible for administering
13 elections to submit contact information of the county election
14 office to the secretary of state for inclusion on the secretary of
15 state's Internet website, including:

- 16 (1) the street address and zip code;
17 (2) the mailing address if different from the address
18 provided in Subdivision (1);
19 (3) telephone number;
20 (4) facsimile number; and
21 (5) e-mail address.

22 (b) The secretary of state shall prescribe procedures
23 requiring each entity designating the location of a polling place,
24 including an early voting polling place, to submit information on
25 the location to the secretary of state for inclusion on the
26 secretary of state's Internet website.

27 (c) For each polling place the information submitted must

1 include:

2 (1) the name of the building in which the polling place
3 is located, if available;

4 (2) the street address and zip code of the polling
5 place; and

6 (3) the days and hours of voting at each location.

7 (d) The polling information under Subsection (c) shall be
8 posted on the secretary of state's Internet website in a
9 downloadable format.

10 SECTION 4. Subchapter E, Chapter 31, Election Code, is
11 amended by adding Section 31.125 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 31.125. COUNTY WEBSITE. (a) The county officer
13 responsible for administering elections shall post on the county's
14 Internet website contact information for the county election office
15 including:

16 (1) the street address and zip code;

17 (2) the mailing address if different from the address
18 provided in Subdivision (1);

19 (3) telephone number;

20 (4) facsimile number; and

21 (5) e-mail address.

22 (b) For each polling place located in the county, the county
23 shall post on the county's Internet website:

24 (1) the name of the building in which the polling place
25 is located, if available;

26 (2) the street address and zip code of the polling
27 place; and

1 (3) the days and hours of voting at each location.

2 SECTION 5. Section 32.114(c), Election Code, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 (c) The county clerk shall:

5 (1) post a notice of the time and place of each session
6 on the county's Internet website and may post the notice on the
7 bulletin board used for posting notice of meetings of the
8 commissioners court and shall include on the notice a statement
9 that the program is open to the public;

10 (2) notify each presiding judge appointed by the
11 commissioners court of the time and place of each session and of the
12 duty of each election judge to complete the training program;

13 (3) notify the county chair of each political party in
14 the county of the time and place of each session; and

15 (4) notify the voter registrar of the date, hour, and
16 place of each session.

17 SECTION 6. Section 42.035(a), Election Code, is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (a) Beginning with the first week following the week in
20 which an order changing a county election precinct boundary is
21 adopted, the commissioners court shall publish notice of the
22 change:

23 (1) in a newspaper in the county once a week for three
24 consecutive weeks; and

25 (2) on the county's Internet website for three
26 consecutive weeks.

27 SECTION 7. Section 43.061(c), Election Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (c) Notice required by Subsection (b) must be given by:

3 (1) notifying each candidate whose name appears on the
4 ballot in the election or, in the case of an office filled by voters
5 of more than one county, notifying the county chair or, for an
6 independent candidate, the county judge of the county in which the
7 change occurs; or

8 (2) posting the notice in a listing used specifically
9 to inform the public of changes to the location of a polling place
10 on the [~~any~~] Internet website that the county clerk maintains to
11 provide information on elections held in the county.

12 SECTION 8. Section 66.059, Election Code, is amended by
13 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as
14 follows:

15 (b) If the political subdivision holding the election is not
16 a county, the [~~The~~] district judge shall post a notice of the date,
17 hour, and place for opening the box on the bulletin board used for
18 posting notices of the meetings of the governing body of the
19 political subdivision served by the general custodian of election
20 records. The notice must remain posted continuously for the 24
21 hours immediately preceding the hour set for opening the box.

22 (b-1) If the political subdivision holding the election is a
23 county, the district judge shall post a notice of the date, hour,
24 and place for opening the box on the county's Internet website. The
25 notice must remain posted continuously for the 24 hours preceding
26 the hour set for opening the box.

27 SECTION 9. Section 67.012(b), Election Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (b) The secretary of state shall post, on the secretary of
3 state's Internet website [~~bulletin board used for posting notice of~~
4 ~~meetings of state governmental bodies~~], a notice of the date, hour,
5 and place of the canvass at least 72 hours before the canvass is
6 conducted.

7 SECTION 10. Section 85.007(c), Election Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (c) Notice under Subsection (b) shall be posted
10 continuously for at least 72 hours immediately preceding the first
11 hour that the voting to which the notice pertains will be conducted.
12 The notice shall be posted on:

13 (1) the bulletin board used for posting notice of
14 meetings of the [~~commissioners court if the early voting clerk is~~
15 ~~the county clerk, or of the~~] city governing body if the early voting
16 clerk is the city secretary; or

17 (2) the county's Internet website if the early voting
18 clerk is the county clerk.

19 SECTION 11. Section 85.067(d), Election Code, is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (d) The schedule shall be posted on:

22 (1) the bulletin board used for posting notice of
23 meetings of the governing body of the political subdivision served
24 by the authority ordering the election or, if the early voting clerk
25 is the [~~county clerk or~~] city secretary, meetings of the
26 [~~commissioners court or~~] city governing body; or

27 (2) the county's Internet website if the early voting

1 clerk is the county clerk [~~, as applicable~~].

2 SECTION 12. Section 87.027, Election Code, is amended by
3 amending Subsection (k) and adding Subsection (k-1) to read as
4 follows:

5 (k) Postings required by this section shall be made on the
6 bulletin board used for posting notice of meetings of the
7 [~~commissioners court, in an election for which the county election~~
8 ~~board is established or a primary election, or of the~~] governing
9 body of the political subdivision in an election other than an
10 election for which the county election board is established or a
11 primary election [~~other elections~~].

12 (k-1) Postings required by this section shall be made on the
13 county's Internet website in an election for which the county
14 election board is established or a primary election.

15 SECTION 13. Section 172.113(d), Election Code, is amended
16 to read as follows:

17 (d) The authority shall make periodic announcements of the
18 current state of the tabulation, including by posting the
19 announcements on the Internet website of the county [~~, if the county~~
20 ~~maintains a website~~].

21 SECTION 14. Section 181.006(k), Election Code, is amended
22 to read as follows:

23 (k) The secretary of state shall post a notice of the
24 receipt of a petition on the secretary of state's Internet website
25 and may post the notice on a bulletin board used for posting notice
26 of meetings of state governmental bodies. Any person may challenge
27 the validity of the petition by filing a written statement of the

1 challenge with the secretary of state not later than the fifth day
2 after the date notice is posted. The secretary of state may verify
3 the petition signatures regardless of whether the petition is
4 timely challenged.

5 SECTION 15. Section 203.012(c), Election Code, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 (c) The secretary of state shall post, on the secretary of
8 state's Internet website [~~bulletin board used for posting notice of~~
9 ~~meetings of state governmental bodies~~], a notice of the date, hour,
10 and place of the canvass at least 24 hours before the canvass is
11 conducted.

12 SECTION 16. Section 274.002(c), Election Code, is amended
13 to read as follows:

14 (c) The secretary of state shall post on the secretary of
15 state's Internet website and may post on a bulletin board for
16 posting notice of a meeting of a state governmental body a notice of
17 the date, hour, and place of the drawing. The notice must remain
18 posted continuously for 72 hours immediately preceding the
19 scheduled time of the drawing.

20 SECTION 17. (a) Not later than September 1, 2019, the
21 secretary of state shall post the information as required by
22 Section 31.016, Election Code, as added by this Act.

23 (b) Not later than October 1, 2019, the county shall post
24 information as required by Section 31.125, Election Code, as added
25 by this Act.

26 SECTION 18. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.