

By: Turner of Tarrant

H.B. No. 3660

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the arrangement of party columns on the ballot.

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

SECTION 1. Section 52.091, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 52.091. PARTY COLUMNS. ~~[(a)]~~ Party columns shall be arranged on the ballot using methodical variation as follows:

(1) for the first precinct, the authority ordering the election shall conduct a drawing and arrange the party columns in the order the name of the party is drawn, beginning on the left;

(2) for the second precinct, the order of the party columns in the first precinct shall be rotated so that the party in the first column moves to the last column and each party column moves to the left by one position; and

(3) for any subsequent precinct, the order of party columns shall be rotated in the manner described by Subdivision (2)
~~[in the following order, beginning on the left:~~

~~[(1) columns of parties with nominees for statewide or district offices,~~

~~[(2) columns of parties without nominees for statewide or district offices.~~

~~[(b) Columns of parties specified by Subsection (a)(1) shall be arranged in descending order of the number of votes received statewide by each party's candidate for governor in the~~

1 ~~most recent gubernatorial general election, beginning on the left~~
2 ~~with the party whose candidate received the highest number of~~
3 ~~votes. Columns of parties that did not have a candidate for~~
4 ~~governor in the most recent gubernatorial general election shall~~
5 ~~appear after the columns of parties that had a candidate, and the~~
6 ~~order of their columns shall be determined by a drawing conducted by~~
7 ~~the secretary of state].~~

8 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.