

By: Bettencourt

S.B. No. 2219

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to ballot propositions authorizing political subdivisions to issue bonds or other debt or to impose or change a tax.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 41, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 41.0051 to read as follows:

Sec. 41.0051. PROPOSITION FOR APPROVAL OF ISSUANCE OF BONDS OR OTHER DEBT. (a) A proposition for approval of the issuance of bonds or other debt shall be submitted to the voters in an election held on the November uniform election date, except as provided by Subsection (b).

(b) Notwithstanding Section 41.0011(a), an emergency election under Section 41.0011 at which a proposition described by Subsection (a) is submitted to the voters shall be held on any uniform election date.

(c) If a law outside this code requires a proposition described by Subsection (a) to be submitted to the voters in an election held on a date other than the November uniform election date, the authority administering the election shall set the election date to comply with this section.

SECTION 2. Section 52.072, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(e) In addition to any other requirement imposed by law for

1 a proposition, including a provision prescribing the proposition  
2 language, a proposition in an election of a political subdivision,  
3 including a city, county, school district, or special taxing  
4 district, submitted to the voters for approval of [~~the issuance of~~  
5 ~~bonds or~~] the imposition, increase, or reduction of a tax shall  
6 specifically state, as applicable:

7 (1) [~~with respect to a proposition seeking voter~~  
8 ~~approval of the issuance of bonds.~~

9 [(A) ~~the total principal amount of the bonds to~~  
10 ~~be authorized, if approved; and~~

11 [(B) ~~a general description of the purposes for~~  
12 ~~which the bonds are to be authorized, if approved;~~

13 [~~(2)~~] with respect to a proposition that only seeks  
14 voter approval of the imposition or increase of a tax:

15 (A) [~~7~~] the amount of or maximum tax rate of the  
16 tax or tax increase for which approval is sought;

17 (B) the estimated additional tax burden that  
18 would be imposed on a homestead with a value equal to the median  
19 homestead value in the political subdivision, as computed by the  
20 appraisal district, after the imposition or increase of the tax, if  
21 approved; and

22 (C) a detailed description of the purposes for  
23 which the tax is to be imposed or increased, if approved; or

24 (2) [~~(3)~~] with respect to a proposition that only  
25 seeks voter approval of the reduction of a tax:

26 (A) [~~7~~] the amount of tax rate reduction or the  
27 tax rate for which approval is sought; and

1           (B) the estimated tax reduction for a homestead  
2 with a value equal to the median homestead value in the political  
3 subdivision, as computed by the appraisal district, if the  
4 reduction of the tax is approved.

5           (f) A proposition to which Subsection (e) applies or for  
6 approval of the issuance of bonds may not exceed:

7                   (1) 5,000 characters; or

8                   (2) a different limit prescribed by the secretary of  
9 state that ensures that the length of the proposition does not  
10 exceed one page of the ballot or one screen on an electronic voting  
11 machine.

12           SECTION 3. Chapter 1251, Government Code, is amended by  
13 designating Sections 1251.001, 1251.002, 1251.003, 1251.004,  
14 1251.005, and 1251.006 as Subchapter A and adding a subchapter  
15 heading to read as follows:

16           SUBCHAPTER A. PROVISIONS RELATING GENERALLY TO BOND ELECTIONS

17           SECTION 4. Chapter 1251, Government Code, is amended by  
18 adding Subchapter B to read as follows:

19           SUBCHAPTER B. BALLOT PROPOSITION FOR BONDS ISSUED BY POLITICAL

20                                   SUBDIVISION

21           Sec. 1251.051. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies to  
22 bonds issued by any political subdivision, including a  
23 municipality, county, school district, or special taxing district.

24           Sec. 1251.052. FORM. A proposition seeking voter approval  
25 of the issuance of bonds shall specifically state:

26                   (1) a general description of the purposes for which  
27 the bonds are to be authorized;

- 1           (2) the total principal amount of the bonds;  
2           (3) the total amount of the political subdivision's  
3 debt secured by ad valorem taxes currently outstanding;  
4           (4) the total amount of the political subdivision's  
5 current payments on debt secured by ad valorem taxes;  
6           (5) the amount of taxes required to be imposed on a  
7 homestead with a value equal to the median homestead value in the  
8 political subdivision, as computed by the appraisal district, to  
9 repay the political subdivision's current debt obligations secured  
10 by ad valorem taxes; and  
11           (6) the estimated tax burden that would be imposed on a  
12 homestead with a value equal to the median homestead value in the  
13 political subdivision, as computed by the appraisal district, to  
14 repay the bonds to be authorized, if approved.

15           SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
16 an election ordered on or after the effective date of this Act. An  
17 election ordered before the effective date of this Act is governed  
18 by the law in effect when the election was ordered, and the former  
19 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

20           SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.