

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 3

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS & REMEDIES, SELECT

Hearing Date: July 10, 2021 8:00 AM

Pamela Mahomes

Self-retired accountant

Dallas, TX

To Representative Morgan Meyer and Senator Nathan Johnson, I am writing to request that you OPPOSE any bill during this special session that would make it more difficult for all, properly registered Texans, or would suppress / hamper the ability to exercise their right to vote. As a registered and informed voter in the city of Dallas (who regularly votes) and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., I cherish and take seriously this responsibility to vote and participate in our democracy. I support measures that would encourage and increase the participation of all eligible citizens, to have their voices heard. To date, I have not read of or seen ANY credible evidence of widespread voter fraud and I am concerned that this legislation seems to discourage rather than inform and encourage the participation of ALL eligible voters (A SOLUTION IN SEARCH OF A PROBLEM).

Carolyn Parmer

Self

Austin, TX

Expand access to voting. Do not limit it. Democracy depends on having all voices participate. One of my sons has a disability and was able to vote for the first time as he could do so by mail last election. His voice matters.

Shawn Lowary

Self and many other large disability groups.

Dallas, TX

As an aging person with disabilities, I want and need to be able to vote and register in an easier way. Everything that you're proposing is making it harder to vote justifying it in the fraud that isn't happening. You spent 22,000 man hours trying to find fraud in do not have one conviction. You're wasting my time, and taxpayers and citizens of Texas's time. You are doing us a huge disservice and you should rethink running for another term.

Linda Maldonado

Self/Retired

San Antonio, TX

OPPOSED to HB 3

I am OPPOSED to HB 3 because it will: Criminalize some aspects of voter registration. It will allow poll watchers to breathe down the necks of voters and election workers. It will make voting by mail a jail felony if not all the "i's" or not dotted or "t's" are crossed perfectly. Like HB 6 and SB 7 in the regular session, this is an attempt to pass a bad bill under the cover of darkness. HB6/SB7 included horrific amendments by the Conference Committee. Some members of the Conference Committee were not permitted to see the Conference Committee bill. Rules were suspended by the Senate in order to pass SB 7 and they were also suspended in the House on May 30th. Why is there so much cheating involved in trying to get these bills passed? Why are hearings for HB 3 and SB 1 being held on the same day? Everyone knows you can't attend two hearings in one day, because it takes over 12 hours to attend a hearing. Why is the Texas lege trying to prevent public testimony at one of the two hearings on

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July 10th? These bills have one goal: To prevent voters from voting so that a specific candidate will win elections. This bill is not about election integrity. It's a form of cheating. This is not election integrity! I am OPPOSED to HB 3 - Linda Maldonado, San Antonio

Michael Daniels

Self, Sr. Principal, Bankruptcy

Garland, TX

I am opposed to the limitations on voting by mail and requiring more ID to make voting more difficult. I am also opposed to allowing poll watchers more opportunity to interfere with voting. Our legislature should be focusing on how to engage MORE Texas citizens in voting instead of trying to prevent voting. If the legislature is truly working for the public good they wouldn't be so concerned with trying to prohibit voting.

Kara Chasteen

Self and Burnet County Republican Party

Bertram, TX

Dear Mr Chairman and Committee Members,

I urge you to pass this Bill for all the citizens of Texas and the USA. If we the people cannot trust our election process, we have no country. This is the single most important job you have in this session.

Thank you for your time.

Charles Simmons, Person

Self - Engineer

Houston, TX

For! No Watered Down Bills. People of color are not so dumb as not to easily be able to do this. Just like they do in ALL third world countries.

Voter suppression is fraudulent votes that suppress my vote!

An election integrity bill must include the following provisions:

- Voting must only take place on Election Day. No mass early voting.
- Election observers must be able to collect evidence and observe unhindered.
- Ballot drop boxes must be completely prohibited.
- There must be a paper trail.

Are any of YOU going to Mike Lindell's FrankSpeech conference on Proof Against Voter Fraud for legislators in Sioux Falls South Dakota in mid-August? Date to be set at FranksSpeech.com, LindellTV.com. See Absolute Documentaries on FrankSpeech.com.

Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe

self

DENTON, TX

In 2020, the state of Texas held a free and fair election, thanks to the efforts of thousands of volunteers working for the good people employed at each and every county elections office.

None of these reforms are necessary. In fact, it's clear that many of the new provisions are so poorly thought through that they do not consider the unintended consequences for voters with disabilities, particularly those who require an individual

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accommodation to exercise their constitutional rights.

I oppose HB 3. This legislation, as with all poorly conceived legislation, needs to stay in committee until its many problems are fixed.

Steven Wu

Self, Health Policy Associate

Houston, TX

Dear Chair Ashby, Vice Chair Thompson, and Members of the Select Committee on Constitutional Rights & Remedies,

My name is Steven Wu, Health Policy Associate, and I write today to voice my opposition to House Bill 3 and urge you all to vote no on this bill. While I am pleased to see certain provisions of previous versions of this bill removed (e.g. Sunday voting hours, Overturning of elections, etc), this bill still carries many similar voter registration and turnout restrictions as SB7.

We saw no evidence to wide spread voter fraud in 2020. We had a safe and fair election as stated by the previous Secretary of State, Ruth Hughs. To enact new law that would address an issue that doesn't exist is not sound policy, is government overreach, and is a denial of Texan's freedoms.

We saw huge voter turnout increases last year due to increased interest among the electorate and increased accessibility to the ballot box, while maintaining election integrity. We demonstrated that Texas has the potential to go from the least voter engaged state to the most engaged.

But HB3 provisions would hamper all of that. From requiring additional voter ID information to vote by mail applications and ballots, to criminalizing those who assist voters that might forget another step in this process, to empowering poll watchers to potentially intimidate voters (especially those who are new and limited English proficient), to limiting poll site voting hours, to barring counties from enacting creative and accessible methods to voter turnouts, this will no doubt make it more difficult and less appealing to vote.

As someone who has done voter outreach work for the Asian American community here in Houston, I know first hand that many of our members still need assistance in registering to vote and to fill out the ballot box due to unfamiliarity with the process or because of their English proficiency. Adding new confusing rules, requiring additional information to submit, and increasing criminal penalties for an honest mistake will drive my community members away from the poll sites. That will hurt both Democrats and Republicans.

At the end of the day, voters like us vote for candidates because we believe in a shared vision of policy and ways to help better ourselves and our community. We believe that elected officials like you will have our best interest in mind - from increasing access to health care, housing, income, and quality of life. To move from dying to surviving and from surviving to thriving. But this bill is the complete denial of our voice in ensuring these qualities, freedoms, and liberties in living in Texas.

Please - vote no on HB3. Thank you.

Shawn Flanagan

self/retired

corpus christi, TX

I am for this bill. We need free and fair elections in Texas. This bill makes voting easier and cheating harder. The people who oppose this bill based on racial or ethnic differences are followers of critical race theory and thus are vile racists. This bill treats all races and ethnicities equally. Only the racist who believe in critical race theory which states that equal treatment under the law is racist because America is a racist country can oppose the bill. The bill treats all this equally. Only the vile CRT proponents oppose this bill. For all Texans of all of all races and ethnicities please pass this bill.

Michelle Ready

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Self retired

Avinger, TX

Keep our elections secure from fraud. This is a no brainer. There is no one who is unable to obtain adequate identification. There is nothing one who cannot get an absentee ballot if necessary. Ballot harvesting and fraudulent voting must be stopped.

Nanette Fodell

self -- therapist

Austin, TX

I OPPOSE THIS LEGISLATION AND ANY LEGISLATION THAT RESTRICTS VOTING! As a VDR in Travis county, I help people find their voices and exercise their right to be heard. This bill RESTRICTS that fundamental right!

Paul Laudadio

self

Corpus Christi, TX

We need this bill to be passed! We have to have the assurance of free and honest elections with no path for voter fraud! There is nothing racial about an honest bill which insures election integrity.

I implore you to get this bill passed!!

Mariana Castro

Self/ project manager

San Angelo, TX

This is voter suppression! I am against this bill.

Noelle McSherry

Self, Graduate Student

Houston, TX

Committee Members,

I object to several provisions in HB3. The bill purports to protect elections and states that "preventing a valid vote from being counted violates the basic constitutional rights guaranteed to each citizen by the United States Constitution and providing for voter access and increasing the stability of a constitutional democracy ensures public confidence in the legitimacy of public officers chosen by election." However, in Section 3.04 the bill prohibits casting a vote from inside a motor vehicle unless the voter meets the requirements of Section 64.009. and in Section 3.08 the bill prohibits earlier than 6 a.m. or later than 10 p.m. I fail to see how votes cast from inside a motor vehicle or between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. are inherently fraudulent. Late-night voting hours and voting from within a motor vehicle increases the options that voters who may engage in shift work or multiple jobs or who have small children have to vote. Without these options, those voters will have a harder time accessing a polling place, which is not "providing for voter access" as the bill says it intends to do.

I also object to Section 5.07, which allows officials checking signatures compare the signatures with "any known signature" on file with the county clerk or voter registrar as opposed to two or more signatures of the voter made within the preceding six years. Handwriting changes over time as people age and a signature from a decade or two ago may look different from a current signature. I am very concerned as well that only one signature is needed for comparison as opposed to two. I believe this will result in valid votes being discarded, which is a form of voter fraud in its own right.

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Thank you,

Noelle McSherry

Karen Schroeder

Nueces County Election Integrity Project

Corpus Christi, TX

I am for this bill. We need free and fair elections in Texas. This bill makes voting easier and cheating harder. The people who oppose this bill based on racial or ethnic differences are followers of critical race theory and thus are vile racists. This bill treats all races and ethnicities equally. Only the racist who believe in critical race theory which states that equal treatment under the law is racist because America is a racist country can oppose the bill. The bill treats all equally. Only the vile CRT proponents oppose this bill. For all Texans of all races and ethnicities please pass this bill.

Edward Sample

Self, Professional Engineer

Corpus Christi, TX

I want this Bill (HB3) to pass. Our elections should be free and they should be fair. This Bill makes voting easier. This Bill is the opposite of voter suppression. This Bill also makes it harder to cheat. This Bill is fair to everyone regardless of race, creed, color, national origin or gender. For the sake of what's right, fair, honest and just, please pass this Bill.

Drake Cameron, Election Judge

self retired

Houston, TX

Election Judges need a direct easy method of qualifying a prospective voter. A Texas driver's license is the most popular method of photo identification, but there are several other forms of ID also. According to the Texas Election Code the voter swears by affidavit that they are a resident of the county and a US citizen, 18 years of age, not a felon, and not mentally incapacitated. That is a pretty low bar to get over. Lawful citizens can do it. Make sure lawful citizens vote once and only once. Make it easy to vote and hard to cheat.

Muhammad Akhtar

Self

Katy, TX

According to a recent study, Texas in 2020 was the hardest place to vote in the entire country: we have no online voter registration, only a few discrete groups of Texans can vote by mail, and 750 polling places were closed between 2013 and 2019, predominantly in communities of color.

HB 3 a sham of legislation built on a fraudulent foundation that would make it even harder to vote in Texas on a number of fronts, and bring voting rights to a nadir not seen since the Jim Crow era.

Banning drop boxes for mail in ballots and measures like drive through voting do not make our elections more secure, they only make it harder for the most marginalized Texans from exercising their constitutional rights to vote, notably Texans with disabilities and Texans of color.

Empowering partisan poll watchers and increasing criminal penalties for nonpartisan election workers do not prevent fraud, they only undermine our elections and intimidate voters from taking part in elections at all.

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I urge the Committee to not vote HB 3 favorably out of Committee as currently drafted.

Laurel Hays, Dr.

Self

Houston, TX

Since there is evidently no significant voter fraud (only 12 wrong addresses amongst millions of applications), there is therefore no need for further restricting Texans' right to vote. The right to vote is foundational to our democracy, and every American deserves easy and efficient access to the ballot box and for their vote to be counted. Creative solutions to access should be welcomed, rather than criminalized (drive through voting, 24 hr voting and ballot drop boxes). In addition, poll workers should not be threatened with prosecution for doing their very best to help all eligible voters vote. The county elections offices keep the vote and elections secure. Poll watchers should not be allowed to intimidate poll workers or voters; they are partisan and without appropriate training. Also, who drives who to the polls is none of the government's business, since each vote is private. It is incumbent upon politicians to make their case to the voters, not for the state to make voting harder for minorities, disabled folk, homeless people, etc. These proposed changes are racist, ableist and without merit.

Norma Fernandez

Self

Alice, TX

" I am for this bill. We need free and fair elections in Texas. This bill makes voting easier and cheating harder. The people who oppose this bill based on racial or ethnic differences are followers of critical race theory and thus are vile racists. This bill treats all races and ethnicities equally. Only the racist who believe in critical race theory which states that equal treatment under the law is racist because America is a racist country can oppose the bill. The bill treats all equally. Only the vile CRT proponents oppose this bill. For all Texans of all races and ethnicities please pass this bill." Thank you so much for your time. I appreciate the hard work put in by the committee.

Peter Singer

Self

Keller, TX

Having worked multiple elections as a judge, poll watchers need to be seen and not heard. Voter intimidation, which this bill essentially allows, is neither representative of the fabric of our constitution nor of us proud Texans. Voter participation needs to be encouraged and not discouraged. There's no significant voter fraud anywhere in the great state of Texas, only delusional ramblings of old men and sycophants. We want people to be able to vote by mail because more votes can be cast by those who need to be able to cast votes. Areas where people need to drive long distances in west Texas to vote should be allowed to vote by mail and election judge training is serious on people turning in absentee ballots if they show up. Texans can do and deserve better than this.

Julie Espinoza, Advocate

REV UP and REACH of Plano

Frisco, TX

Denying people with disabilities assistance at the polls unless the helper faces criminal penalties means I can no longer vote!
Help me have common sense as an accommodation

Mauricio Duque

Self

Fort Worth, TX

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As an Election Day Worker for Tarrant County. I am willing to the risk of getting my arrested; Treated Like Human Waste and Strip Searched at the Tarrant County Jail for doing my job! FUCK IT!

Go A Head and Arrest Me!

I have been working the Elections since 2000.

Voter Fraud is a MYTH!

See you in court Mother Fucker!

Leslie Pearlman

Self teacher

Austin, TX

With only 16 cases of alleged fraud, there is no reason to micromanage, in the Abbott's words, something that isn't a big problem. It is traditional for a large percentage of our population to vote after church on Sundays. This bill will suppress the ability and ease of encouraging people to get out to vote. Texas will look like total bigots if this passes. We are already looking that way actually. VOTE NO ON THIS BILL.

Nathalene Allen

Self

Forest Hill, TX

Shame on you for trying to hold on to power by restricting Texas citizen's ability to vote. I oppose these efforts and believe that these efforts will awaken a GIANT of folks to good will who recognize that all Texas citizens, including citizens of color and the young, have a right to participate in democracy. The will resent your attempts to 'rule them' without you making the effort to win their votes, bur rather to get an unfair advantage for yourself. I won't forget it.

Sarah Cox

self, operations manager

Austin, TX

Anyone trying to suppress the vote should be ashamed of their attack on democracy. Voting should be made easier, not harder. The amount of voter fraud is minuscule compared to the amount of election fraud perpetrated by Republicans who are too scared to let people vote.

Elizabeth Long

Self

Austin, TX

Strongly oppose. Completely unnecessary grandstanding at the taxpayers' expense and to the detriment of Texas residents legally entitled to vote.

George Dearborn, Disable Veteran

Myself

San Antonio, TX

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I'm doing this because I do not want fraud and the first section would not recognize my address.

Jim Covert

Self , Industrial organization, Safety Manager

Texarkana, TX

No Ballet harvesting, Picture I D required on all voting,

Daniel Boehm

self /Business Owner Express Employment Professionals

Plano, TX

Matt we are on the same page pretty much on every topic. That's why we voted for you. We believe there needs to be a Voter ID process in place, and no mail in ballots. Need to be a resident of Texas. .

Virginia Tippit, Ms.

Self/retired

Austin, TX

Please do not pass any more legislation that acts to suppress the vote. Please consider starting over and legislating new measures that would make it easier for Texas residents to vote, so that we can increase the percentage of people who vote in Texas. As is, Texas ranks in the lowest quarter of the country in voter turnout.

Do not ban 24-hour voting or drive-through voting; the ability to do this helps people with multiple jobs and challenging family situations;

New voter ID requirements for voting by mail makes it harder for legitimate Texas voters, who are voting by mail for a reason, to vote. Many elderly people do not own computers and don't drive, making it difficult to produce copies of IDs.

There is no need to limit third-party ballot collection as a limit would make it more difficult for people to vote;

Texas elections are already well monitored and managed - increasing criminal penalties for election workers who make mistakes will reduce the number of people willing to work as election officials, and thus increase lines for voting and reduce overall voting, as well as penalize well-meaning poll workers.

The attempt to limit people from helping voters is ridiculous. All adult American citizens are eligible to vote, and should be encouraged to do so. This is simply an attempt to suppress voting.

Finally, partisan poll watchers have enough authority as is – there is no need to expand it, as it could lead to citizens feeling intimidated while waiting to vote, and could in some cases prevent intimidated people from voting.

Amy Fields, Mrs.

self

Dallas, TX

As a Poll Watcher in Dallas County I am concerned with the integrity of our elections. Voter identification for vote by mail is a must! Rules for prohibiting vote harvesting should be tougher, Poll Watchers need better protection and access to observe with more transparency. Public officials should not be able to distribute unrequested vote-by-mail applications. Monthly review of voter rolls is a must! All voting system equipment should be audited. There should be strict rules for chain of custody of

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electronic media, strict rules for storing ballots for election contests, and strict rules to secure early voting machines and media. The penalty for not accepting a watcher should remain a Class A misdemeanor as well as watchers should have the ability to take pictures of tabulation fraud.

Sue Ellen Roberts

self, retired

Garland, TX, TX

We need strong voting protection in Texas for free and fair elections. I urge all representatives to support election integrity by preventing fraud in the conduct of election in this state, increasing criminal penalties, and creating criminal offenses for any fraud or steal of any election. Keep America FREE - prevent election FRAUD. We need transparency in voting and proof that those voting are actually American citizens and belong in this country legally who love America and want American freedom to continue.

Jessie Campbell

Self

Midland, TX

After the incredible fraud perpetrated against the American people, in this last Presidential election, let alone the current practices in many states that override election Constitutional process, it is apparent increased protection and scrutiny are required to insure election integrity nationwide, including Texas.

Preserve election integrity and you preserve Texas!

Patricia Shaw, Mrs

Self (retired)

Gause, TX

I ask you to support this bill and any others in the best interest of keeping Texas strong!

Victoria Chatman

self

Houston, TX

Hello! I am writing to provide a testimony to HB3. My name is Victoria Chatman. I am a black Texas representing a voice in Houston's District 7 and I am not in favor of HB3. I am asking Senator Bettencourt, Representative Harless and other members to represent my voice and maintain my liberties to vote by saying NO to HB3.

Rachel Casey

Self

Lubbock, TX

Stop trying to make it harder to vote. Everyone sees what you are doing and you are embarrassing Texas! You aren't dictators, you work for us. If you don't represent what the majority wants, we will fire you. It is a FACT that most Texans want voting to be easier. They want automatic registration, drive thru voting, drop boxes, etc. Your claims of fraud have been DISPROVEN every time. Also, if you're claiming mass fraud and that Trump actually won in 2020, then how come all the down ballot races, that a lot of you won by the way, are ok? It makes no sense! You're just trying to prevent the people who will vote you out, from doing so, and EVERYBODY knows it! Texas deserves better than your awful leadership.

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Diana Raulston, Dr

Self

Fort worth, TX

If there is not a total election reform, new machines, voter id's, limited mail in ballots etc-we will never have a fair, LEGAL election again! As citizens, we HAVE TO KNOW our elections are fair and transparent- otherwise, we might as well live in China!!!

Elizabeth Bullock

Self

The Woodlands, TX

We must secure our elections. I have worked with elections and know the system.

Elizabeth Hanks

Self

Houston, TX

My name is Liz Hanks and I was born and raised and live in Houston. I am an attorney and volunteer with voter protection efforts for many years now. I recently consulted on the Drive-Thru voting efforts in Harris County and personally voted drive-thru and at the 24-hour location in the Med Center with my physician-spouse this past year. I loved both experiences and know it was hugely popular among my friends as well. Moreover, the number of complaints we received to our VoPro hotline this past year was very low. Record numbers of voters were able to vote safely during a pandemic. In my personal experience, the concerns of voter fraud are just not based in fact. Please do not pass this bill. Please do not pass anything to further restrict our already-onerous voting requirements in Texas. Thank you.

Rachel Young, Rev.

Self, Pastor

Houston, TX

I am troubled and angered by this bill, which will disproportionately affect the more vulnerable in our society's ability to vote, including poor people and people of color. This bill is not about combating fraud, but about voter suppression. I am especially concerned about the giving of new powers to partisan poll watchers, which will embolden them to intimidate voters at the polls. I urge the House not to pass this bill.

Anne Peticolas, Miss

self, and I'm 71 years old and retired computer programmer

Austin, TX

On the election security issue, I am very concerned about the provision to threaten state jail felonies on people who make an error filling out forms who are assisting another voter. I have assisted someone in the past. Maybe you think I am a wimp, but in all honesty, I will NEVER EVER be willing to assist anyone if you pass this bill. Risking a felony charge for a mistake is NOT WORTH IT, even if the person cannot vote because of it. But, it's wrong to make a law that will make me so afraid to help someone with their vote.

Yes, I know it probably wouldn't happen, but probably their one vote isn't going to be the one that makes the difference in an election either. I just would NEVER TAKE THE CHANCE, even if it's remote, of being charged with a crime for this.

I hope so very much this about criminal penalties and offenses will not be in the final bill passed.

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Libby Willis, Mrs.

self Professional registered parliamentarian and historic preservation consultant

Fort Worth, TX

In general, I am IN FAVOR of any legislation which makes it easier for voters to access the ballot. Unfortunately, HB 3 appears in many ways to make it MORE difficult for voters to access the ballot. I urge the committee to reject HB 3.

I am particularly concerned about Section 4.01 (g) and (h) regarding election judges and observers -- partisan poll watchers whom I believe HB 3 enables to become what I am calling "poll meddlers." Section 4.01 (h) requires an election judge to call a law enforcement officer if he or she believes a poll watcher has violated law in the polling place. This appears neither fiscally responsible or practical. In a large Texas city like Fort Worth, police officers and other law enforcement officers have so many other items on their daily lists of "must dos" that I doubt removing a poll watcher from a polling place would rise very high on that list. The bottom line is that election judges must be able to manage their own polling sites without having to call a police officer. If an election judge finds an observer to be disruptive either in bothering other poll workers or, most especially, VOTERS, the election judge must be able to politely but firmly require that observer to leave the polling place. Voters do not wish to be in a polling place where anyone is causing a problem. Election judges and workers do not either. I speak from personal experience as a former poll worker. My husband has been a longtime election judge. Our two grown sons have also worked polls. As a former Tarrant County elected judge and Air Force Captain, my husband knows how to manage both people and spaces. As an election judge, he doesn't need a poll worker/meddler "in his face" and he doesn't need to have to call the police to have a disruptive observer removed from the polling place.

HB 3 seems to treat partisan poll watchers with far more respect than it does election judges and poll workers who work for days before elections and usually a 16 to 18 hour day of the election. It is long, hard work. It is not clear to me why such strictures as those in HB 3 are being placed on Texans who have long worked polls for the benefit of Texas voters. HB is an affront to these patriotic citizens who serve the voters. Many poll workers, including our own sons, are concerned about making small mistakes for which they would be penalized in serious ways in this election service. They have said they will not work polls again. If you are looking for ways to reduce the numbers of poll workers, HB 3 does the job. Roll back provisions which enable poll watchers to be poll meddlers. Instead, ensure in HB 3 that poll WORKERS are treated with the respect they deserve as the servants to all the voters that they are.

Libby Willis, Fort Worth

Darren Bates, Mr.

self

Austin, TX

The disability community has been fighting for our fundamental civil rights alongside so many people of color, socioeconomically disadvantaged, and those of various gender identities. We are a population who find ourselves privileged to exist at an intersection of all these communities. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, people with disabilities are approximately 1 out of 6 voting-age adults. With this information in mind, I would like you to understand the adverse effects that recently proposed voting legislation would have on disabled people and our ability to participate in the electoral process.

HB 3 changes the definition of disability. In addition, it adds new requirements to mail-in ballots, makes personal assistants liable for criminal offenses, and introduces new curbside voting procedures that would make it extremely difficult for people with disabilities to exercise our fundamental right to vote.

Like every other Texan, disabled people want to exercise our right to vote; and we should be able to do so without having to overcome additional barriers like the ones created in proposed legislation HB 3.

Sandra Hipps

self/concerned citizen

Dallas, TX

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Election Integrity must be addressed in this special session. I demand the items that were removed from SB7 be put back in the bill:

Watchers ability to take pictures of tabulation fraud, p.99

Audits for voting system equipment, p.100

Protection for watchers, p. 108

Rules for chain of custody of electronic media, p.115

Rules for storing ballots for election contests, p.116

Rules to secure early voting machines and media, p. 120-121

Reduced penalty for not accepting a watcher to Class B misdemeanor, p. 139

Martha Huebel

Self Retired

Houston, TX

Making voting more restrictive undermines the very fabric of our democracy. Because of the pandemic, new voting methods were tried and were very successful. Why mess with success? Why would you not want longer hours and drive through voting available? This bill is a solution to a problem that does not exist. There is no widespread voter fraud in Texas. Poll watchers should not be able to move freely throughout a polling place, and especially should not be able to observe anyone voting. That is voter intimidation and should have no place in a democracy. I have been a poll watcher, and I cannot imagine even wanting to do the things that are allowed in this bill. Putting a cover on the bill that it is to ensure election integrity is simply not true. Elections have had integrity. This bill promotes the Big Lie that there was massive voter fraud and that the legislature needs to tighten the screws on voting. We all know this is not true. While the legislature could be focusing on our electric grid and the 700 people who died during the freeze, the lege is instead spending time, energy, and money fixing something that doesn't exist.

Lori Shuffield

Myself

Burleson, TX

I strongly urge you to support this bill for our elections! We should never have to worry about cheating again!!!

Sammi Hammers

self

LaPorte, TX

Free and fair elections are a foundational component of political freedom. With the increasing evidence of Voter Fraud, it is imperative that The State of Texas protect this right - and since Texas leads the national in many ways - it should be model legislation. This is our opportunity to lead - based on the continuing exposure of foul-play. Without giving specifics, I would have the bill include a provision for conducting an audit when circumstances warrant an investigation. This portion of the bill should be strong enough to deter the necessity of filing a lawsuit to conduct an investigation.

Please perform your duty, as explicitly stated in Article I, Section 4, Clause 1 of the US Constitution. After all, we claim to be a nation of laws.

Thank you for your attention.

Guillermo Hernandez

Self

Cedar Park, TX

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I urge to all senators to vote for these two bills. They are imperative to ensure the integrity of the elections and that what happened in the 2020 elections will not happen again. I am not happy that the bill does not go far enough to eliminate the use of voting machines. These machines can be easily compromised and manipulated. We need to go back to paper ballots so that One Citizen-One Vote. There should be no more MAIL Ballots unless there is a verifiable and controlled process that ensures One Citizen-One Vote. That is the way it should be. It is the responsibility of Citizens to Vote and that should be going to the voting cite, showing proper identification and casting single PAPER ballot. We want a true democracy not an imaginary one.

Victor Chatman

Self/Pastor

Houston, TX

Hello! My name is Pastor Victor Chatman. I am a black Texas Veteran representing a voice in my district 140. I am NOT in favor of HB3 nor SB1. I am asking Senators and Representatives to represent my voice by maintaining my liberties to vote by saying NO to HB3.

Mila Homen

Election Integrity Nueces County, Moms for Liberty Nueces County

Corpus Christi, TX

Good morning,

I am IN FAVOR of HB3.

I believe it's vital to protect and improve election integrity in Texas (wouldn't be a bad of an idea of strengthening in nationwide, but let's focus on our part)

I'm a naturalized USA citizen, I was born and raised in Russia; I became a citizen mostly because I wanted to exercise my right to vote and I'd love to know my vote counts and matters.

Without faith in the integrity of the election process - we don't have a country. Many people lost this faith, I encourage you to take action to restore it. I went to bed on Election Day and woke up to a mess; it's both embarrassing and enraging to observe, and still feels like alternative universe.

This bill although a little bit long, is simple in its essence: it makes voting easier and cheating harder.

Opponents of the bill, especially CRT peddling race hustlers who push their divisive agenda should be ashamed, but sadly there's very little hope for that. It's discouraging our opponents put so much effort and use their knowledge to facilitate cheating.

Dear Democrat friends, I encourage you to believe that minorities can obtain IDs and are perfectly capable of understanding and following the rules; not sure why anyone would think otherwise.

Like Reagan said, the trouble with our Liberal friends is not that they're ignorant; it's just that they know so much that isn't so. We believe all people are created equal. Please, let's not make it about race. It's about our sacred right to vote.

Thank you,
may God bless you

Mila Homen,

Election Integrity Nueces County

Moms for Liberty Nueces County

Katherine Kunz

Self

Houston, TX

There is no evidence of significant, pervasive, or far-reaching election fraud in this state. These measures are simply a smokescreen to provide cover for disenfranchising voters who need accommodations like longer hours or drive-through voting to facilitate their participation in an election. This bill is a "solution" in want of a problem and I am firmly against any and all of its provisions, and hope that the legislature understands the negative impact that this bill is likely to have against fulsome democratic

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participation in our state.

Lisa Evans

Self

Richards, TX

Texas has not had a high amount of fraudulent voting that would warrant such restrictive voting regulations. I am a registered voter. I do not support any such changes, additions or deletions from what we currently have set up to allow for registering, early voting or regular voting. These changes are unnecessary and will do nothing more than hurt those who are trying to exercise their right to vote. My vote WILL count and I will be paying attention to how each of you voted on this bill. If your votes on this do not reflect our choices then our votes in the next election will reflect them.

Stephanie Sokolosky, Dr.

Self

Harlingen, TX

I strongly oppose the passage of HB 3 because it sets up unnecessary voting barriers for Texans.

First, there was no reported widespread voting problems in Texas, in spite of the spurious claims of the former Present. The election was legal – and not stolen. In fact, this bill undermines the legitimacy and public confidence in the established election process.

The proposals in HB3 do not make elections more secure.

HB3 restricts some methods (extended time) for early voting that benefits many people of color and shift workers who must vote at non-traditional times.

There are strong prohibitions for election officials providing voters with voting information that was not explicitly requested. For many voters, the process is confusing and election officials assist in disseminating information for the purpose of engaging all voting Texans.

HB3 adds criminal penalties for people who assist with mail-in ballots.

Guidelines for voters who are voting from a motor vehicle have been unfairly restrictive. Every individual in the car must exit the car during voting – if there are children, an individual with disabilities, or the elderly – this could be a hardship for these individuals.

Other guidelines required for voting from a motor vehicle is the requirement to complete confusing forms if there are more than 3 people in the car. This is an undue hardship on individuals with Limited English Proficiency.

If a poll watcher is acting in a way that is obstructive or disruptive, the election officer must contact law enforcement to remove the poll watcher.

In summary, these measures serve to restrict voting opportunities for a variety of individuals – mainly those of color, with disabilities, and/or elderly. The goal should be that all individuals who are eligible to vote should be supported to vote -- instead of disrupting their opportunity to vote. This bill serves to restrict voting.

I OPPOSE THE PASSAGE OF HB 3.

Mike Andrie

Team Safety PRO, Inc

Boerne, TX

There is nothing more critical facing our country and our state then protecting election integrity. It is clearly under attack in many places and Texas needs to demonstrate clear leadership and set an example for others to follow so that confidence in future elections is not totally destroyed.

Joey Bennett

Secure Democracy

Austin, TX

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HB 3 would impose new burdens on individuals such as caregivers, providing needed assistance to older voters and those with disabilities. The bill proposes numerous criminal provisions that threaten election officials with loss of employment and possible incarceration for merely taking action to maximize voter liberty. This could have a negative effect on Texas' most vulnerable citizens and the threat of criminal investigation and prosecution will deter individuals from pursuing a career in elections administration. Voters with disabilities already face substantial barriers to voting, and this bill could further marginalize that population. Voters requiring assistance could refrain from asking for assistance from friends and family, fearing they may be exposed to criminal penalties. Therefore, these voters may be forced to attempt to complete their ballots, sometimes unsuccessfully. The resulting loss of votes from this population could further erode the trust in our elections process. Specifically, HB 3 proposes to subject election officials to felony prosecution for simple acts, such as sending a registered voter a ballot application, or assisting a voter with completion of an application. This act becomes a state jail felony, punishable by up to two years in jail, which is the same level offense as burglary. Secure Democracy believes that public confidence in elections increases when voters know that capable people are running the elections with the full support of the elected officials.

Frank Tenhoopen, Mr.

Myself

Lucas, TX

It is vital that this subject be addressed in a positive way. Voting in person, requiring photo ID, and no mail-in voting except for Military and people that have verified disabilities. Even Europe requires photo ID. I don't see where these simple requirements would prevent legitimate citizen/voters from casting their ballots. Yes it would prevent the ILLEGAL ALIENS from voting as it should. I realize this would crimp the Demorat and Left's hopes, but the Constitution clearly states the requirements for being able to cast one's vote, no matter what they or their COURT puppets are saying. Thanks for paying heed to my input for this Bill. I hoe and urge you cast a YES on this BILL and others preserving and protecting our rights and freedoms.

Cathy Murphree

self, retired

Richardson, TX

It is indeed frustrating to see the Legislature make voting more difficult, when 2020 saw admirable voting participation increases, during a challenging pandemic, and with no documented voter fraud.

As for me, a 68 year old, my voter experience will entail extra burdens--my county will no longer mail me a vote by mail application. My voting experience itself will see more partisan poll watches mingling in the voting area.

For me, I can and will deal with these new hassles, but after Republican and Democratic voting officials oversaw a safe and secure 2020 election, it is clear these restrictions will only make voting more difficult in the state ranked #50 in voting access. Shameful.

Cynthia Keohane

Self. Auditor

Austin, TX

I am not convinced that any of the proposed changes are needed. I have been a Texas election judge, and have seen nothing but dedication and hard work from everyone. These proposals are of special concern to me:

- 1) We need to staff the polls. Election judges and clerks must be able to work, free from threats of criminal charges for unintended mistakes.
- 2) Voters should be provided all needed assistance.
- 3) Partisan poll watchers should not be granted authority and autonomy; they are observers only.

Shelton Bady

Self/Pastor

Houston, TX

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Hello! My name is Bishop Shelton Bady. I am a black Texas Veteran representing a voice in Texas Senate District 13. I am NOT in favor of HB3 nor SB1. I am asking Senators and Representatives to represent my voice by maintaining my liberties to vote by saying NO to HB3.

Beatrice Chatman

Self/Retiree

Houston, TX

Hello! My name is Mrs. Beatrice Chatman. I am a former school teacher representing a black voice in Texas House District 139. I am NOT in favor of HB3 nor SB1. I am asking Senators and Representatives to represent my voice by maintaining my liberties to vote by saying NO to HB3.

Thank you for your time!

Melva Chatman

Self/Retiree

Houston, TX

Hello! My name is Mr. Melva Chatman, Jr.. I am a black Texan representing a Veteran's voice in Texas House District 139. I am NOT in favor of HB3 nor SB1. I am asking all Senators and Representatives to represent my voice by maintaining my liberties to vote by saying NO to HB3.

Thank you for your time!

Simone Nichols-Segers

National MS Society

Austin, TX

On behalf of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on HB 3, and the negative impact many of these proposed changes to voting laws could have on those living with multiple sclerosis (MS). Voting is one our nation's most fundamental rights, yet historically people living with disabilities have been excluded from this core aspect of citizenship. HB 3 would fail to address and even exacerbate issues with accessibility of and access to the right to vote for Texans living with a disability and the Society urges a NO vote from committee members. Prohibiting polling places from being located "in a moveable structure" and requiring that a polling place must be "inside" of a building of a county clerk prohibits the state, counties and cities from creating more accessible polling places for those living with a disability. In addition, there does not seem to be an exception for states of emergencies, including natural disasters and pandemics, which make it impractical or unsafe to use existing buildings. The requirement in Section 5.01(b) that an application to vote by mail be "submitted in writing and signed by the applicant using ink on paper" and the prohibition against "an electronic or photocopied signature" is discriminatory against individuals who are unable to write due to a disability. The changes to signature verification outlined in Section 5 regarding early voting ballots submitted by mail may negatively impact those living with MS who often experience spasticity or tremors, which can make a consistent signature impossible. We support a process which will provide an opportunity to correct problems with mailed ballots, however, requiring that a voter come in person to the early voting clerk's office to make corrections creates an additional hurdle a voter with a disability. The Society opposes the additional requirements regarding assistance of voters in Article 6 as they are burdensome, unnecessarily complicated and difficult to navigate, though we are supportive of including "an attendant or caregiver previously known to the voter" as an acceptable assistant. Regardless, we strongly suggest including language that would require the state to prove intent to commit fraud by individuals assisting eligible voters before they are charged with a violation as outlined in Article 6. The Society also supports expansion of vote-by-mail and strongly encourages the state to create a process to allow voters with disabilities to request an electronic ballot. Electronic ballot marking allows voters with "print" disabilities (including those with visual impairments, such as those caused by MS) to read and mark their ballot using the accessibility features on their personal devices, print and mail their completed ballot. It is worth noting that Texas already allows remote ballot marking for military and overseas voters. Thank you for your time and service to the state of Texas.

Michael Openshaw

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Self

Plano, TX

As someone who has worked on and off as a poll worker for 40 years, I have ALWAYS strongly supported election integrity as well as every legitimate voter's right to cast their vote the way THEY wanted it cast. Some of you REALLY old hands may remember Rep. Jim Horn from Denton; as election judge in '78, I ended up calling him on primary day and told him to move a truck with a sign of his. He said: 'But last night, you were helping me put up my signs!' I said: "Well today, I'm election judge and y'all have it in the 100 foot limit. You have 10 minutes to move it or it'll be towed!"

Having read through this bill I find NOTHING that will in any significant way impede a legitimate voter or vote. Democrats call them voter restrictions. Well, they are; it 'restricts' paid ballot harvestors from wheedling little old ladies who only want to maybe vote top of ticket only- if at all- to voting for the people PAYING them to gather votes in mass for them, or to cast votes for nursing home residents not even conscious of their surroundings. It 'restricts' people to actually voting in the precincts they actually live in, not where someone needs a few votes to help out.

These measures will help make voter fraud harder; that act many Democrats USED to claim doesn't happen, or is very rare, when now now only say it's 'not common'. (Neither is purse-snatching, but we still try to impede it- in most places.) We want to 'restrict' the misuse of OTHER people's right to vote for profit or for less than moral partisan gain, or votes cast in the wrong place or by those not yet citizens. We want it to be EASY to vote- in secure fashion to protect the legitimate voter's rights to choose- or NOT choose- based on THEIR choices, not someone else's.

Sandra Tetley, Mrs.

Galveston County Republican Party, Precinct 276

Galveston, TX

If we do not have secure elections of one vote for one legal voter, we have NOTHING else! This should be your priority, not an afterthought! As Chair of Signature Verification and Early Voting Ballot Board, I know there are loopholes and opportunities that can be exploited by those who want to cheat! As legal citizens, we should not be disenfranchised by cheaters! Stop all Fraud!!

Connie Smart

Self

League City, TX

There is no reason that with Republicans in control of the Texas Senate, House, and Governorship we can't get this bill passed. We MUST ensure safe, secure, and accurate elections. I wish you would do a better job of educating the voters on exactly what is in the bill and especially point out why it DOES NOT restrict or make it difficult for anyone to vote. It seems the Democrats do a better job of getting their message out than the Republicans.

Vicky Clevenger

Self

Garland, TX

Vote yes.

Judy Foston Stanford

Foston International Communications, Inc.

Richmond, TX

Hello! My name is Judy Foston Stanford. I am an African American Texan representing a voice in my district. I am NOT in favor of HB3 nor SB1. I am asking Senators and Representatives to represent my voice by maintaining my liberties to vote by saying NO to HB3.

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David Monk

self

San Antonio, TX

Ensuring that our open elections are secure and ensure that every person that votes is who they say they are and has the right to vote is essential to the continued future of this great state. Efforts to contest this bill and deride it in any manner is in and of itself criminal. The rights of everyone with the legal right to vote must be preserved. And the prevention of false voting or vote tampering of any manner must be prevented.

Cathy Fulton

self

Port Aransas, TX

I strongly opposed HB 3 and the changes it makes to the current election codes. This bill along with others including SB 1 are just an absolute waste of time! What went wrong with voting in Texas in November 2020? Answer: Absolutely nothing! There is nothing wrong with the current voting system in Texas. There was no proven voter fraud, just a bunch of crazy accusations. You are more worried about an unbroken system than the bloody damn Texas power grid? How is that even possible? We did not elect our representatives or senators to brainstorm ridiculous legislation. WE ELECTED YOU TO WORK ON SOLUTIONS TO REAL ISSUES, not imaginary. Real issues such as: the electric grid; property tax reform; much needed reform for TCEQ and the Railroad Commission (both a joke for the environment); state highway infrastructure; health care; senior care services; the sky high cost of college tuition....just to name a few.

It is just a shame Governor Abbott has decided to disregard the citizens of Texas and try dirty tactics for his personal agenda. I pray this bill dies in committee today.

Respectfully,

Cathy Fulton

Ryan Bonner

Self

Lubbock, TX

My name is Ryan Bonner, and I was born and raised in Lubbock, Texas. I love my country, my state and my city. November 2020 was the first time I voted Democrat. My reasons were many, but chief among them was a desire to preserve and strengthen democracy. In the months since, the actions of politicians both state and federal have confirmed that I made the right and just choice.

I am so grateful for the courage of the democrats of the Texas legislature that have stopped the most pernicious part of this bill, making it easier for politicians to overturn the will of the people. However, I am still concerned with much of what remains in this bill. If these provisions were written in good faith and were about voter integrity, you would have evidence of provable fraud behind each one. You are trying to choose your voters, suppressing minorities and urban voters, and feeding a dangerous lie about 2020.

I now understand the motive behind the absurd national anthem bill and the 1836 project. You are trying to force patriotism because your actions make it harder to choose patriotism.

Again, my deepest gratitude goes out to the Patriots trying to stop the attacks on the most important right, the right to vote.

And, shame on Donald Trump.

Shame on Greg Abbott.

Shame on Jodey Arrington.

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Shame on Charles Perry.
Shame on Dustin Barrows.

James Beebe
TX SD-13
Houston, TX

I oppose this bill. it's voter suppression and will disenfranchise ALL voters.

Steve Johnson
Steve Johnson
Austin, TX

This legislation is NOT about election security; it's about putting politicians in control of elections and about Gov Abbott's ludicrous political ambitions.

- Too many new criminal penalties
- It's not necessary to set election hours from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.; instead, make sure there are clear rules about required staffing for polling places and let counties determine voting hours
- Drive-through voting is completely acceptable as long as ID requirements are checked
- Enough about mail ballots!! Develop a trustable mail ballot and allow anybody to use it without excuses
- Allowing state officials to remove county election officials, or allowing the state legislature ANY role other than passing laws must be removed. This is ample excuse for all kinds of mischief.
- Poll watchers? There is already a provision for any candidate to request an observer to be present at any polling place. That is enough. Poll watchers are voter intimidation by definition.
- Ballot harvesting is extremely vague and certain to be worked around. For example, it's completely legal to give away alcohol at any event without a license. Similarly, people will find a way around this provision by making an excuse for being at the house or be able to say they weren't being paid to collect ballots; they were being paid for some other reason.

Many of the above provisions are rife for court challenges. It's ridiculous to pass laws that run afoul of basic legal principles just because those laws are popular at the time they're passed. This is a bad law AND YOU KNOW IT. Dump it, don't introduce it, and certainly do not pass it.

Trudy Stone
self - retired attorney
San Marcos, TX

Texas is already one of the hardest states in the nation in which to vote. I have been a deputy voter registrar in my county and earnestly try to GET people registered to vote. I consider the provisions of this bill obscene because of their anticipated suppression of Texans' voting rights, especially Texans who have historically been disenfranchised or blocked from casting a ballot, including Black and Brown people, Native Americans, voters with disabilities, veterans and members of the military, non-native English speakers, rural voters and low-income Texans. I OPPOSE HB3 and SB1

Gladys Havel, Mrs.
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly SUPPORT this bill to ensure the integrity and reliability of our elections. Requiring a photo ID will not suppress voters since this type of ID can be obtained without cost from the Department of Public Safety if they do not already have one. Just as there are "drives" to register eligible voters, there can also be "drives" to provide photo ID's.

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It is an insult to think that non-white voters are not capable of meeting the ID requirement.

Since the population is very mobile, mail-in ballots should be requested by a voter, not just sent out without any guarantee that it actually is received by an eligible voter.

Juliette Akers
self-homemaker

Buda, TX

I support this bill. Thank you for your kind attention.

Martha Zeiher
Gillespie County Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrars
Fredericksburg, TX

Here's my perspective: I have been a Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar since 2016 in Gillespie County, a rural county of 25,000+ residents. I have read the context of HB3 and one aspect pops out to me. To become a Deputy Voter Registrar in Gillespie County, you have to go through training and pass a test at the Elections Office to receive a certificate. I have done this three times now, in order to responsibly register voters in our community. The test is to see if I understand the laws pertaining to registering voters. I see no such training nor certification for partisan poll watchers. I see a LOT of wording giving poll watchers the freedom to harass election workers, elections officers, sue, kick up a fuss, etc. All without any formal training or understanding of the laws surrounding elections. Poll watchers MUST be trained and certified, and not by their political party, but by a non-partisan Elections Officer. The SOS already does this for Deputy Voter Registrars, it can do the same for poll watchers.

I get it. Republicans are getting nervous with the direction Texas is going in and are trying to do anything they can to make voting harder. In rural Gillespie County, you have already made it incredibly hard on the poor (no transportation to get to the locations to obtain ID, register to vote, or vote in person), the disabled (same reasons), and the elderly (restrictions on types of ID, and again, no transportation.)

In the opening statement of HB 3 it says the purpose of this bill is to "promote voter access." I think it is the opposite. It is a solution looking for a problem. Do all Texans a favor and instead of making it harder to vote, make it easier!

Doug Kelsay
Self and Numerous constituents.

Bastrop, TX

RE HB3 & SB1

These bills must include:

- * provisions allowing poll watchers to record video evidence,
- * limit early voting on weekends,
- * allow fraud-tainted elections to be overturned.
- * safeguards for verifying absentee ballot signatures;
- * provisions to make it harder to reject improperly-filled-out absentee ballots;
- * limit, rather than abolish, ballot "drop boxes."

Angela Orr Heath
Self
Dallas, TX

Hello, I am Angela Orr Heath and I live in Dallas, TX Senate District 8, House District 102. I am testifying on behalf of myself and my precinct, Precinct 1026 in opposition to House Bill 3 and voter suppression.

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Many of the provisions in the bill are deliberate attempts to suppress the vote of the citizens of Texas. This bill threatens the access of many to the ballot box and purposefully targets marginalized communities. This bill does not make elections safe or accessible, it is based on a lie – the dangerous and false idea that our elections are rigged and that the Texas electorate are dishonest cheaters, while all the while not at all addressing the things that could expand access to the voting booth, like online registration, mail-in ballot design that makes the ballot easier to complete, uniform training for poll workers, and automatic voter registration upon the age of 18.

This bill would open the door to intimidate our election workers who are so often retired individuals who can not afford to be fined or jailed if they make a mistake and it discourages individuals from becoming volunteer deputy registrars for the same reasons.

It should not be harder to vote than to obtain a firearm, and legislators should not pick the voters, voters should select legislators.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my position.

Joan Sweeny

self

Houston, TX

HB 3 must pass to ensure the sanctity of vote as the federal government is attempting to federalize and desecrate one of the most important rights that we the citizens have. I can see no reason for this bill not to pass in Texas. God Bless.

Kebra Albrecht

Self

Austin, TX

I support HB3 that 1. Adds voter identification to vote by mail, making it consistent with in-person voting 2. Strengthens prohibitions against paid vote harvesting 3. Protects poll watcher access, improving transparency 4. Prohibits public officials from distributing unrequested vote-by-mail applications. In Texas we need it to be easy to vote and hard to cheat.

Jennifer Bacak

Texas Parent to Parent

Round Rock, TX

Thank you Chair Ashby and committee members for taking the time to read comments on HB 3. My name is Jennifer Bacak and I am from Round Rock, Texas. Although I work for a statewide non-profit that supports families with children that have disabilities and special healthcare needs, I am submitting comments as myself and I am asking you to vote against HB 3.

Not only am I a parent of a future voter that will need assistance when voting, but I am a daughter with a parent who has an autoimmune disease that will necessitate assistance as their neuromuscular system continues to deteriorate.

There are sections of HB 3 that concern me. People with neuromuscular disabilities have inconsistent signatures. It is expected that my mom's signature will look less like her previous signature from year to year. Her vote should not be thrown out if she cannot go in person to correct it. A signature stamp would be one way to make it more consistent or a verbal affirmation over the phone to confirm she voted and signed could be another way. An ADA compliant mail-in ballot is a must, not just for those with physical impairments, but also for people with visual impairments.

Eventually, my mom will need support with actions such as stuffing the ballot into the slot or an envelope, opening and sealing a vote by mail envelope, holding the paper down, or possibly even putting a pen in her hand and I may need to hire an attendant to help her. None of these actions are included in the oath for people providing assistance to sign. The oath language in HB 3 needs

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to be broadened so that personal attendants are not penalized for an honest mistake and helpful heart.

Thank you for the thoughtful work already done. Please continue to consult with the disability community and advocates to correct discriminatory voting practices and eliminate barriers to the voting process.

cara vann

Self

Houston, TX

Please pass this voter integrity bill!! Americans want to know their vote is counted!

Mary Corbin

self

Houston, TX

I have a disability since birth. As a voter with a disability, I read the provisions for the election integrity bill as well as the Democrats' claims that the election integrity bill will make it harder for voters with disabilities to vote. I disagree with the Democrats' claims and I will have no issues in the voting process as a person with a disability. Please do not believe the Democrats' claims and get the election integrity bill(s) passed to ensure safe, secure, and accurate elections that all legal Texans (e.g., US citizens) will believe in and trust that their votes are legally counted without dilution. Also, make sure that no illegal immigrants will vote and that their votes will not count. Consider that the fast path track to US citizenship is considered invalid until they met the current requirements to become legally naturalized citizens without foreign influence.

Wendy Kalthoff, mrs

SELF

austin, TX

I am opposing House bill 3. People who work are going to have a hard time voting if you limit early voting and voting on election day.

Lloyd Longer, Mr

Myself a Texan

Cypress, TX

Texas needs to strengthen our voting laws to make it harder to cheat. Must have voter id on mail in ballots.

Limit the use of mail in ballots.

Open access for poll watchers to keep everyone honest.

Please do the hard work and get this passed.

Sincerely

Lloyd W Longer

Judy David

Self

Dallas, TX

I strongly support everything possible be done for election integrity.

Tracy Espinoza

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REVUp

Frisco, TX

Please do not suppress our rights to vote as people with disabilities

Nichole Waters

Self/Teacher

Houston, TX

Please support this bill and keep our elections safe from fraud!

Andrew Gass, Mr.

Self - attorney

Houston, TX

Dear Committee Members,

I have been voting in Texas since 1972.

I oppose HB3 as it is irrelevant and an attempt to solve a problem, alleged voter fraud, which does not exist to any significant degree in our state.

I am especially wary of the proposed powers you want to give to volunteer voter onlookers.

To place spies in the voting booth is an insult to the intelligence of all Texas voters.

It is a deliberate barrier to voting by seeking to intimidate voters.

There is an old adage, "What goes around, comes around."

Despite these best efforts at voter suppression, there will come a time in the near future when you Republicans will be in the minority in this state; and the people of Texas have long memories.

You will be judged by your actions in this Special Session.

Stephen Firth

Self/Programmer

Richardson, TX

This is a blatant attempt to suppress votes after a close federal election. This bill is solving a problem that empirically, does not exist. Republican led committees and experts have shown that the last election was secure and that there was no widespread voter fraud of any sort. Suppressing the voices of fellow Texans is unacceptable, and the writers of this bill should be ashamed.

Guillermina Esparza

Self

Laredo, TX

I am for this bill. We need free and fair elections in Texas. This bill makes voting easier and cheating harder. The people who oppose this bill based on racial or ethnic differences are followers of critical race theory and thus are vile racists. This bill treats all races and ethnicities equally. Only the racist who believe in critical race theory which states that equal treatment under the law is racist because America is a racist country can oppose the bill. The bill treats all equally. Only the vile CRT proponents oppose this bill. For all Texans of all races and ethnicities please pass this bill.

Kelli Patin

Self

Orange, TX

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My name is Kelli Patin. I live in Orange, TX. I am representing myself. I oppose voter suppression bill {HB 3/SB 1} and ask that you vote against it. HB 3 requires trained and sworn election workers to allow untrained and partisan poll watchers to be close enough to workers and voters to see and hear everything that goes on in the polling place except the voters' actually marking the ballot. I have worked an election before, and partisan poll workers interruptions would only intimidate voters. Why would you add another stressful situation or an intimidation tactic to a person's right to vote? There is no limit set as to how many poll watchers must be allowed in. Every candidate and party on the ballot has the right to appoint poll watchers. Untrained and partisan poll watchers would be allowed to stop the voting process if they disagree with the election judge on a complaint. That is a recipe for confusion, delay, and disarray at voting locations. There is no reason to add to allow this action.

The Legislature should make voting easier, not harder, not longer. These provisions are disrespectful of voters' lives and time. They disenfranchise those who work more than one job or have little kids or disabled people with them. I ask you to vote against {HB 3/SB1} because of these and the many other voter suppression provisions it includes.

Jesus Esparza

Self

Laredo, TX

I am for this bill. We need free and fair elections in Texas. This bill makes voting easier and cheating harder. The people who oppose this bill based on racial or ethnic differences are followers of critical race theory and thus are vile racists. This bill treats all races and ethnicities equally. Only the racist who believe in critical race theory which states that equal treatment under the law is racist because America is a racist country can oppose the bill. The bill treats all equally. Only the vile CRT proponents oppose this bill. For all Texans of all races and ethnicities please pass this bill.

Abigail Kehr

self, stagehand

Houston, TX

My name is Abigail Kehr, and I was a presiding judge for a drive-thru voting lane in Harris county for early voting for the 2020 presidential election. In that time, neither myself, nor any election worker I have spoken to, witnessed anything to merit the voting restrictions proposed in this bill. Nor has any substantial proof of voting fraud been put forth as to the need for them. On the contrary, myself and the other judges I spoke to, witnessed the balance of clerks from different parties working together to hold each other accountable to the highest standard of security and to uphold the ideal of free and fair elections. The system of checks voters go through to be able to cast their ballots is already sufficient security. Plainly, these proposed restrictions are not about security, but about making it more difficult to vote.

Curtailling hours of polling places makes it so people that do shift work on non-standard schedules, or that have to work multiple jobs have to pick between sleep and/or making a living, and exercising their right to vote.

As a presiding judge, I had respect for, and a professional report with the poll watchers that came to observe my polling place. But I knew that if they became pushy, and started to infringe on any voter's right to cast their ballot free from intimidation, I could do something about it. With the new protections being proposed for what poll watchers can do, and proposed penalties for anyone that interferes with them, I feel that can only put a chilling effect on poll workers being able to act to safe guard citizens' rights to vote free from partisan intimidation.

And then there's the matter of the proposed monthly 'cross-check of voter rolls.' This is a thinly veiled attempt to expand voter purging with tax payer funds. A similar effort in 2019 led to the misidentifying of tens of thousands of legal citizens as ineligible to vote. To risk the disenfranchisement of thousands on the unsubstantiated possibility that one or two might cast an unlawful ballot is unconscionable.

I'm a proud citizen of Texas, but I cry shame on our government for squandering tax payer money by focusing on making it easier to carry a gun, than it is to vote. On the library across from the capitol the following words are engraved in stone: "All political power is inherent in the people and all free governments are founded on their authority." So, in our name, I beg you to do

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the right thing and vote down this gross over-reaching attempt to restrict that authority away from the very people you are meant to serve.

Allison Allison

Self

Keller, TX

This bill is targeting minority groups. It's not about election integrity. That was termed by Raegan back in the 80s to scare voters. Republicans can't even fight fair. Our election process is about a democracy. Wouldn't you want a fair election?

Charisa Beebe

Self

Houston, TX

I do not support HB3, as it targets the people who oppose the powers that be, therefore it is for the purpose of preventing certain (minority) people from voting

Kellye Fares

Self

Garland, TX

Voting needs to be accessible or else our system falls to fascism. The proposed measures in the name of "fraud prevention" is mere fear mongering; statistical analysis shows that attempted fraud caught in elections thus far does not amount to a significant effect. Democracy will only be weakened by measures that restrict voters.

Tammy Cox

Private citizen

string:TYLER, TX

How dare you try to restrict voting in Texas. No voter fraud has ever been proven. Republicans showing what Republicans truly are, completely dishonest and self serving. We WILL turn Texas blue. Every time you pull something like this, it motivates your opposition that much more. Looking forward to working to vote you all out of office.

Linda Yarbrough

Assistant judge for election in Llano County

Horseshoe Bay, TX

I'm an assistant judge in Llano county. I have worked the electors for over 10 years and there is no fraud. Making changes to the elect law is unnecessary and it will reduce the number of voters who should vote. I work hard to be sure valid votes vote but this bill will make it harder. We do not need this bill, as it makes Texas look bad.

David Ward

Self

Plano, TX

We cannot support voter suppression. We should be focused on making it easier for all to vote, not harder. Do not allow polling places to be closed. Do not prevent drive through voting, mail votes, or other forms of voting necessary for participating in our

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democracy. If representatives are so concerned about which way its' constituents may vote, I urge them to address this with policies that will enable them rather than silence them.

Elizabeth Skerpan-Wheeler, Mrs.

self

Austin, TX

This is a solution in search of a problem. The elections of 2020 were fair and honest. This proposed bill supports the Big Lie that they were not. The right to vote is an essential part of citizenship, and yet historically various laws, such as those proposed by this bill, have implicitly targeted certain classes and categories of persons to keep them from voting. I have served as an election judge and I know from experience that the alleged frauds are extremely rare. Those who say that fraud is easy have never worked an election. This bill is the equivalent of using nuclear weapons to kill mosquitos. It is an insult to all of us who have officially served during Texas elections. It is also a threat to anyone who is not affluent (can't get time off from work to wait in long lines) or who, because of age or disability, needs help to vote. Can supporters of this bill show hard, credible evidence that there was any problem with the 2020 election that would have been sufficient to alter the outcome? The answer is clearly no, because they would have produced it by now if they had any. This legislation is designed to rig elections from the outset by preventing certain groups of citizens from voting. I am old enough to remember similar laws in the early 1960s that were designed to exclude some groups of citizens. They were wrong then and they are wrong now. What's next? Poll taxes and literacy tests? I urge the rejection of this ugly, regressive bill.

Katharine Ortiz

Self

Allen, TX

By imposing more restrictions, you are causing hardships for legitimate people being able to vote.

Debra Rigney

self / newspaper publisher

EVANT, TX

What you and the republican party are doing our democracy is so wrong. Restricting the rights of Americans to vote! Taking away a person's RIGHT to cast their ballot! What are you afraid of? Why can't you win elections fairly? The people are seeing what you are doing. Please stop this.

Doris Michalak

Self

JerseyVillage, TX

Voter integrity is a MUST. Please pass this bill. Not doing so is an insult to every voter.

Alexandrea Melgoza, PhD student

Self

Austin, TX

This is harmful to disenfranchised communities

Diane Hadley

Self / sales and nurse

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Montgomery, TX

The integrity of our elections was called into question in 2020. How can we expect citizens of Texas to believe their vote counts if voter integrity is in question. We need photo / voter ID for every vote cast. We also need stiff penalties for those who fraudulently alter, suppress, or cast illegal votes. These penalties should be enforced regardless of party affiliation. It's shameful how the USA and Texas have allowed our elections to become a shit show.

Loralee Ward

Self

Plano, TX

Restricting the means and ease with which Texas residents can vote is a form of voter suppression. The amount of voter fraud is too small to be more important than encouraging and enabling people to vote. These bills target people with disabilities and others who have obstacles preventing them from voting in person and during typical voting hours.

Natasha King

Self

Houston, TX

In order to maintain a fair and just process, we must maintain voter integrity by imposing serious penalties for those that try and manipulate the system unfairly. By allowing fraudulent voting practices you jeopardize everything that makes America the best place in the world to be..

Theodore Croy, Dr.

self

Fort Sam Houston, TX

Texas elections should use paper ballots, require voter ID, and ensure each resident/citizen submits only one vote per election in his/her district. Paper ballots should be printed on unique, marked paper with security features limiting reproduction by unofficial means. Each voting age Texan legally allowed to vote should have the opportunity to submit a single vote in each election.

Routine auditing of 10% or a specific number of counties or districts, randomly selected, should occur without need for strenuous measures and executed in a prescribed manner by a disinterested 3rd party. Citizen concerns submitted by affidavit in any district also ought to trigger audit in order to safeguard or restore integrity. Computer voting suggests expediency in results aggregation, however, are not adequately reliable, safe, nor secure. Paper ballots should be accounted for via signed, secured chain of custody and kept for an adequate period to support later audit.

Texas should avoid prolonged early voting periods and restrict in person voting to a single day. The state should also avoid excessive decentralization of polling locations where possible.

Reports of ballot destruction, defacement, reproduction, mishandling, loss of control, misrepresentation or alteration by a poll worker should be investigated and prosecuted. Voting fraud by any citizen misrepresenting themselves, or another person, at any polling location by providing false identification or multiple voting attempts should be penalized with fines and/or incarceration. ID fraud, like voter fraud, should similarly be investigated and prosecuted.

Election officials should be citizens residing in the district, free from external influence, and legally tasked with planning, executing and communicating sound voting plans supported by the citizens residing there.

Routine auditing and reporting of total number of voting age individuals with Texas issue ID cards should be performed in order to serve as a marker for proportion of citizens who could vote in each election.

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Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Edward Tran
Self, Software Engineer
Richardson, TX

This is an overreach of government taking away the rights of citizens and using fear to justify it.

There is no evidence supporting the need of such laws and regulations. It is the government trying to find a problem for their pre-determined solution.

I am strongly against HB3.

Milda Scott, Ms
Self, retired
Cibolo, TX

As an experienced Election Worker in a growing county, I offer these suggestions.

- 1) Suitable election locations are hard to find. Population is growing. Let us erect tents so voters can comfortably wait in their cars and drive-thru vote. Good option when indoor space gets even harder to come by. Discard changes in Section 3.04 and 3.12 against this.
- 2) Another flexibility for our Elections Officer in the future is expanding hours to avoid overcrowding of polling places and to better serve workers on various shifts. She should be able to choose to keep polls open later than 10PM if it serves the population of her county. Remove mentions of limiting hours to 10PM in Section 3.08 and 3.09.
- 3) Under Section 4.01, 4.02, 4.03, 4.04, 4.05, 4.06, and 4.07 we give Poll Watchers a free pass to intimidate, and legal options to solidify threats. Yet election workers are chargeable with a Class B Misdemeanor? Election workers are diligent, even-tempered, reasonable people... but the public is full of irrational ones who are potential partisan poll watchers. Can you imagine trying to think through a confusing issue while a poll watcher breathes down your neck, because he's allowed to be as close as he wants? This wording is gross and creepy. We need to protect the workers, not threaten them. Do away with these changes letting Poll Watchers intimidate workers. The only piece of these Sections to keep is the Oath given to Poll Watchers; except, add to Oath as follows.

I swear the voting process or harass voters NOR ELECTION WORKERS....

- 4) In Section 4.09 we're again tying the hands of Elections Officials by denying option to install drop boxes. Why can't elderly or disabled voters drop their ballots in a secure box instead of getting out of the car? Give counties the option.
- 5) Sections 5.02, 5.03, 5.06 are adding a "Confuse the Grandmas" requirement. Why is voter ID necessary for mail-in applications and ballots? The Elections Office already knows the person lives at that address and is not dead. Why make voting more difficult for elderly and disabled? Get rid of this.
- 6) Section 5.05 seems to only allow outright rejection of mail-in application. Needs opportunity to correct defect.
- 7) Section 6.02 is a racist, xenophobic, ageist and ableist attempt to intimidate voters and their helpers by demanding too much personal information.
- 8) Section 7.03: felony?! Election workers get about 2 hours of training. Polls are chaotic places when busy, and shifts very long. Although we try our hardest, working 15 hours on Election Day is quite a feat of endurance and we definitely aren't in it for the low pay. Don't criminalize us for making a mistake.
- 9) Sec. 276.016, distribution of applications to vote by mail: another attack on Grandma and Elections Office. Automatic annual

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mailings are more efficient than fielding hundreds of phone calls and confusion at polls. Give EOs the chance to do their jobs well.

Vickie McCarthy

Self

Houston, TX

I am voicing my concerns over the threat of voter fraud. I would like to see stricter penalties for committing voter fraud crimes and would like to

Fight for voter integrity!!

joel abramowitz, MD PhD

self retired physician

houston, TX

Dear House members,

Thank you for your consideration.

I am given my written statement in opposition to HB3.

I am a second generation American whose family left eastern Europe at the turn of the 2000 century. I am a retired physician having come to Houston from New York with my family in 1979 to do a hematology-oncology fellowship at MD Anderson. One of those Yankees who stayed.

My wife and I are white, privileged and well to do. We live in the museum district and have no problem voting. My wife and I are dedicated DVR's both with the League of Women Voters and other venues. One of the most inspiring events for us was to register new citizens after they were sworn in. It made me immensely proud to be an American and reaffirmed that this is the greatest country in the world. We are hoping to resume this activity as the pandemic resolves.

My grandson who has lived with us since he was 9 years old and is now living independently at age 20 is biracial. I have two families a white one and a black one. My black family has been instrumental in helping raise our grandson.

Up until 2020 when voting was made easier by extended early voting, 24-hour voting, drive through voting and allowing you to vote at any polling station in Harris County, it was a hardship for my black family to vote. The polling places in their neighborhoods had fewer voting machines and with previously shorter voting times resulted in long lines and waits, time wasted that my wife and I did not experience.

We do not need new laws in Texas to make it harder for people to vote because of their ethnicity. We should be a state that encourages everyone to vote. Voter registration should be automatic when you access public resources, turn 18, get a driver's license or other licenses, etc.

We are in a computer age, and we should be embarking on a verifiable, electronic, and hack-free system of voting that can be done at home or in the workplace. This method would be no more of an "outside influence" than the current one that allow a voter to bring in a paper sheet that they or their family/friends have made to help them with the voting process.

We should be thinking big not small. Therefore, again I ask you to not pass HB3.

Thank you for your time.

Stay safe and well.

Joel William Abramowitz MD PhD

katherine hoag

Self

Houston, TX

Support

Erika DeLaRosa

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Self/Teacher

Houston, TX

Integrity is defined as the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. Integrity is the state of being whole and undivided. Security is defined as the state of being free from danger or threat. This bill cannot be characterized as having integrity - considering it is rooted in lies created by people who did not want to accept results of truly free and accessible elections. This bill cannot be characterized as having integrity because there is no moral principle that withholds voting rights and accessibility from millions of poor and working class residents of Texas. This bill does not create a whole and undivided Texas, it further divides our state, allowing the wealthy to keep and accumulate more power and push aside poor and working class Texans. Nothing in this bill promotes security. The passage of this bill will make even attempting to vote dangerous for some Texans. The passage of this bill threatens and intimidates poor and working class Texans; telling poor and working class Texans that we should not attempt to cast our votes lest we be threatened with criminal consequences. This bill should not be passed.

Jorge Mendoza

self/CAT scan tech

Houston, TX

I do not support the passage of this bill.

Melissa Wilder

Self - dietitian

Houston, TX

I am requesting voting for this bill to prevent fraud in future elections.

Alicia Hudson

Self

Houston, TX

Election integrity and security are very important such as requiring voter ID, restricting mail in ballots for only few reasons. There should be increased penalties and offenses for offenders. No cheating. There is already enough of that.

Celeste Medina

Moms

Houston, TX

For the love of our great state, please protect election integrity! Good bless Texas.

Rebekah Warwick, Central Regional Coordinator

Heritage Action for America

Grand Prairie, TX

Thank you, Chairman Ashby, and members of the Select Committee, for the opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill 3. My name is Rebekah Warwick, Texas-based Central Regional Coordinator for Heritage Action for America. We are a national grassroots organization with activists in Texas, and across the country.

House Bill 3 would implement common-sense reforms ensuring that it is easy to vote and hard to cheat in Texas' elections.

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House Bill 3 rightly includes the provision that each voter be required to provide photo identification, making voter ID consistent whether a voter casts their ballot in person or by mail-in ballot. Requiring each voter to authenticate their identity is a common sense proposal.

Voter ID is widely supported in Texas. The Texas Association of Business found in an April 2021 poll that an overwhelming 85% of Texans support voter ID. The Dallas Morning News also published a poll in April 2021 that showed a majority of Texans supported the election reform efforts during the regular legislative session.

House Bill 3 additionally increases the security of mail-in ballots by prohibiting election officials from distributing unsolicited vote-by-mail applications and mail-in ballots to a voter who did not request to vote by mail. Residents may move, addresses may change, and not every new resident at an address may throw out the ballot application that is being automatically mailed to a former resident. Automatically mailing ballot applications or ballots to registered voters creates additional invitation to confusion, fraud, and abuse.

Moreover, House Bill 3 protects the integrity and security of mail-in ballots by prohibiting paid ballot harvesting. Texas law already makes provision for mail-in ballots to be personally delivered to election officials by the voter; someone “related to the voter within the second degree by affinity or the third degree by consanguinity”; “physically living in the same dwelling as the voter”; or someone “lawfully assisting a voter who was eligible for assistance” (Texas Election Code §86.006, Texas Government Code § 573). By prohibiting paid operatives from harvesting ballots, House Bill 3 secures and provides crucial safeguards to both the integrity of a voter’s ballot and the integrity of the electoral process.

House Bill 3 further promotes transparency in elections by strengthening the rights of poll watchers to see and hear the process and report any irregularities, while not interfering with the conduction of the election. Unfortunately there are verified cases of poll watchers being illegally removed or obstructed from observing the process during past elections. Poll watchers play an important role in instilling confidence that our elections are free and fair.

Every fraudulent vote negates a legally cast vote, robbing a citizen of their voice and further eroding trust in the system. HB 3 is a crucial step to increasing voter confidence that it is easy to vote and hard to cheat.

Virginia Friederichs, MRS

Self

Sugar Land, TX

Utmost importance is voter integrity. Absolutely no more fraudulent elections should ever happen again. It is ruining our country.

Johnny Hernandez

Self /Retired

El Paso, TX

Reject

Gloria Nino Monacelli

N/A

Houston, TX

Crime in our city our state and our country is horrendous. With everyone having access to cameras and videos on their mobile devices we have seen atrocities of abductions, murder, human traffic and adult and child abuse beyond reality. Sadly, it is real. Criminals must not be released from jail and justice must be served for the thousands of victims and families deserving of a fair trial. STOP, STOP using COVID as excuse for justice for all. Judges must step up and do their jobs in a fair and unbiased legal manner. STOP making excuses and delaying a process which is already far more cumbersome than it should be. Criminals laugh at our ineffective processes and victims are made to suffer far longer to see justice than necessary. Judges who wish not to work should be fired...without delay.

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Alicia Lam, Mrs.

Self

Houston, TX

Crime in the city of Houston has increased dramatically since the court turned over to Democrat judges. Keep offenders in jail, do not revoke bail!

Quit using Covid as an excuse. The revolving door for criminals is the biggest crime!

Catherine Anderson

Self

Houston, TX

Election integrity is important to our democracy. It will insure for all regardless of race or creed that votes are received and counted responsibly. Harvest balloting is a threat to fair elections.

Deanna Lutz

Self

Houston, TX

Agree

Christy Naves Bowen

Myself

Houston, TX

Honestly, between HB 3 and HB 2 I pray that they are both heard and truly put into place. As a new mother to two, whom I hope will be stand up law abiding citizens, I of course am worried about their safety. And what will be left of this country when they can vote. Both of these bills, in my humble opinion, protect their future. Their future now - day to day - playing in the front yard (supervised), at the park, going to the grocery store and school. Safety for not only them but also for my husband and myself. What would happen to their mental state should something tragic (at the hands of others) happen to us? Please don't look at your personal political agendas for HB 2 - please look at the children. These kids who need parents/grandparents/aunts/uncles alive and not threatened by someone who should be behind bars. Their lives that could be taken by a menacing force that our judicial system just lets free. The news right now is bleak - horrid - down right scary. All these people we've let out of jail - with felonies, who have done awful things... have done those those things again. Not all of them - I'm not an idiot. And I fully believe in second chances. But sex trafficking/sexual abuse/child abuse/ child predators/murders/ multiple drug and drinking arrests/ etc... these people do not need to be given the chance to bond out. Think of the future of Houston - not just our kids but our kids kids.

Per the election laws - I have to show a drivers license to pick up movie tickets, to buy alcohol/tobacco/lotto tickets/to pick up concert tickets/sports tickets... we need it to vote. We need to know who is voting and not letting our neighbor who died 10 yrs ago vote. This is common sense. The only people who should obtain absentee ballots are those that are elderly, traveling, physically not able to get there or are able to submit for an absentee ballot. It's not hard... I did it when I was in college and I'm not that bright. Come on... seriously, if I can do at 21 yrs old and most likely hungover - anyone can do it. We need to get better and showing responsibility is voting. If people feel strongly about it, they will vote. That's what makes up America and makes me proud to be in this great nation. We need to keep that strong.

Thanks for hearing me. Not a politician - just a hard working middle class mom who loves her kids and wants to give them the childhood she was lucky enough to have. I apologize if the verbiage is awful - writing this after a very long day from A tiny phone.

Maureen Scheevel, Ms

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Self, retired

Austin, TX

I wholeheartedly REJECT the efforts outlined in this bill to limit citizen access to voting, one of our most sacred American rights. We should be accommodating citizens who want to vote early, who work non traditional hours, and who may not drive. We should not be creating opportunities for voter intimidation by expanding the presence of “watchers”. I see no loss of inherent integrity by voting in a tent or a parking lot solely because those are not permanent structures. This bill and its Senate counterpoint are designed to discourage legal and legitimate voters from exercising their rights, all in the guise of increasing integrity. Shame on you for caring more about preserving political power rather than empowering the citizens of our state to exercise their right to vote.

Dustin Davis

Self, farmer

Austin, TX

As a Texan born native I feel it is important that I express my strong aversion for any law to be enacted which will necessarily restrict the ability to vote from some of my fellow Texans. Despite what many have claimed there is no evidence of widespread illegal voting in Texas, but changing laws to make voting more difficult will surely result in something that many will argue is an illegal suppression of voting rights. I happen to think those arguments are sound and I ask you as representation for the great people of Texas to do what is in your power to make voting as easy as is possible for every Texan.

Natalie Faust

Self

West University Place, TX

Our elections are the most important event in our country. They deserve the absolute highest degree of integrity and security. We shouldn't have more security parameters surrounding logging into a game app than we do our elections. Security is a priority in election confidence and is our country's legacy.

ALEJANDRO DE LA VEGA

Self, scientist

Austin, TX

Election fraud is exceedingly rare. This bill needlessly makes it more difficulty to vote, disenfranchising millions of Texas for decades to come.

Virginia "Ginger" Sparks

Self Administrative Assistant

Corpus Christi, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Our elections have to be fair and secure. This bill is needed to keep our elections secure so that we have faith in our elections again Most people in Texas support secure elections. This is what your constituents want. The people who oppose free and fair elections are the racists. They lie to the people and say that having secure elections makes it harder for minorities to vote. Well, minorities want free and fair elections! No one wants it to be easy to CHEAT in our elections!! You owe it to your constiutents to pass this bill and help restore faith in our elections and our Republic. The people have the right to vote for their candidates and be secure in knowing THEY elected the candidates, not radical fringe groups trying to push their evil agenda on the masses. It is our choice! Do the right thing and pass this bill.

Katherine Godby, —

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Self

Arlington, TX

We should be expanding opportunities to vote, not limiting them. Texas already makes voting unnecessarily difficult. I urge defeat of this bill. We need MORE polling places, more early voting opportunities, online voter registration, drive through voting, more support for Souls to the Polls, etc. I urge the House to do the right thing: vote NO on this bill.

Diana Molina

Self, landscape architect

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose any measures designed to create criminal offenses regarding anything election related in this bill. Voter fraud is proven by all reputable data to not be an issue in this state or in this country, therefore this bill is just more wasteful government spending and intrusion. Lets spend effort and money where it's needed, not creating solutions to problems that don't exist at the cost of what we hold most dear as American patriots, our freedom to vote and voice our opinion.

Courtney Perry

Self

Austin, TX

I am adamantly opposed to this voter suppression bill.

Berit Kragas

Myself

Austin, TX

These proposed bills are an embarrassment to Texas. You are so obviously attempting to keep people from voting (of course, more specifically, keeping voters who don't vote Republican from voting.) I worked at the Travis County voting office with mail-in ballots for three months leading up to the 2020 election. I went into it with a somewhat skeptical view and expected to see problems and some amount of disarray. After a week or two of working there and seeing first-hand how the system worked with multiple checks and balances and utmost security and integrity in place, I told my husband and friends that they should not hesitate to trust the mail-in ballot system. There were never partisan discussions and the goal was clearly to get the vote to all qualified voters. Also there are MANY Republican mail-in ballots - I was surprised by how many I processed for liberal Travis County (only known when they specified party affiliation) so you just may be shooting yourselves in the foot on that one. Don't make Texas any more backwards looking than you already have! We look like dumb morons as it is with the likes of our "leaders" some of whom (uh Paxton) should be in jail. Get over your White Male Meltdown mentality and do the right thing for a change. Do not impose voting restrictions on our system in Texas which is working well (with very few instances of fraud...you know that fraud story is a lie!). If these restrictions pass, all of you who voted for these clearly racist voting laws will come down on the wrong side of history - shame on you!! - and your grandchildren will have to live with the fact you pushed Texas even further backwards.

Julie Strother

Self/Consultant

Cypress, TX

The proposed bill will harm constituents and is exactly opposite of our democratic republic. All eligible citizens must be given easy access to the polls. I am recently disabled. Because of that, I and my spouse voted in drive thru voting in the last election. There was a GOP sympathizer who brought a lawsuit to throw the votes out because the votes likely lean toward democrats. He lost, but I was very upset that my 1st vote as a disabled voter was threatened to not be counted. This bill unfairly targets people

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with disabilities.

This bill also contains undemocratic and outrageous text to overturn the will of the voters. This is abhorrent! Just because a vote doesn't fit into a party's world view and the the majority of voters selected another party does not mean that is was an unfair or rigged election.

This bill also attacks mail in voting. This too will disenfranchise disabled voters who are unable to get to the polls or a ballot Dropbox, which have also been unfairly restricted for democratic leaning cities. This will also disenfranchise low income and minority voters who are unable to go to the polls. These same voters will have difficulty getting a copy of an approved ID to submit. For years, an ID was not required. There has been no proof of widespread fraud to make this change. This limitation of mail in voting makes sense during a global pandemic. There was nothing nefarious, unless you consider keeping people safe and healthy is a bad thing. All citizens should have access to no excuse mail in voting. The goal is to have people choose their representative and participate in democracy.

This whole bill is unnecessary. There was no widespread voter fraud in the last election. There us nothing in this bill to make voting safer. This bill is solely to disenfranchise voters to try to hold on to control and preserve a minority voting block. Vote against this undemocratic bill.

Kelly Devlin

Self/teacher

Houston, TX

We need to ensure our elections are fair and only those eligible to vote are voting. We need HB3 to restore our faith in elections.

Denise Hernández

Self, City Council Aide

San Antonio, TX

My great-grandmother passed away a few years ago shortly before her 100th birthday. She was a migrant farm worker, a factory worker, a widow of a Korean War vet who committed suicide and left her alone as a mother of four young children. She faced racism, extreme poverty, and then the loss of her son to the Vietnam War. And despite all of this she was beautiful, inside and out, and full of love. Her convictions and strength inspired me my entire life. She gave more to this country and this state than most people I've met.

One of my earliest memories is of my grandmother & I taking her to vote at Las Palmas library in San Antonio's beautiful westside. She voted every election and was adamant about it. It instilled in me a sense of the importance of voting and protecting that right, one she sacrificed so much for.

This bill is a disgrace to Texans. Voter fraud is a GOP myth, created to cling to power in a state which has made clear we are ready to move into a more just future and elect folks who look like us, think like us, love like us, and work like us.

I vehemently oppose this bill.

Jane Vevea

My family and myself

Georgetown, TX

Please do not pass this bill.

Make it easier to vote with mail in ballot for all in any language needed.

Jamie Wilson

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Self, former teacher

Austin, TX

Voter suppression gussied up as “election security” is still voter suppression. I oppose this bill.

Max Miller, President/Pastor

Baptist Ministers' Association of Houston & Vicinity

Houston, TX

Hello! My name is Dr. Max A. Miller Jr. I am a Texan representing a voice in my district and various counties throughout Texas. I am NOT in favor of HB3 nor SB1. I am asking Senators and Representatives to represent my voice by maintaining my liberties to vote by saying NO to HB3.

This bill places hardships on minorities, especially black and brown, the elderly, and the disabled.

We all are aware that these bills are designed to hurt certain individuals, so I am asking for those who are attempting to vote these bills through, to allow God to be your conscience and your guide as you remove these bills, go back to the humble beginnings, and recraft a bill that is fair for all and not a target for those that you are attempting to silence and remove their voting rights. I ask you as a voice crying in the wilderness, to vote NO.

How can you say that you are a moral creature with God as your God, and mistreat people that are begging for you to not vote these bills through?

We are not animals we are children of God! We are not slaves; we are servants of the Most High! We should be pushing forward not marching backwards. We are in the 21st century not in the 19th century. Please do the right thing.

Heiko Stang

Self

Wimberley, TX

I am writing to urge you to OPPOSE HB 3. Every citizen should be able to have equal and fair access to their right to vote. Erecting additional and unnecessary barriers goes against the core principles of our democracy. No voter should feel intimidated while voting and partisan poll watchers should not be enabled to disrupt or possibly even influence the outcome of elections. Increased participation in elections should be our goal not something we fear. Please vote NO on HB 3.

Vicky Clevenger

Self

Garland, TX

I do not want automatic voter registration period....

Sharon Mineo

Self

Austin, TX

I am absolutely opposed to restrictive voter bills like HB 3 that make spurious claims of "fraud protection" in an obvious effort to prevent opposition party voters from voting. I encourage the committee to reject this bill.

Melissa Monreal

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self

Austin, TX

I adamantly oppose this bill.

Sharon Stockbauer

Self

Austin, TX

I'm opposed to this bill because the election system in Texas worked well during the last election. I have not seen any evidence of fraud. I also think local governments should be free to create rules and procedures that work best for their community without state interference.

Elizabeth Wally

self

Dallas, TX

I want to begin by saying that SECTION 1.#2 and 3 refer to "Fraud" as if it were a problem in our elections here in Texas. It is not and has been proven over and over that it is not. What is true is that the voters have been told that it is by the Republicans for political reasons and then used as an excuse to put up barriers to our freedom to vote. #4. is not true but I am glad it is acknowledged that it is unconstitutional to do what this bill is doing -- greatly limit our access to voting.

Of special concern is the intent to intimidate voters and election workers by threat of criminal action for actions they most likely would take unknowingly or accidentally without recourse to remedy such action. We have seen what your intentions are in the case of Crystal Mason, and now the man who spent six hours in line to vote in Houston and you suddenly decided to charge with being a few months short of his long probation. Clearly neither voter knew what they were doing wrong, as opposed to the slap on the wrist for white Republican voters who intentionally voted for Trump with dead parent's ballot. The intention to intimidate is clearly aimed at people of color, new voters, young voters. As is the poll watcher section. The new powers given to partisan poll watchers over the privacy of the voter and the authority of the trained and experienced election judge and workers seems to be intentionally set up to increase tension in the polling location with entitled "tattle-tales". I don't see that these poll watchers are required to take the election judge and clerk training. I am not convinced that the Heritage folks who wrote your bill have ever worked an election. There is always tension and the professionals have been proven very capable of dealing with it. But eager partisans, trained to harass, and I have seen them at work, create more work for the judge, without adding in any way and security to the election.

What you are doing with this bill is transparent - as they say "saying the quiet part out-loud". In a state with the most voter suppression, you are adding more twists and turns in order to intimidate election workers and voters with threats of criminal consequences for breaking new complicated unnecessary rules. I think you will find that you will have hurt your own workers and voters as much as the Democrats. Trained elections workers take their jobs seriously in a nonpartisan professional way. This bill is written like a guide for child-rearing by a child phobic non-parent.

Diana Alexander

Self, Educator

Houston, TX

I write to you as a citizen, mother, daughter of an immigrant, educator, and former candidate for office. I could go on and on and about my grievances with the provisions outlined in HB3. What I see is a desperate power grab from your constituents, a way to subdue opposition to the electorate.

This is a manufactured problem.

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In essence, you are creating doubt in our election process where there is none, going along with the Big Lie. What you mean to do is dilute my voice in matters of education, immigration reform, fixing our infrastructure problems like our power grid, and preventing nothing but a narrow agenda of nihilism and oppression to move forward.

Shame. Shame on those who embrace bills fashioned by dark money organizations like ALEC to undermine and subvert democracy. We see exactly what you are doing.

Do better,
Diana Martinez Alexander

Jeri Ross
Self/Public School Teacher
Wimberley, TX

My name is Jeri Ross. I live in Wimberley, TX 78676. I am opposed to HB 3/SB 1 for the following reasons:

1. My husband and I work in San Antonio teaching. He is a college professor and I am a public school teacher. We are never at home on election day; therefore, we need as many options as possible for voting. We are eligible to vote by mail or absentee, but with our schedules and the changes in postal delivery we cannot always depend on mail in voting to ensure our vote gets counted timely. So, drop off locations are important. We need as many of those as possible because we never know where we are going to be when the deadline arrives. We also need the option and convenience of early voting in as many locations as possible. In Hays County we have recently been allowed to vote in person at any polling location county-wide for several weekends before election day. We do not want to lose this convenience.
2. I do not want to see the number of polling locations reduced, because that creates long lines. My husband and I both have medical issues that make us wary of being in crowded conditions. It should make absolutely no difference to the state how many polling locations there are if the county is okay with it.
3. I am in favor of drive-up voting. This is convenient for the disabled, as well as for women with small children. Again, if the county can make it happen, why should the state care? The requirements for legal voting don't change just because the poll worker comes to the car.
4. I do not wish to be intimidated by poll watchers. There should be limits on poll watchers in any legislation along with guidelines regarding disputes.
5. The only reason to create impediments to voting is to pander to the Big Lie that the last presidential election was "stolen" through voter fraud. There has been no voter fraud. There was no stolen election. The last election was as secure as any election has ever been. If someone didn't win, it is because they failed to persuade enough people to vote for them. It's their own fault. You must stop perpetrating the false narrative that different methods of voting lead to fraud. They do not. Donald Trump won in Texas with all these new easy voting methods and conveniences. Easier voting helps all parties. All you have to do is persuade voters.

Patricia Mitchell
self

Dallas, TX

I am here to oppose provisions in HB 3 that will limit access to voting in my community limiting early voting hours or make it harder to vote by mail. Only fascists and dictators seek to retain power by denying people the right to vote, which is what this bill is designed to do. Passing this bill is a direct attack on our democracy by allowing the state to oppress citizens and deny them their right to participate in electing their government.

Lisa C Widner
self - semi retired

HOUSTON, TX

This bill has nothing to do with protecting the vote and everything to do with suppression. The GOP should be ashamed of themselves. How can the time that one votes - lend to voter fraud ?? really explain that to me. And how can it be that making it easier for those who are disabled, serving abroad or have a super crazy schedule be wrong ?? I served as an election official for

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the primaries and this past fall for early voting and election day. I will tell you that the GOP poll watcher was a total jerk. He literally walked step by step with the young man taking out the drive up voter system to the cars. In fact someone said to him "Why don't you get a saddle?" He even had VOTERS tell him to "back up bro." This was the height of Covid and we were doing our best to keep our place sanitized and EVERYONE being able to vote. But not this guy he violated 6 foot space all the time and even sat at the check in tables next to us. He would write copious notes every day and call every night trying to get our judge fired. He was totally out of control and ridiculous. And you are saying that this is the type of person you want to give MORE authority and TOTAL ACCESS to voting areas and even allow them to STALK Judges and follow them when they leave to submit results ?? You should want to have people volunteering to work but all this BS it is going to cause people to be afraid to work. When any one person can call and report someone (even if they were not there or have any valid proof) and that person could be fined or jailed then this country is going to hell in a handbasket. Once again anyone who has anything to do with putting this bill together or even considering voting for it - much less doing so - are embarrassing and a worthless elected official. For once could the officials of TEXAS do something that if favorable for the ALL OF TEXAS people. You do realize if this absurd law passes - it also limits GOP voters.\)? Lastly it is pretty damning when Crenshaw has a district shaped liked the outline of the letter C and Paxton says that "Biden would have won the state if I had not blocked mail in ballot applications being sent out." I wonder what happens when everyone starts using this wackadoodle mentality with other things in life.... overturning a Texas A & M football game cause they should have lost, taking the homecoming Queens crown because we do not like her. I am out of the country now or I would be on that darn bus tomorrow coming from Houston. And mark my words if this stupid ass bill passes, I will work the hardest I have ever worked in my life to register new voters and overturn this sick legislature and equally as sick state officials. DO THE RIGHT DAMN THING FOR ONCE.

Arthur Ripkowski

Myself

Baytown, TX

The United States of America must require VOTER IDs to vote. Legal Citizens must be the only ones allowed to vote. Integrity must be followed in society & in civilized countries. The meaning of integrity is the practice of Being Honest and showing a consistent and uncompromising adherence to strong moral and ethical principles and values. In ethics, integrity is regarded as the honesty and truthfulness or accuracy of one's actions. Integrity can stand in opposition to hypocrisy, in that judging with the standards of integrity involves regarding internal consistency as a virtue, and suggests that parties holding within themselves apparently conflicting values should account for the discrepancy or alter their beliefs. This must occur. The word integrity evolved from the Latin adjective integer, meaning whole or complete. In this context, integrity is the inner sense of "wholeness" deriving from qualities such as honesty and consistency of character. As such, one may judge that others "have integrity" to the extent that they act according to the values, beliefs, and principles they claim to hold. I say this to you as a reminder to please adhere to the meanings of words. Thank you. Get to Work FOR TEXAS & AMERICANS with Sense.

Michelle Mostert

Self- PEMF Therapist

Dripping Springs, TX

Please SUPPORT HB 3. Election Integrity is vital to fair and honest elections. We want every legal vote to count and punish those that add illegal votes. Please do NOT water this bill down. Thank you.

Carrie Weitinger

My Community

Houston, TX

It is paramount that we as Texas voters have confidence in voting integrity. Please make sure that every legal Texan vote is counted and illegal ballots are not. Please make it harder to CHEAT and if caught, prosecuted!

Sincerely,

Carrie Weitinger

Daniel Ries, Mr.

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self, Computer Graphics Generalist

Allen, TX

In all of Texas' elections from the past 15 years combined, there have been fewer than 100 instances of convicted voter fraud. Even if all of those had happened in the same county, and in the same year, it wouldn't have been enough to sway the outcome of a vote. Voter fraud in Texas is not a threat, and to pretend that it is demonstrates either ignorance or a willful intent to conceal the truth. In contrast, all studies have found that voter intimidation is a significant force in disenfranchising the poor and the overworked, especially minorities. When fewer than 2/3rds of Texans voted in the last general election, your focus should be on measures that make it easier to register, and easier to vote. Instead, this bill attacks the rights of the people by making it harder for hardworking Texans to access and exercise their most fundamental right as Americans and as Texans.

As Benjamin Franklin said, "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety." Even if we charitably assumed there are only good intentions behind this bill, it would do nothing more than give up our most precious liberty to purchase safety from a danger that is purely imagined. Texas is not a state of cowards. You were not elected to act like cowards.

In reality, this bill is nothing but a ridiculous and crude attack on the voters of Texas, from those who fear the voice of Democracy. To vote for this bill is to announce that you too are a coward, a liar, a fool, and an enemy to the principles of America. At no point in the history of our country has progress been made by restricting the voting rights of the people. To vote for this bill is to place yourself - for all time - on the side of history populated by despots, racists, liars, conmen, and tyrants.

Your children, and their children, will judge you based on how you vote for this bill. All of Texas will judge you. If there is a fair God, he will judge you too. Your actions will not go unnoticed. This will not be a footnote in history. We are all watching. Make sure we watch you do the right thing.

Donna Eyles

Self and Election Integrity Project of Nueces County

Corpus Christi, TX

I [and the Election Integrity Project of Nueces County] cannot fully support HB 3 because of the large section dealing with mail-in ballots. I do support all other sections of this bill, but it would make much more sense to have individual, focused bills rather than one large bill requiring multiple amendments. This omnibus bill is a recipe for disaster.

Mail-in Ballots

1. Requiring a DL# or last 4 SSN hidden in the carrier envelope does not help identify voters. Ballot boards (who process mail-in ballots) do not have access to either database containing this information - and they are the only ones who can [legally] open the carrier envelope. Better, require a copy of the ID that would have been used had they voted in person. The ballot board will then have a legitimate, legal signature to ensure the voter, himself, actually signed the application and ballot.

How fraud is committed: Fraud is likely committed by one person (not the actual voter) who completes the application for mail-in ballot and signs it, then signs the ballot. Currently, ballot boards check these 2 signatures against each other and the ballot is accepted. We do not have another ID [as would have been required by in-person voting] for legal signature comparison. Give us a signature that has been legally vetted.

2. Providing opportunity to correct defect [on mail-in ballot]

Although a missing signature or missing witness information is a tiny % that may warrant being returned for correction, returning carrier envelopes that have questionable signatures or ones that don't match should never occur! **THIS IS A WAY TO ALLOW SOMEONE TO DESTROY EVIDENCE OF FRAUD!!!** This section needs to be removed!

Thank you for considering my comments.

KIREAU KENDRICK, self

self

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Huntsville, TX

i expect transparency & integrity in our voting. you cannot have one w/o the other. in Texas, there is ZERO transparency. if you want to pass laws that suppress voting in a state where all election results are secretly tabulated, w/o witnesses & reporters, , you cannot apply a moral compass to this legislation. you already rigged the Hart Intercivic Eslate machines when Beto was running & we have the paper trail to prove it. those machines turned Dem straight ticket votes into votes for cruz! you do not have the credibility to say these bills are voter suppression. not after Beto! your legislation is a symbol of hate, bigotry, racism, white supremacy, bullying, lying, immorality, unethics, uncompassion, cruelty, cheating, dishonesty, childish tantrum bc your president lost his election fair & square. if you want to win an election, go out and stop your magas from dying of covid. they are dying in your name.

Charles Beck

Self Precinct Chair 747 HCRP

Spring, TX

Mandatory jail time for election fraud, period!

Jennifer Lane, Professor

Self

Denton, TX

I am a longtime voter, VDR, and election clerk. I am also over 65. Every year my ballot arrives with more and more cautionary information designed to intimidate voters stuffed into the envelope. The Legislature should be working to make voting more accessible, not to make it harder. Recently, I mailed my annual mail-in ballot request form and after six weeks did not receive my ballot or any letter explaining why. Turns out this also happened to several friends. I had to then go into the office during the pandemic and re-apply, which defeats the point. The system of mail-in ballot in Texas is too limited, leading to errors like this. Texas needs universal, no excuse mail-in voting and more drop boxes, both in rural and urban counties. Texas tax payers should not have their time, money and energy wasted on harmful bills like this, which burden voters and election workers like me.

Brody Mulligan

Tarrant County Democratic Party - Precinct 3336

Eules, TX

House Bill Three

I am a volunteer deputy registrar for Tarrant County, and Chair for my Precinct No. 3336.

I am writing in opposition to the provisions within the bill that will make voting by mail less accessible, and less available. Many voters in my district have mobility issues, including my neighbor, on behalf of whom I write today. Mrs. Kirby is 81 years old, and widow to her husband who fought in two wars, on behalf of the United States. She has voted in every election, except one - the most recent municipal election. Because the county was unable to send eligible voters applications to vote by mail automatically, she was unable to apply for and receive a ballot by mail in time for the most recent Joint Municipal Election of May 1st 2021. She deserves to have her vote counted, no matter who she votes for.

Every vote counts, and every vote must be counted.

I oppose this bill, for this reason.

-Brody Andrew Mulligan

Molly Salazar, Harris County Election Alternate Judge

Self

Houston, TX

I've served as alt.judge since 2007 and see first hand the abuse of mail in ballots. how paid ballot harvesters have bullied voters

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and keep corrupt and inept politicians in office. Additionally, the Democrat Leadership is supported with outside monies to implement illegal voting procedures here in 2020. Yes we had internet access from our staff voter iPads and we able to look up a number of times voter information among other websites. Democrat run county changed procedures and tallies and controls were ignored in 2019 and 2020.

Voter rolls must be cleared and mail in ballots from one location should not be allowed. Get rid of professional harvesters!

Katrina Haley

Myself and Election Integrity Project of Nueces County

Corpus Christi, TX

HB 3 issues I do not support and why: Carrier envelopes including DL# and the last 4 digits of the SS#. Ballot boards do not have access to these databases, and only ballot boards are allowed to open carrier envelopes. The clerk's office does not check signatures on requests for application against another signature. Ballot boards need to have a copy of the same ID that is used for in-person voting, not for the picture but for a legal signature. Fraud is likely committed by one person (not actual voter) who completes the application for mail-in ballot and signs it, then signs the ballot. Ballot boards check these 2 signatures against each other – not against another ID (as is requested by in-person voting). In regards to the opportunity to correct defect on mail-in ballot: absolutely NO WAY should the carrier envelopes be sent back to the sender that may have signatures that don't match, because this is a way to allow someone to destroy evidence of fraud!

What needs to happen is: require the same voter ID for mail-in voting as we do for in-person voting.

Please scrap HB 3 and replace it with individual bills that address one issue at a time, which will make it easier for both parties to agree on Election Integrity.

Issues are better addressed individually through "gap bills" that only address one issue at a time.

The majority of Texans believe that voting should be easy and cheating should be hard.

Sean Connolly

self

Richardson, TX

To Whom it May Concern,

I believe that this bill will not achieve its intended effect and instead just waste government time and taxpayer dollars.

While the increase to voting hours in nice, it comes with the forced core hours that takes away from the local area's ability to manage themselves. This also, hurts a small selection of people that would not be able to vote between 6am and 9 pm. While hurting this small selection of people, it does not do anything to help prevent election fraud. It forces certain hours but does not help confirm identity which is the best way to prevent election fraud in my opinion. The ban on distribution of mail in ballot applications also seems like the wrong way to go about preventing election fraud. This puts restrictions up for a minor thing that is not going to handle reducing election fraud but instead make it so less people vote via mail-in ballot. The problem is making sure people are US citizens and only one vote per citizen is submitted not whether people are sending out mail-in ballot applications. This combined with the need to enforce this wastes government time and taxpayer dollars. The stricter penalties just serve to hurt people that aren't the problem.

The big one is that the monthly citizenship checks adds a lot of work to the government for very little pay off. This part would require examination of the voter registration list monthly which is fairly frequently for a provision intended to help combat election fraud. This seems especially frequent when elections don't occur even close to that frequently. This feels like a massive waste of tax payers money and a big waste of the government's time. And while this seems to be for combating election fraud before it happens, it does not do anything to actually combat election fraud. Something that helps confirm an identity at time of voting would be much more preferable.

While there are a few nice things in the bill that would help taxpayers, the majority of the bill seems to add stuff that would just take up government time and taxpayer dollars for little benefit to the average taxpayer. This is on top of that most of these do not seem as if they would do much if anything to combat election fraud. For these reasons I urge the veto of this bill.

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Sincerely,
Sean

John van Compernelle
Self Retired
Mineola, TX

I am submitting this testimony in favor of this bill.

The essence of election integrity is to protect the vote of every person. When voter fraud occurs legitimate votes are not protected. This bill will make it more difficult to commit election fraud in several ways.

Each representative is elected to be the voice of their constituents. The actions at the end of the general session related to this bill silenced the constituents not only of those representatives who did not show up to vote, but also silenced the voice of every Texan. Taking action which silences voter voices under the guise of protecting voter voices is disingenuous on its face.

Testimony in the general session revolved around making it more difficult to assist in voting by simply requiring information about the person providing the assistance. That testimony expressed fears about what may happen to a very few voters. Testimony was heard of actual irregularities and voter fraud in several counties and precincts. So it comes down to which testimony carries the most weight. I would urge you to pass this legislation on the basis that it will curtail actual bad activity, rather than not passing it because of the fear that it may reduce voter assistance.

I would like to urge every member of this committee, and indeed the entire House, to show up and vote and be the voice of their constituents. Please protect every Texas voice by passing this legislation.

Joshua Law, Mr.
Self / Baptist Ministry Supervisor
Whitehouse, TX

Thank you for considering these issues, as they are vitally important to the future of this great state.

Sarah McCullough
Self
Houston, TX

I support

Cheryl Reinhackel
Self
Houston, TX

I support election integrity

Francis Tyminski, CW3 USA (Ret)
self
Rockwall, TX

My vote needs to be secured against those cast fraudulently. I vote regularly as a duty of citizenship. I remain informed and research issue and candidates individually prior to voting.

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I served The Nation for 20 years in the US Army and saw countries where the right to vote was new. I witnessed first hand, folks risking their lives to cast legitimate votes.

It is not too much to ask our voters to be identifiable, validated and motivated enough to cast a ballot. Two weeks is adequate to provide alternate times to vote.

Talk of voter suppression have not been supported by facts. Instead of perpetuating politically motivate talking points, demand debate and proof.

Ballot harvesting should be illegal. Voter roles should be clean.

States set voting procedures, not the federal government.

Elected representatives should not run from debate, or exercising their vote.

In Service,
Francis J Tyminski

Patricia Kampenga, Mrs.

Self

League City, TX

Because so much corruption has happened in election fraud, we need a firm and secure voting process. Photo ID is required for writing checks, signing checks, we need this as well as we vote. Please vote to pass this bill.

David Rosen, Mr.

Self/Geologist

Midland, TX

Chair Ashby and Committee Members, Thank you for reading my testimony. I am extremely concerned for my fellow Texans who may have their Mai-In Ballots excluded from being counted because their physical conditions have deteriorated over the years to where their signatures are not recognizable currently compared to their signatures 15 or 20 years ago. My local Midland friend Sue D. at age 74 has degenerative MS. She can barely write or even hold a pen. Due to her MS, her signature is unrecognizable compared to even 5 years ago. Sections 5.08 i and sections 5.10 e (2) could easily make her ballot unacceptable if ALL of her signatures are compared over the years. Sue is sharp as a tack and knows every bit of what is going on today because she is homebound in a motorized wheelchair. Consequently she watches the news all day and is extremely well informed as to issues and this bill in particular. It would be a pity if this well-informed person couldn't vote because of her degenerative disease that has stolen control of her motor skills. Please change the timeline of 'look back' signatures to 5 years but depend more on the signature that was required on the application for the Ballot By Mail of the current cycle.

Likewise my friend Kathie B in Bexar County has a disability that makes her signature significantly different than 15 years ago. Kathie, now 70, was struck by flesh eating bacteria that caused her lower legs and hands to be amputated. Kathie who has extreme intelligence, a doting husband and children makes the best of her situation by driving a 'handicap' van but her signature is nowhere near what it was 15 years ago because she no longer has hands. Seriously, she can wield a pen with what is left of her forearms but her signature does not match at all what it was 15-20 years ago. Considering ALL of her signatures on record would deny her application to vote by mail. Again, I ask you to limit the 'look back' of ALL signatures on record in Sections 5.08 i and 510 e (2).

These sections of this bill are extremely discriminatory to all of us who lose motor skills as we age. While some of us have signatures that are still recognizable, please try to imagine the loss of your fingers hands or bodily motor control. Think of your aging parents. Please curtail the 'look back' provisions of this Bill. Looking at signatures we all had 10 or 20 years ago might deny us a ballot. Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Andrew Eller

Self

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Temple, TX

For the bill - This is a great bill that will help secure the integrity of our elections through increased voter access while increasing penalties. However, I would like to see Section 4.03 on the penalty for NOT accepting a watcher be increased from a Class B misdemeanor to at least a Class A misdemeanor or better yet to a felony. This deals with Section 33.051 of the election code where there is not currently a penalty for refusing to accept a watcher. This only makes this a Class B for Section 33.051. But currently in the election code Section 33.061, the section on interfering with a poll watcher, it is a Class A Misdemeanor. This is a disconnect. The penalty under 33.051 for not accepting a watcher should be at least the same as it is for obstructing a watcher under 33.061. The best penalty is a felony for not accepting a watcher and a step above the Class A. Section 7.01 in HB3 makes it a felony for an Election Judge to intentionally or knowingly put false info on a provisional ballot envelope. The same penalty of a felony would be best for Section 4.03 of the bill (Election code Section 33.051). It should also be noted that Sections 6.05, 7.03, and 7.04 also have the penalty be a felony for Vote Harvesting issues and Assistance Issues. Again, there is a disconnect between these and Section 4.03. All of these sections in this bill should be a felony. Also it should be noted that we will NOT have an issue getting election judges to work if it is a felony as I have been an election judge for over 25 years and the honest ones recognize that this penalty only comes into play for "knowingly" or "intentionally" not accepting the poll watcher or "knowingly" putting false information on the provisional ballot envelope. I have discussed this with over a half-dozen election judges and they all agree this penalty would not stop them from serving. The only election judges that do not want this penalty are those that already cheat or commit the crimes noted in the sections.

William Ely

NA

Cypress, TX

I support strengthening election integrity. Making it hard to cheat is much more important than making it easier to vote. Citizens need to take some responsibility on where, when and how to vote.

Patricia Henry

Convention of States

North Zulch, TX

Require photo identification of individuals before providing them with a ballot. Verify that they are registered. Mail ballots only to those who request a ballot and require photo id to prove they are on the voting rolls. Continue one day to vote and at established voting polls. Include strict monitoring and safe guarding of ballots.

Albert Torres

self

New Braunfels, TX

As a US Navy Veteran and a 30 plus year federal officer who has served our country all around the world, I have defend our great Nation to the oath I swore. What make America unique is our system of Government and the process by which we elect those who we entrust with that honor. Election integrity is what we as Americans trust to make our votes count. We know that is slipping away, and we must stop it now. Texas often sets the tone for the country. Let's make sure we stand up and show the rest of the Nation, indeed the world, how we will ensure to the citizens of Texas - you can trust your vote will be counted, and fraud will never be accepted. Thank you.

Sheri Browning

Self

Cypress, TX

I support strengthening election integrity. Easy to vote is ok, but it HAS to be hard to cheat.

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Tristen Calabrese

Self

Cypress, TX

I support improving election integrity. We must make it more difficult to cheat or the faith citizens have in the election system will be gone. If there is no election integrity, what will drive honest voters to the polls? We must have fair elections going forward with larger punishments for those that break the rules.

Trina Walker

Myself

San Marcos, TX

This bill is a slap in the face to any Texan with a modicum of intelligence. There is no voter fraud here. The only thing this bill would protect is a bunch of greedy, selfish, stupid politicians who know their time is up. This bill would only insure that Texans who want a functioning government would never achieve that goal while inept, ignorant, climate change denying, profiteering, bigots continue to run our government. Texans want legislators who will respond to issues we actually face and this bill would sideline many of us and make voting even more difficult than it already is. Again, our elections are already secure, what this bill would secure is a future where Texans are disenfranchised and forced to watch as people they didn't elect allow us to freeze to death, restrict more of our rights, rewrite history, and put poor people in jail for being poor.

Kristian Caballero

Texas Appleseed

Austin, TX

Please do not create more barriers to voting, when we should removing them and creating more access. True voting integrity relies on full access and inclusion.

Gary Gray

Self - Technology Consultant

Tomball, TX

I believe better election law is needed to be sure fraud is not being committed by unscrupulous candidates and organizations. Elections need to be fair for all.

Laura Weathersby

GOP Fairfield

Cypress, TX

I support strengthening election integrity!!! Easy to vote is fine but it HAS to be hard to cheat

Valente Gonzalez

Myself

Cypress, TX

My vote should not be canceled by fraud. Representative republican forms for government demands that our elections be honest and of the highest quality. If we are prevented from choosing the representatives we want because of fraud and crime then our

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republic is lost. We need to ensure election integrity.

Merri Michaels
Adult Education
Houston, TX

I support HB3 for measures to strengthen election integrity,, which reduces cheating in elections. Elections must be accurate and fair to the highest degree.

John Carter
Self
San Antonio, TX

HB 3 by Murr is imperative if we are to save our State. Dark forces are at work that consider fraud to be a tool of war.

Leslie Sanders
Self
Cypress, TX

I support election integrity.

Kristin Hayes, Dr.
Self, teacher
San Antonio, TX

Last fall, I decided to sign up to work the election. Trump's premature talk of voter fraud and a rigged election MONTHS before any actual election had taken place, alarmed me. I took time out of my schedule to volunteer for training and take the appropriate tests. I worked the November election and every subsequent local election since. This process has made me so much more confident in the voting system and the overall process. If you are that unsure as to it's integrity and security, I suggest you enroll in one of the readily available and free classes to educate yourself.

There is no such thing as rampant voter fraud. You know this, or you at least should. If you don't, again please educate yourself.

You have manufactured a problem and created a "solution." If you do not realize that the majority of citizens in Texas are against this bill, against the "Big Lie," and against wasteful government overreach, than you have not been paying attention.

Not every Republican believes in this nonsense. As you continue to push these conspiracies, your voting base will continue to dwindle. I'm sure you only care about the power you have now and not the future consequences of your actions. But I want you to imagine that you are not 65 or older, that you needed an emergency surgery that will keep you from going to the polls, but you're unable to request a mail-in ballot. Or you work an overnight shift and cannot find time to vote during regular business hours.

Our own Attorney General said it himself in an interview on June 4th, that Trump would have "lost" Texas if it hadn't successfully blocked mail-in ballot applications from being sent. And do I need to remind you that each of YOU WON your elections?

I'm sorry you're afraid of a healthy, functioning democracy. I'm afraid of losing the Republican Party to crazies who can't tell left from right. Please be responsible and bring some sanity and integrity back to our state government.

These policies affect ALL voters. And as an elections official, I am scared that your dangerous rhetoric will threaten my life while

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working the polls. I have already been threatened, cursed at, and had people say things to me that I would never fathom saying to anyone else, especially someone I don't know.

This is dangerous for both individuals and society as a whole. Please stop.

Judi DeHaan, Sm Bus Owner

Self

Cypress, TX

We must protect people's right to vote by ensuring ONLY legal votes are counted and the process to cast that vote is LEGAL as well. There needs to be transparency and integrity in the voting process- ID- verifying such including legal address and signature on Absentee voting, no ballot harvesting, ALLOWING poll watchers visual access not 25+ feet away, securing ballots during closed hours of operation and NO extension of pandemic measures of extended days or hours, no drive thru voting except for handicapped provided prior and NO mass mail out ballots. Finally, please immediately pass an increase in punishment for non-compliance or breaking the law!! We are a nation of laws and if we are not going to enforce them, then why write them. There needs to be deterrence. Our country is worth saving , but it starts by our elected representatives listening to US!!!

Thank you fir your time and work on this extremely important issue.

Sincerely,

Judi DeHaan

Michelle Doubet

Myself

Cypress, TX

I support HB 3.

Robert Williams

Self and common sense

Houston, TX

This HB 3 is so critically important for protecting the election process. My heart breaks at comments made after the 2020 General Election saying what's the point of voting anymore when you can't trust the results. The U.S. should be the model to the world on how to run and protect elections. Please, for the sake of generations to come, pass this legislation.

Kim Unberhagen

Self / Manager

Austin, TX

There is zero evidence of widespread voter fraud in Texas, and in my opinion continuing to prioritize this non-issue is a waste of taxpayer money. Every citizen who is, according to our good and existing laws, entitled to vote should be encouraged to do so. For the State to throw barriers in his or her way stifles the very concept of democracy on which our nation was founded.

Robert Lomax

Self

Cypress, TX

"I support strengthening election integrity. Easy to vote is ok, but it HAS to be hard to cheat."

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Rebecca Gutierrez

self

Elgin, TX

I oppose HB3 and object to our legislature creating barriers to voting access. HB3 does not improve our election, rather it serves to disenfranchise millions of voters. Texas is already one of the hardest states to cast a ballot, and our lawmakers and governor should be focused on expanding the rights to vote and encouraging participation in our democracy. This is bigger than partisan politics, it is between right and wrong. Blocking votes hurts everyone in a free and fair democracy.

It is unconscionable that Gov. Abbott and his allies are ramming these bills through in a special session when millions of Texans are in crisis. Abbott did nothing to fix the grid and the costliest disaster in Texas from the freeze, one our own US senator fled to the safety of Cancun. Abbott did nothing to help thousands of Texans after Hurricane Harvey. Abbott has done nothing to help thousands of Texans and businesses still suffering from Covid impacts. Abbott and republicans have done nothing to help the increasing gun violence problem. Instead we are here in a special session fighting for our individual voice in democracy, for free and fair elections, and a transparent and equitable process. NOT the restrictions of HB3.

Together we can stand for every person's voice and every person's vote, and to ensure the freedom to vote is protected. We must ensure that Texans have a voice in the decisions that impact our every day lives. Lawmakers must ensure there are safe and accessible elections for all Texans and make the promise of democracy real for all.

Bonnie Foster

CyFair Republican Women

Cypress, TX

Please support HB3

Michelle He

self

Tomball, TX

I support strengthening election integrity. Easy to vote is ok, but it HAS to be hard to cheat.

Courtney Spradleyl

Myself

Cypress, TX

We need election integrity

Carrie Holley-Hurt

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill and all attempts to make voting harder in this state. This bill seeks to disenfranchise Black, indigenous, and people of color and first time voters. It's a cynical attempt to hold power and is shameful in a state that is still trying to heal from the sins of past. Vote no on HB3

Rex Smith

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Self

Cypress, TX

We absolutely need this to become law, and we need it while there are still people who believe in the system. Once trust in our election system is lost, it will be very difficult to ever restore that. It is the beating heart of our republic, and it MUST be maintained.

Mary Decker, Ms,

Individual

Jacksonville, TX

HB 3-The egregious voter suppression Bill HB 3: I have read the legislation and found it to be so confusing and intimidating that it achieves its goal to suppress legitimate voters' efforts to vote and makes it harder to find people willing to work the polls. HB 3 is predicated on the claim of voter fraud which both Texas' Secretary of State and even former Trump Attorney General Bar have denounced as false. HB 3 is unamerican, emits the foul odor of a banana republic, and expresses the overwhelming contempt that its proponents have for Texans and the US and state constitutions. Hell NO to HB 3 and to its evil Senate twin, SB 1. Mary C. Decker

Wayne Brent

Self - retired

Katy, TX

I believe in the importance of "one person, one vote" to maintain an effective government. Those who create, and participate, in election fraud should face criminal penalties. The penalties should be serious, and in line with the best practices of the US communities which have effectively reduced this activity.

Kathy Haigler

self

Dale, TX

I support all of House Bill 3 except for Section 3.08 (page 7, line 9) and Section 3.09 (page 9, line 3), which is the part expanding Early Voting hours to 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. which can only have one of two bad endings:

1. A single team will work 17-hour days (1 hour to open + 1 hour to close + 15 hours) for 2 weeks of Early Voting and they will be totally exhausted, and many mistakes will occur, or
2. The counties will be forced to have 2 shifts each day.
 - a. Two shifts will require twice as many people to recruit and work and train and keep up with and do payroll for, but most importantly,
 - b. Two shifts will cause a serious breach in the Chain of Custody. There will be no single person responsible for everything that transpires. If mistakes are made, the early crew will blame it on the late crew and vice versa. If 200 more ballots are counted than voters who checked in, everyone will be pointing at someone else.

If the intention is to have flexible hours, leave the earliest time at 6:00 a.m. and the latest time at 9:00 p.m. to let each county determine what works best for themselves, but just as you have set a minimum of 9 hours, PLEASE consider ADDING A MAXIMUM OF 12 HOURS. Doing this will keep a single team responsible for everything happening at that polling location and preserve the Chain of Custody. It will also prevent total exhaustion and protect the integrity of the work at that polling place.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tim Cox

self

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Oak Point, TX

Urge the penalties for election fraud be increased as opposed to decreased. Citizens are awake and will recognize and remember if the penalty for election fraud is decreased to a Class B misdemeanor. TX needs leaders that will stand up to the radicle elements attacking our country... be a leader worth following!

Alex Handley

Self

Tomball, TX

The public must have trust in the outcome of our elections. I support strengthening election integrity.

Leslie Sorrels, Mrs

Self

Dallas, TX

Please pass this bill to protect Texas elections. At least it's a start

Karen Darby

Self

Georgetown, TX

Dear House Representatives on the House Constitutional Rights and Remedies Committee:

I oppose changes to Texas' election laws when those changes work to make it more difficult to vote in the State of Texas, including limiting ballot box locations and closing at least 750 polling places since 2012. Most of the changes proposed in HB 3 just make the process more complicated rather than ensuring that eligible voters can easily cast their ballots. While I appreciate that you propose voting hours as early as 6 a.m. and as late as 10 p.m., I see no reason to prohibit 24-hour voting or universal drive-thru voting so long as voters are checked in with ID and proper registration. In this age of COVID, any procedure that enables people to vote safely with little risk to their physical health should be enabled.

I disagree with provisions that prohibit election officials from sending out mail-in ballot applications to registered voters even if they have not officially requested them. Any procedure that reduces the steps necessary for voters to exercise their franchise should be encouraged. Also, adding more identification requirements to mail-in ballots seems to be an unnecessary complication when a person can't get a mail-in ballot unless they are already registered as a voter. No felony penalty for non-compliance should be enacted. Election officials do their best to execute their duties on behalf of all voters. They deserve trust and should not be subjected to the threat of jail time for trying help people vote. Also, mail-in ballots should be available to all voters, not just those over 65 or others who meet certain other qualifications. Finally, I do commend you for putting back into the proposed legislation language to create a new correction process for mail-in ballots.

As for criminal penalties existing in this election code, I do appreciate that you have proposed that courts be required to notify persons convicted of a felony of the impact on their right to vote, and hopefully, to notify them how they can regain their right to vote—so as to avoid egregious incarceration for innocent mistakes such as were made by Crystal Mason, who is now serving 5 years because she didn't realize she needed to be "off paper" before she could vote again.

Finally, poll watchers are already permitted by the Election Code. They are to be seated or standing near the election clerks. Currently they are not allowed to interact with voters or harass or intimidate them in any way. Your current attempt to give these individuals "roaming capacity," even though they still cannot stand right behind a person who is voting at a station, still gives rise to the potential of voter intimidation. I oppose unleashing these poll watchers, who are usually partisan, to roam unfettered in the polling place.

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Please drop your efforts to limit voting access via HB 3.

Fran Laakman
self/retired teacher
New Braunfels, TX

The eyes of the nation are on Texas and this special session called to add more injury to a voter's rights to the ballot box. It's amazing blatant how undemocratic the provisions of this bill are and how desperate this party must be to hold on to power. The problem is that you are also making it more difficult for your own party members to vote. The consequences on both sides of the aisle of passing this bill may be more severe than you suspect. Pass this at your own peril.

Ivy Smith
Citizen
HOUSTON, TX

Must have secure elections

Frank Holman, Citizen
Self
Austin, TX

One vote for everyone. Nothing more nothing less. We must have a election system where everyone can be assured that this holds true. We must have a system that holds anyone that works to break the election laws is held accountable and that they have circumstances if they do break the law. Without the rule of law we have chaos.

Faye Swingle
SELF/RETIRED
Cypress, TX

I SUPPORT ELECTION INTERITY. We need ID for everything else we do. I think we should go back to the way we voted a few years ago. A VERY limited mail in vote only for citizens that absolutely are unable to physically make it the poles to vote or military that are serving overseas NO DRIVE THRU VOTING. We need to vote IN PERSON WHILE BEING OBSERVED IN CASE OF ATTEMPTED FRAUD. Ballots should be counted immediately . No waiting weeks to announce the winner. EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE BUT NOT TO CHEAT!!!!!!!!!!

Jennie Gilchrist
Park Cities Republican Women and Dallas Eagle Forum
DALLAS, TX

Get election integrity bills approved!
HB3 and SB1
Should be stronger and include paper ballots only.
Otherwise no point to vote and the end of a free Anerica.

Deborah Waters
Self
Dallas, TX

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I am FOR this bill. Our elections must be secure! Or we might as well not hold elections at all!!

Kim Farlow

Self, Retired Educator, Dedicated Election Worker

New Braunfels, TX

Since retiring in 2013, I have been a dedicated election worker. I believe wholeheartedly that more people voting makes our Democracy stronger. The changes proposed by HB 3 includes additional, unnecessary hurdles for every voter in Texas to overcome. My goal for every election is to have 80% of the registered voters to actually vote. Sadly, that goal has not been met in the 8 1/2 years that I have worked in every election. The unnecessary changes in HB 3 make it harder for people to vote by mail, allow poll watchers to be in close proximity to a voter to observe and listen as a voter is voting, adding additional hurdles for voters with disabilities who already have added obstacles to overcome daily, and erect additional barriers for a person to register to vote. The examples I shared about HB 3 would continue to keep Texas' ranking as having the worst voter access. Every member of this committee was elected by voters in her/his district. Why would any elected Texas Representative want to make voting harder for the people that have elected her/him? I ask every member of the Select Constitutional Rights and Remedies Committee to VOTE NO on HB 3. Your vote sends a loud message to ALL TEXAS VOTERS! What will be your message? Will you vote to increase access to voting which strengthens Democracy or make voting harder by adding additional voter restrictions which erodes the bedrock of our Democracy? The voters of Texas are watching and will remember in 2022. Respectfully submitted, Kim Farlow

David Foster

Clean Water Action

Austin, TX

Clean Water Action opposes HB 3 whose goal is clearly to suppress voter turnout among groups of Texans that the bill's proponents fear are not likely to be their supporters. Access to the polls, for all voters, should transcend partisan politics and is a cornerstone of any functioning democracy. Rather than impose new barriers to voting, as HB 3 would do, the Legislature should expand access to the polls by allowing 24-hour early voting and drive-through early voting statewide, allow election officials across the state to proactively inform voters of their right to vote early, eliminate needless and onerous voter ID requirements, enable online voter registration, allow same-day voter registration, protect voters from intimidation from partisan poll watchers, and more. I respectfully urge you to vote against HB 3.

Dawn Rieke

self

Cypress, TX

I greatly support strengthening election integrity by making sure each voter is in his or her correct district, that they are American citizens and that they meet all other requirements for voting in an US election. We should make getting to the polls as easy as possible, but as difficult as possible to manipulate the voting process in any way by cheating.

ling zhu

Self, IT Professional

Austin, TX

My name is Ling Zhu. I have lived in Austin Texas since 2006. I represent myself only. I am against HB3. Voter turnout rate in Texas has ranked among the lowest in the nation in all recent election cycles. Despite historical turnout in 2020 cycle at 60.4%, Texas still ranked at the 45th place.

There are plenty bad items in the bill, here I choose the top 2 due to the space limit –

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First is the restriction on voting time and voting method. Election Day is not a public holiday. Many businesses do not offer paid leave for voting activities. That is one of the reasons why in 2020 election cycle, Harris County gave voters 24-hour window drive through voting. I wish every county with big population has that option. But HB 3 goes the other direction, forcing voters to either risk no pay, or even being fired for hours absence at work to wait in long lines at poll places, or not voting at all. I have to ask why the bill's authors believe less voter participation is good for democracy.

Second is the added protection for unruly poll watchers in subsection (g) on page 11. It says the poll watchers are allowed to breach peace at poll places, and the presiding judge is prohibited from removing the unruly poll watchers on the first offence. Witnessing the poll watcher making a scene yet the election workers unable to remove the troublemaker, the voters waiting in line are very likely to leave.

Katharyn Reiser

personal card

Austin, TX

Re: HB 3: I oppose this bill because its intent is voter suppression. "Preventing fraud" is a phony issue, because that problem is nonexistent. The 2020 election was the most secure in our history, so "security and integrity" are also non-issues. Please withdraw support for this bill.

Jennifer Ochoa

Self

Cypress, TX

Keep our elections honest and fair.

LuAnne Hobbs

Self

Dallas, TX

FOR

Theresa Johns, Mrs.

Myself & HCRP & TYRTRW

Cypress, TX

I support election integrity!! It is extremely easy to vote in Texas with 2 weeks of EV . Let's make it hard to cheat, NOT like it was last time with 24 hr voting , drop offs, excessive mail in ballots. Ridiculous.

Donna Croswell

Self- buyer

Cypress, TX

You should have to show identification and be registered to vote. No more mail in ballots. If fraud is discovered votes must be disregarded and the perpetrators need to be prosecuted to the fullest.

Greg Rieke

self

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Cypress, TX

I support bills that would strengthen integrity. This last election left many Americans wondering if their votes counted and if their vote was heard. We need to make sure every person voting by mail or in person is completely vetted, that is that they followed the US election laws entirely. Every American should have equal opportunity to vote, but we need to make sure that it is done in a honest way with no cheating involved.

Cathy Stutler

Self retired

Cypress, TX

I support strengthening election integrity. Easy to vote is ok, but it HAS to be hard to cheat!

Martin McCary

Self

Houston, TX

We must have secure elections to ensure competition by both parties or we become a one party communist state ran by dictatorships. This is a Republican and Democrat issue.

Susanne Rothschild

Self

Houston, TX

Please support election integrity to uphold the sovereignty of each legal authorized voter and a system that we have supported and believed in. Without this we have nothing and trust and betrayal is unacceptable.

Melissa Wright

Self - homemaker

Plano, TX

Our democracy is stronger when all eligible voters can vote safely, securely, and EASILY. This bill is a solution looking for a problem at best, and a thinly veiled attempt to make it harder for certain citizens to vote. Shame on Texas if you pass this bill. Vote no!!!

Anna Perry

Self

Cypress, TX

I support strengthening election integrity. Easy to vote is ok, but it HAS to be hard to cheat. I support HB3

James Harrell, Dr

Self-- Cardiothoracic Surgeon, FACS

Houston, TX

Our democracy is at terminal risk if the electorate decides that our elections are no longer trustworthy. Why would anyone wish to increase the chances for fraud in our elective process just to acquire more power?

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Patricia Nilsson, Ms

Self, Retired

Wimberley, TX

My name is Patty Nilsson, I live in Wimberley and my zip code is 78676. I am representing myself and am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3/SB 1. I humbly ask that you vote AGAINST it. We live in an age of technology and information and we need to utilize ways to make voting easier and more available for everyone. These bills place undue burdens on polls, election workers and poll watchers and ultimately on the voter. In a time when many of our corporations are finding ways to "reach" their employees and make work from home and many locations possible, we as a country need to do the same when it comes to elections, voting and representation. I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO OPPOSE these bills and opt for flexibility and openness when it comes to reaching out voting populous. Thank you.

Melissa Arizmendez

Self

Cypress, TX

I support strengthening election integrity. Easy to vote is ok, but it HAS to be hard to cheat.

Terri Perez

Self, educator

Houston, TX

Voter suppression bills are not needed nor warranted. There should be an expansion of voting modalities like drive through voting, extended hours, etc. SB1/HB3 should be tabled or tanked and this special session should focus on the energy grid instead.

Windy Rosemeyer

Self/ sales

Melissa, TX

No comment

Pat Bruegger

Citizen and Voter of the Great State of Texas

Hempstead, TX

I want election integrity which means that we have the right to vote but not the right to cheat. I want to see standard voting enacted so that every election occurs at the same time very election...No more vote here in this month and here in that month because it will benefit one side or the other. Make November the month that all elections take place or a similar idea. We need id to get on a school campus bank account cash checks the list is endless. Don't change anything without attaching consequences to not following what ever the laws are...

Melissa White

Self, retired

Tomball, TX

I firmly believe that everyone should have a voice in their government and in elections. This bill needs to be passed not to limit

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anyone from their constitutional rights, but to prevent fraud. We need to keep our elections fair!

nancy woods, ms.

self/retired

houston, TX

We must secure our elections!! One legal vote for one legal citizen. Election fraud is unacceptable!! Voter fraud is unacceptable!! The first step in getting rid of corruption is to have honest and fair elections.

Lynny Davis Moore

Self

San Marcos, TX

It is plain wrong to legislate limitations on where or when to vote in such specific and narrow ways as SB 3 is written. The last 18 months has clearly shown how broadening the ways to vote safely was needed. For example, drive up voting made it possible for voters to submit their ballot with the least amount of physical exposure to Covid-19 while obiding by all election laws to insure voting integrity. Why would anyone target to remove this?

We need to expand not only how but when to vote. Our low voter turnouts are resolved when voting polling station hours are extended and early voting days are increased. Everyone has different work schedules and not all businesses are flexible enough to allow all of their employees time off to vote. Voting on Sundays or any day should be allowed. We should be increasing the days and hours of early voting to accommodate all people. You would need to vote NO on SB 3 for this reason.

Procedures for voting are always evaluated to insure voting integrity and appropriate legislation would be in order for addressing discrepancies but SB 3 as written does not do this. It is flagrantly all about limiting people's ability and options to vote. It does nothing to prevent fraud and offers no viable solutions of reform. Please vote no.

Lesley Luca

Self

Cypress, TX

I am in absolute support of HB3. We need to know that our elections are secure and honest!

Reuben Leslie

self, retired

Austin, TX

I urge defeat of proposed HB 3 because it unnecessarily restricts voting hours and polling place location which are currently determined by elected county officials who are accountable to their constituents, because it does not restore voters' right to choose straight-party voting, because it adds unnecessary regulation of election officials' accommodation of poll watchers (who seem to be encourage to disrupt proceedings by the measures included), because it makes voting by mail difficult, and because it (in combination with the chronic failure of the Secretary of State to process voter registrations on time near the registration deadline) makes provisional voting more prevalent and less likely to result in a vote that will be counted.

Jennifer Mathews

Self

Porter, TX

I am for HB 3 which makes it easier to vote and harder to cheat. We need to enforce the laws that are on the books and add

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tougher penalties for those who do cheat since only half of the existing regulations have penalties attached to them. People need to know that their vote counts so that they can have faith in our elections!

Gwendolyn Clark

Self

Austin, TX

It is very important to ensure Texans can vote safely and that there are no barriers to voting. I use oxygen and so appreciated I could vote by mail and drop my ballot off in person to visually see that it was handled and delivered correctly. It is very important that all eligible Texas voters be able to cast their ballots equally and without barrier. It would never be safe for me to be in a crowded voting situation, because of my breathing difficulties, inability to stand/ walk for long periods. I do appreciate being able to fully participate in my democracy and pray that no barriers are created to make voting more difficult for me or others. Together we can ensure no barriers are created and that all Texans can participate freely and without undue limits, travel distances, and identity rules that limit participation.

Victoria Vance

Self

Round Rock, TX

Hello,
Chair Ashby and members of the Select Committee on Constitutional Rights and Remedies.

My name is Victoria and I'm here representing myself, in opposition to provisions in HB 3.

I have a very demanding, full-time career, and am troubled by the restrictions on early voting, drive-thru voting, and mail-in voting. I am also fearful about the rights given to partisan poll watchers. As a woman trying to grow my small business, I need flexible and safe options to exercise my fundamental right to vote. And I have no doubt that if I have these concerns – others who are more vulnerable, with more obligations, and less resources will be disenfranchised to an even greater degree.

I have very limited free time. And to be honest, I had to sacrifice a lot to be here today to give my testimony. And the thought that I may have to take hours off of work to cast my ballot, worries me. But I know how important my constitutional right to vote is. And it shocks me that we all have to be here today to plead with you to EXPAND access to the ballot instead of restrict it. High voter turnout and election integrity are not mutually exclusive. 2020 had record breaking turnout and it feels like we are being punished for that. I ask that you PLEASE reconsider this egregious bill. And work to INCREASE participation in the democratic process. Our democracy is what sets us aside in the world. And placing unnecessary hurdles and obstacles to the ballot box will only weaken our beautiful and vibrant country.

Elections belong to the people. Please vote no on HB3.

Thank you, again, for your time.

Wajiha Rizvi

Engage Texas

Austin, TX

I am opposed to HB 3. If we are to live up to our democratic principles, then we must ensure free and fair elections with access to all eligible voters in Texas. Our state has a sordid history of keeping voters who are Black and Brown away from the voting booth through white primaries, literacy tests, and other structural impediments to put the thumb on the scale of our elections. We've got to do better.

I worked at the Texas Civil Rights Project during the 2020 election as an election protection attorney, working to resolve the issues of Texas voters calling into the Election Protection Hotline. I also authored the report on disability access during the 2020 election with an emphasis on curbside voting, which you can read here: <https://txcivilrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Curbside-Voting-Report.pdf>. If I learned anything during my time speaking with voters it's that it's already difficult to vote in Texas. There are already structural barriers and those barriers are felt disproportionately in Black and Brown communities.

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This bill will empower partisan poll watchers instead of voters by giving them increased unchecked access to move about the polling place and get too close for comfort. It would cause a chilling effect to election workers, who may feel like they can no longer reign in poll watchers due to increased penalties. Regarding those who assist voters with disabilities, the additional form and certifications the assistants must make, will make it increasingly difficult to find a willing assistant due to the chilling effect it will cause for those who fear they may be punished for simply assisting someone with a disability. HB 3's limitations on extended voting hours and prohibition on drive through voting is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to make it more difficult for shift workers and voters with young children, who cannot afford healthcare. Again, these impediments to voting will disproportionately affect Black and Brown voters.

I urge you to oppose HB 3 and allow Texan voters to trust in the principles of free and fair elections and one person one vote.

RODNEY DESCHAMPS

Self - Engineer

HOUSTON, TX

I support strengthening Election Integrity and Security - the bill should also include the following:

1. Provisions allowing poll watchers to record video evidence, to document what is going on,
2. Limiting early voting on weekends, no 24 hour voting locations!!
3. Allowing fraud-tainted elections to be overturned in a timely and quick manner,
4. Absentee ballot signatures are to be verified and documented,
5. Rejecting improperly-filled-out absentee ballots,
6. Limit ballot "drop boxes.
7. Increasing penalties for voter fraud.

I have worked many elections as an election judge including 6 Presidential elections believe me voting integrity is priority one so the voters can believe their voices are being heard and not over powered by outside forces with a political agenda!!

Christina Sabisch

self

Austin, TX

The Texas legislature should be expanding access to voting. None of the measures in this bill helps improve the process of voting. Most of the measures regarding vote by mail add confusion and challenge for persons with disabilities. It is hard to believe that the true purpose of this bill is to provide "election integrity" when all the measures seem to only restrict voting that occurred due to the enormous efforts to make voting more accessible for persons that have greater challenges. Restricting early voting options, reducing drop off boxes and not allowing for mail vote applications to eligible voters and other measures in this bill do not secure the elections and in fact it makes the election process skewed and unfair. Please follow your constitutional duty to pass election laws that allow for more eligible voters to participate.

SUELLEN MYERS

self

THE WOODLANDS, TX

My name is Suellen Myers. I live in The Woodlands Texas, 77381

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I OPPOSE HB 3

I serve as a VDR and an election clerk in Montgomery County and I find the provisions in HB 3 intimidating and unnecessary.

I want automatic voter registration.

I want 24 hour voting

I want drive through voting

As the grandmother of a physically disabled person I demand accommodations not further restrictions for disabled voters

Don White, Mr

Self

Tomball, TX

I strongly support House Bill three, strengthening our election integrity and security by preventing fraud in the conduct of elections in the state. Please vote for this bill.

Adam Polter

self - Vice President, Information Technology Infrastructure

Carrollton, TX

Esteemed Legislators Representing All The People of Texas:

I am a 53 year old 3rd generation Texan, an Army combat veteran (Desert Storm), a college graduate (Bachelors in Technical Management), a locally elected official (Carrollton City Council, Place 2), an information technology professional with more than two decades of enterprise IT experience specializing in data security, IT operations, and IT infrastructure, and also as a citizen that has been either a Denton County election judge partially responsible for a polling location, ballots, and the integrity of the votes cast at my location during four elections since 2018. Allow me to also stipulate that I am speaking to you today as a citizen of Texas, and not as an elected official. In this matter I speak for myself and not for the City of Carrollton, nor do I represent the residents of Carrollton in this matter.

We do not have an election integrity problem in Texas. We just don't. We already leverage technology in such a way that any attempt to fraudulently even a single vote has a very high opportunity of being detected, especially in higher turnout elections. For that matter, the higher the turnout, the more difficult it is for voter fraud to even exist. While I cannot speak to how other counties handle their elections, in Denton County we have so many checks and balances built into the voting and vote tallying process, including ballot being uniquely numbered, a voter database that is synced every few minutes, very strict processes that already require multiple signoffs, all the way down to recording the seal numbers that seal the equipment and ballot bags. Our elections are already incredibly secure, and any suggestion to the contrary is either intentionally misleading or misinformed. Ask Zul Mirza Mohammed.

As a mayoral candidate in the 2020 Carrollton municipal election, Zul allegedly forged over 80 mail-in ballot requests, and he allegedly received several ballots and was in the process of filling those out. While the number of the ballots in question was insignificant and would not have impacted the outcome of the election, the bottom line is that the system that is currently in place detected the fraud, resulted in Mr. Mohammed's arrest, and ultimately zero fraudulent ballots were cast in the election. The system in place already works to keep our elections secure, and it works well. Just ask Mr. Mohammed and/or any member of the Denton County Election Administration. The opportunity for fraud is already so incredibly low that you would have a better chance of winning the Powerball Lottery than manipulating the outcome of an election of any consequence in the State of Texas via voter fraud.

Lastly, per my more than two decades of cyber security experience, I am very confident in the voter registration and voting systems we have in place today. If anything, please make voting an easier process and more accessible for all voters. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Geraldine Phipps

Self

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Cypress, TX

I support voting integrity. It's good to be able to vote easily but it needs to be a lot harder to cheat.

Troy Bryan

Self

Cypress, TX

I have two simple points to make it about this bill.

1. It's racist to infer that any particular race is in capable of navigating obstacles or unwilling to complete them ensure election integrity.
2. The easier you make it to cheat the more likely someone will cheat. An illegal vote cast with mal- intent has double the impact of a legal validated ballot. There by doubling the disenfranchisement of every legal cast vote by a factor of two.

Belinda Cuffe

Fairfield Republic

Cypress, TX

We need tighter control over the election process, signature and finger prints validated BEFORE a person is allowed to cast their ballot. If using machines, the cannot be WiFi or Bluetooth enabled. If a paper ballot there needs to be better verification. If there is an error it should not be corrected but instead this vote will not be counted

Lesli Fitzpatrick

Self

Austin, TX

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL. I AM ALL FOR ELECTION INTEGRITY. THANK YOU.

Sylvia Davis, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

I am concerned that seniors may face criminal charges for making innocent mistakes. I am concerned that I, a senior sound of mind but weaker now of hearing, seeing and leg stamina, may not be able to get the assistance I need to enable me to exercise my right to vote. I am concerned that partisan "watchers" may may be obstructive and intimidating. This legislative body should be expanding ease of voting, including making voting by mail the primary method. People in Washington state have been doing that with no fraud for years. Thank you for your attention.

Deadra Wright

self

New Braunfels, TX

This bill is clearly an attempt to solve a non-existent problem of voter fraud and clearly an attempt to disenfranchise those citizens who typically are non- Republican voters such as Hispanics, Blacks, young people, and other minorities. This is undemocratic (small d) and certainly violates the spirit of our Declaration of Independence and Constitution.. The 2020 election in Texas, and other Republican-controlled states, was certified as well-run and free from all but a few minor incidents of fraud. As for calming fears of future fraud in elections, there was no thought of fraud until former President Trump began to claim the election was "stolen" from him. But he had begun saying that months before any voting had begun. It's complete BS. Texas already has some of the strictest voting laws in the US. We don't need more!

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This bill needs to be defeated!!! It's purpose is to keep a minority Republican party in power without accurately reflecting the will of most Texans. It is a sham. Do not vote it out of committee.

Rupali Gautam

self, medical student

Fort Worth, TX

I urge you all to vote “no” for the proponents of HB3. This bill is incredibly harmful and continues to perpetuate discriminatory voting practices that have been deeply rooted in racism throughout Texas’ history. These barriers that you are trying to place will prevent eligible Texans from voting. I am a medical student, so I have limited free time, but I do my best to advocate for voting rights and help eligible Texans participate in elections because I know it’s important. I have canvassed to help people in my community make sure they are registered to vote in our county many times over these past few years. I have worked at a couple of polling stations as well. Based on my experience, I know how confusing the voting process is for many people. And intimidating them by indirectly sharing you don’t want them to be able to vote will not help more Texans feel like it is their right to participate in this process. HB3 will do nothing except impose unnecessary steps in the way of eligible Texans who want to practice their civic duty. This will disadvantage mostly Black and brown Texans, rural Texans, and impoverished Texans- who ALL have an equal say at this table. If you are comfortable being on the side of history that is actively trying to oppress already-oppressed folks, I don’t know how can pretend to be a public servant. Please be on the right side of history and vote “NO” for the proponents of HB3. Thank you.

Penny Bradshaw, N/A

Retired

Spring, TX

To all members of the House Constitutional Rights & Remedies Select Committee:

HB 3 requires trained and sworn election workers to allow untrained and partisan poll watchers into all voting locations. These poll watchers are appointed by every candidate and party on the ballot, with no limit indicated in the bill as to how many poll watchers must be allowed in. These poll watchers will be close enough to workers and voters to see and hear everything that goes on in the polling place except the voters’ marking of the ballot. This is nothing more than voter intimidation.

These untrained and partisan poll watchers would be allowed to stop the voting process if they disagree with the election judge on a complaint, including the possibility of filing criminal charges against the trained and sworn election workers. I believe this bill could result in life threatening situations at the polls if things were to get heated, especially with our open carry gun laws. It’s already difficult to find election workers. I am a trained election worker and am seriously considering not volunteering in 2021. I have spoken to others with whom I have worked in the past and many feel the same way. How can we hold elections if we don’t have election clerks and judges because they are afraid to work at the polls?

It is abundantly clear that this is nothing more than an attempt by the party in power to suppress votes – a response to the 2020 election when record numbers voted in Harris County and in other blue counties in the state. This is the party in power pushing the narrative of the Big Lie – that there was widespread voter fraud. It has been proven over and over that THERE WAS NO FRAUD.

The Legislature should be doing everything they can to make voting safer, easier, more efficient and more accessible to every eligible voter in the state – not passing oppressive legislation that intimidates voters.

I respectfully ask that you to vote AGAINST the passage of HB 3.

Toby Henry

Self

Houston, TX

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Please vote integrity in our elections! Require voter ID, US citizenship

Lisa Atkinson

Self

Cypress, TX

Vote is our voice

Voter integrity paramount

Voter ID is not racist - look around the world

Texas leads - do voting right and legal

Lashelle Scott

Democratic Precinct 559/ Precinct Chairwoman 559

Houston, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. Like you, I have concerns with making sure our elections are secure but most importantly fair. I have served as precinct chairwoman of 559 in Harris County since 2018. During my tenure, I have served as an election judge but made sure my voters understand the voting rules. I have over 2500 voters who may lose their ability to participate in elections if this bill passes in its current state. I understand the need to change, update laws but not at the expense of voters, and mainly at the expense of one particular class of voters.

We were fortunate enough to have extended voting hours and 24-hour voting in our precinct. I participated in 24-hour voting with no issue. I noticed people who work, go to work were given a chance to vote instead of missing out during regular election hours and it was crowded at 10:45 pm on a Thursday Night. Can you imagine a turnout for voters participating if we keep this option available?

We must make elections accessible for every Texan, not a select few, or attempt to strip power from that knowledge of the process to carry out elections. How is HB3 integrity and security?

Is the governor admitting he does not trust his own appointed Secretary of State or bipartisan groups of election officials and election teams? Instead of this special session focusing on more important issues such as Medicare or the power grid, we are here for someone's agenda to stay in office and continue to push lies regarding election fraud at the expense of millions of Texans. My precinct has 2,3500 voters HB 3 provide no safeguards for our election process,

Disenfranchising voters, also creates a potentially volatile environment between voters, election staff, and poll workers, cuts hours for people who were able to vote outside of work hours, discriminates against elderly, and disabled, veteran voters, including and overseas military voters. It also takes "integrity" out of elections. Furthermore, this bill allows one side to flip an election result in their favor with no firm facts. Again, I am for changes such as providing more access for voters' registration and options to voters, making sure our voting systems are secure from hacking, but not at the expense of a power grab for one party.

Sharon Larson

Self

Cypress, TX

As a citizen of the United States of America I believe in truth and justice, which includes election integrity, honesty and penalties for perjury, fraud, etc.

Phillip Bowmam

Self retired

Harker Heights, TX

One person, one vote. It's that simple. If you can show up to request an absentee ballot, you can show up with an ID or sign an

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affidavit. I actually believe that if you show up for an absentee ballot, you and granted, you should fill it out right there and be sealed until election day.

Russell Holley-Hurt

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill as it is a blatant attempt to maintain power by disenfranchising voters.

Martha Mendez

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am a Volunteer Deputy Registrar for Comal, Guadalupe, Hays and Travis counties. It has been a source of pride for me, and I am sure fellow VDRs, that each year the number of people voting has increased not just in those counties but in the state. I don't understand the push for this bill whose purpose is to make it much more difficult for people to vote, especially people of color, the elderly, and the disabled. I have also worked as a clerk in my local elections, and this bill which seeks to penalize election workers for wanting to make poll locations safer, is just ridiculous. This bill is your attempt at a "solution" to a problem that does not exist. If you cannot win in a free and fair election, that is no reason to make it more difficult for people to vote. That's just backward.

Tracy Sebesta

Self. Paralegal, sm business owner

Hempstead, TX

FOR. Election integrity has never been more vital than now. My vote must be protected. The trust of the american people in the sanctity of the vote must be reinstated and secured for the future.

Zach Rieke

Self, registered nurse

Houston, TX

Please consider adopting the necessary laws and regulations in order to prevent voter fraud. It is crucial that ballots are verified to ensure that there is one ballot per person. Fraud undermines the power of the voting Texas people. It is important to the future of Texas to establish this standard now. If we do it can be withheld for many years to come.

Don O'neil

Self

Lockhart, TX

Regan said "Every time we vote we're grabbing a hold of a lifeline that's 3,000 miles long and more than two centuries old and, with millions of others, helping to pull America forward into the future. Yes, every time we vote we're standing up, side by side, with the Founding Fathers, with the men of Valley Forge, with patriots and pioneers throughout our history, with all those who dedicated their lives to making this a nation of the people, by the people, and for the people. Every time we vote we help to make America stronger." Please don't make it more difficult for Americans to exercise their constitutional right.

Anthony Pickett

Self -Retired

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Cypress, TX

I support strengthening election integrity. Easy to vote is ok, but it HAS to be hard to cheat.

Tara Beulah

Self

Cypress, TX

Committee Members,

We must secure our elections!

Make it hard to cheat!

Elections are a serious thing and should not be treated as a drive through. We must ensure only legal and living people are voting. We have a lot of work to do on maintaining accuracy of our voter rolls.

In the Bible in Revelation 1:17; the word "stone" means vote. It decided whether a person was guilty or innocent. (Moral of the story is Jesus has cast his vote for us to be innocent)

However, for this application your vote will change the course of many lives and livelihoods for the better or worse for this country.

Fight to ensure the purity at the ballot box.

Republican members: STOP making concessions for democrats. They ARE NOT your colleagues; they are your opponents so treat it as such! Bipartisan is a fancy word for compromise. You don't win by compromising on principles. Move the ball down the field and do not compromise your principles!

Rachel Creager Ireland

self

Austin, TX

Voting should be easier, not harder. People should not have to wait in long lines to vote, and if they do, transportation to the polls, water, food, and bathrooms should be made available to them at the expense of the election board. This bill is utterly backwards. Please do not pass it. Vote no.

Nancy Stevens

self

Kyle, TX

Texas ranks among the lowest in the nation in voter turnout. Legislators on both sides of the aisle should be focused on ways to increase voter turnout and reduce partisan interference in the voting process. Rather than enabling local elections officials, this bill restricts ways in which non-partisan election officials can facilitate local voter participation. Rather than protecting the non-partisan operation of polling places, this bill enhances protections for partisan poll watchers. When it comes to voting Texans want a safe, transparent, and non-partisan process we can trust.

Sarah Castillo

Self- stay at home mom

Manvel, TX

This bill makes laws for a problem that doesn't exist. Unless the state can make a case that there is significant voter fraud taking place, this is a useless bill that goes against any principles of small government and unfairly creates fear and uncertainty in voters and volunteer election officials and discourages participation.

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Jacqueline Phelps

Self, retired

Austin, TX

The right to vote is sacred. American citizens have fought and died for over 200 years to keep it. This bill is unwarranted, since it is proven that our elections are free of widespread fraud. As a disabled senior citizen who is unable to drive, I feel that HB 3 threatens my right to vote. Please vote no.

Diane Chapa

self

Austin, TX

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 3,
especially Article 4: ELECTION OFFICERS AND OBSERVERS.

I have been a poll worker and seen firsthand how the voting process works and where voters could possibly vote twice. I found no evidence of voter fraud and or manipulation of ballots.

An Election judge and election clerks have to prepare and set up equipment and materials to receive voters in a short amount of time, they cannot be bothered with questions or intimidating tactics by the politically motivated poll watcher trying to find mistakes.

Many polling locations are in tight areas and it is difficult to have more than the assigned personnel in the area. Watchers must be out of the way and away from the voters.

Why doesn't the poll watcher have to take training? Poll workers must take training before working and they also take an oath. Who will want to work the polls if they can be criminally charged by someone who doesn't have to know the process?

Empowering Poll Watchers will not ensure voting integrity, it is a slap in the face to poll workers.
Take this out!

Article 5: VOTING BY MAIL

Yes, any Texas resident who wants to vote by mail should be allowed.

Early voting by mail is the best solution to reduce lines at the polls, ensure ALL residents can vote and could reduce costs. Other states have much success with this process. When my children were young, I had to miss voting in elections because waiting in line for hours with them would be too hard. Now at 65 I physically can not stand that long.

Also, voting by mail would help people who work night shifts and work long hours.

Mail in ballots would be easier to track. Don't micromanage counties, they are doing a great job.

Empower Texans to vote, make it easier !

Erika Browning

True Texas Project

Duncanville, TX

I am registering in SUPPORT of this bill.

Elizabeth Abukar

Self

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Dallas, TX

Dear sirs and madams,

I was a single parent for 8 years, I am now a married parent with 2 children and I work full time. We don't all have the luxury of a 9- 5 job that would allow us the opportunity to vote within the parameters that you are proposing. There is no valid or logical reason to put any restrictions on voting practices, but rather to include more hours, days and ways in which people can vote. The only reason you have to make restrictions is due to your own fear of your party losing votes to people less fortunate than those who not only have the ability to take off work when they choose, but also have access to get to the polls which many of our Texas voters do not have. Voting is a RIGHT bestowed on any American citizen once they reach the age of 18. Our work weeks are getting increasingly longer with less pay, causing many voters to work multiple jobs just feed and house their families. Do not dare put road blocks in place for those less fortunate than yourself. While could not be in Austin in person, I have people whom I love standing in for me today. I thank every person who is there having their voices heard.

You will not take our most basic constitutional rights from us. You will not restrict us, you will not bully us into submission. What are you afraid of?

I denounce this bill and it should absolutely not be passed, for the greater good of all Texans. Vote No.

Nancy George, Dr.

self (Optometrist)

Houston, TX

I am submitting testimony as an Election Judge/Precinct Chair of Harris County Precinct 0026, mother, grandmother, doctor and concerned citizen of Texas.

Our country is founded on the principle of democracy, that every person has the right to participate in voting. HB 3 is an assault on that principle.

The leaders who put forth this bill are fully aware they are creating a false narrative in order to suppress the vote. There is no widespread voter fraud. We see you targeting the programs in Harris County that allowed many voters to vote during the pandemic. We see you targeting Souls to the Polls. We see you allowing avowed white supremacist groups to intimidate voters without recourse for the election judge. We see you making it harder for people with disabilities to vote, for seniors to vote, for people of color to vote, for young people to register and vote.

Hundreds of businesses have called out Texas for this bad legislation which would "solve " a problem that does not exist and instead severely suppress the right to vote in our state. Protecting voters' rights should be a non partisan issue, supported by both Republicans and Democrats.

Do not pass this egregious legislation in Texas.

signed: Nancy C George

Wayne Allen

self, retired

Austin, TX

Adding penalties and creating offenses should only be done in response to verified needs. As there is no evidence of significant voting fraud, either committed or intended, no legislative remedies are called for. What purpose could these new laws serve? The goal of smaller, simpler government is not being served. The goal of secure voting is not being served.

The only purpose being served is the preservation of power, by those in power. That is antithetical to the preservation of democracy, and completely unacceptable.

Gloria Moreno

Precinct Chair 0009, Harris County

Houston, TX

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I have been a precinct chair, voter registrar and election Judge in Harris County for 17 years. I am opposed to any bill that would limit registered voters the ability to vote. Citizens of the United States should be pro-democracy and ensuring that everyone has the ability to vote should be a fundamental goal of this legislative body. There are enough safeguards in the elections process to ensure that no voter fraud occurs so don't use that as an excuse.

Gloria Moreno

Susan Chopra

The Chopra family

Austin, TX

I adamantly oppose this bill and am entirely incensed that it is even being discussed. There is no disguising the true nature of this bill to suppress voter rights.

Jaymie Archer

Self

Cypress, TX

I was a volunteer poll watcher in 2020 and saw horrible illegal actions which were never corrected during the voting period and have yet to be prosecuted! Please keep this from happening again and ensure Texans have secure and safe elections!

Waymon Hyde, Professor

self

Dallas, TX

Fellow Texans,

I am saddened by the repeated attempts to make the process of voting more difficult, not only for all the citizens of Texas but also the dedicated election clerks and judges who are ultimately responsible for this critical process. As a former election judge for many years, my colleagues and I took our responsibilities VERY seriously. As the elected Democratic Precinct Chair, I worked closely with county election officials and my counterpart from the Republican Party to run free, fair elections. Your proposed requirements, such as creating additional voting requirements for individuals with disabilities and making it harder for poll watchers to be removed for egregious offenses, will only distract and otherwise complicate dedicated election officials from doing their jobs, which is challenging enough as it is. Moreover, creating a more convoluted mail-in ballot system will subsequently create more Election Day chaos with voters and poll workers, who will be even less clear if previously submitted mail-in ballots are legitimate or otherwise invalid.

As a reminder, Barbara Jordan once said, "If the society today allows wrongs to go unchallenged, the impression is created that those wrongs have the approval of the majority." I urge you to join me in challenging these obviously wrongs that are designed to suppress others from participating in the electoral process and impede those who graciously labor to ensure a fair voting process. Instead, fight the good fight, with all your might, and do not support House Bill 3, Senate Bill 1, and other initiatives designed to thwart our democracy.

Feel free to call me at (214) 206-3801 (m), reply to this email, or schedule a meeting at <https://koalendar.com/e/meet-with-wade-hyde> if you have any questions or need any additional information.

WDH/s

sione Roemhild

myself

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Houston, TX

There has NOT been any significant evidence of voter fraud, in fact election participation was at an all time high in the last election, with unprecedented participation of minorities - this is a win in my book! (still low participation compared to most European nations). Why make it harder to vote and not easier - mail in vote is wonderful and saves resources, 24 hour voting is a great way to open up the democratic process to everybody and during the pandemic we realized how useful, effective and save drive thru testing, vaccination and voting can be. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND why anyone who believes in the democratic process would make it harder and more complicated for people to vote. In fact I think voting day should be a national Holiday so we can celebrate this act of democratic rule. Also everybody with a Texas driver's license or ID should be automatically registered to vote - this whole voter registration system is complicated, antiquated and only assists the select few as it hinders, suppresses vote. The high penalties and jailtime is ridiculous - if the Texas legislature had their act together - they would not allow anyone on probation to vote and not put that burden on the individual ... there is NO logical reason for this bill to make any sense except if the only way you can hold on to power is to restrict and suppress voters. Fix the electric grid, health insurance and climate change first. What are you so afraid of ... nothing wrong with letting everybody have a voice and fixing obviously deadly infrastructure problems.

Diana Sharp, Mrs

Democratic Women of Comal County

New Braunfels, TX

I am opposed to HB 3 which will put up deliberate barriers to voting by denying our freedom to vote, pushing anti-voter legislation, and passing Jim Crow 2.0 legislation. I think our voting system should represent the following: one person, one vote, safe and accessible elections for ALL Texans, guarantee that Texans have a say in key decisions that impact our lives and our communities, cast our ballots freely, safely and equally, and provide a transparent process we can all trust.

Vicki Moore

Self

Cypress, TX

"I support strengthening election integrity. Easy to vote is ok, but it HAS to be hard to cheat." This is America where our votes have to count and they do not count if there is cheating involved.

Pam Westfall

Self-retired

Dallas, TX

Please vote FOR HB 3. We need strong amendments for election reform!!

Please also consider

- hand paper ballots, no electronics

- complete chain of custody and audit trails

- increased/enhanced access for poll watchers with full protection of the law for their complaints
- no waivers by Secretary of State or Governor or local officials

- limited early voting

- enhanced restrictions on mail ballots

- annual maintenance of voter rolls

- stricter oversight on voter registration.

All of these are critical to a safe and secure election!

Rayford Brown

Self

TEMPLE, TX

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Most of the problem is NON ENFORCEMENT of our laws by the Judicial Branch and Executive Branch Prosecutors.

Electronic voting in Texas is compromised. Dr Pressley has proven that before the Texas Supreme Court. The most important part of election integrity is vote counting...

"It doesn't matter how many people vote, only who counts them." ~ Joseph Stalin

"It's not the people who vote that count. It's the people who count the votes." ~ Joseph Stalin

"Voters decide nothing. Vote counters decide everything!" ~ Joseph Stalin

"Political power does not rest with those who cast votes; political power rests with those who count votes." ~ Joseph Stalin

"It doesn't matter who they vote for, they always vote for us." ~ Joseph Stalin

"I consider it completely unimportant who in the party will vote, or how; but what is extraordinarily important is this - who will count the votes, and how." ~ Joseph Stalin

"He who votes does not have power. He who counts the votes has power." ~ Joseph Stalin

"Those who vote decide nothing. Those who count the vote decide everything." ~ Joseph Stalin

"The people who cast the votes decide nothing; the people who count the votes decide everything." ~ Joseph Stalin

Personally I think this is how Biden became President.

Right now I do not think there is such a thing as a totally digital-secure voting system in Texas. I further do not think there is a secure voting system in Texas. Look at LBJ's private ballot box.

There was a reason the founding fathers included Article 1 Section 6 in the Texas Constitution(Religious Freedom to worship Almighty God--Not Allah). Reagan said that a nation that forgets it is a one nation under God is a nation gone under. You cannot legislate morality but have a nice go at it.

lterkbrown@gmail.com

"The Colonel" is the Constitutional Commentator on Logic Nation Radio (logicnation.us) KTEM 1400 Temple Precinct Chair Bell 302, Election Judge Bell Site 21, member JBS, past pres Central Texas Taxed Enough Already (TEA) Party

Victoria Hanson

Self / Retired

Corpus Christi, TX

With amendment to ensuring those validating mail-in ballots, that the ballot board have access to compare signatures on mail-in application, mail-in ballot and voter identification (drivers license or state issued identification), I request a vote this bill be passed.

Michael Killalea

Self / retired

Lago Vista, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3.

My name is Michael Killalea, and I am a current resident of Travis County, having also lived in Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery,

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and Dallas Counties. As a 30-plus year Texas citizen, and a Vietnam Era military veteran, I strongly oppose the proposed legislation HB3. Voting is the fundamental right for all American citizens. Our government should seek to increase access to the ballot box, not limit it. This legislation would significantly constrain local authorities from managing elections as they fit to best suit the citizens of their communities. It is unfair to impose one-size-fits-all mandates to both rural and urban communities in our state. I oppose prohibiting local election officials from distributing or soliciting absentee ballot applications, as well as the proposed bans on nearly all drive-through voting and 24-hour early voting. The state should not set early voting hours. This should be reserved for local officials. I oppose the requirement that mail-in ballot applications must supply driver license or SSN4 information. I oppose allowing partisan poll watchers to hassle voters and interfere in the voting process. Further, election officials should not be barred from providing voting resources nor from reacting nimbly to local conditions, especially in unforeseen circumstances.

It is incumbent upon Texas elected officials to ensure that all Texans can enjoy the voting franchise, their fundamental right as Americans, without hassle. HB3 will do the opposite of this. Keep our democracy strong. Vote HB3 down.

Khanay Turner

Self/ Attorney

Fort Worth, TX

HB 3 is a blatant threat to our democracy. Hindering Texans from voting and adding criminal offense to the election rules is far from bringing purity and integrity to our election process. As a Democratic republic system, which our political system was founded on, we the people should be able to voice who we want to represent us through the ballot box with no barriers. We should not live in a society where it is easier to carry a weapon than it is to vote. I urge the committee to vote down HB 3 and any other voter suppression bills that come in front of you.

Angela Martinez

Self

Allen, TX

If we intend to preserve the integrity and fairness of our elections, we must have a strong election integrity bill. This must absolutely include PAPER BALLOTS to avoid any future issue with voting machines which we know can be altered. We must also have valid voter Id requirements through government issued ID. Also we must return back to mail in limitations and there should be no mail in ballot applications sent to voters unsolicited. Also, the drive through voting has proven to be an issue with fraud and should be absolutely ended. Bottom line is that we cannot have a watered down bill. We must make is simple to cite but hard to cheat.

Charlotte Rundell

Myself as a citizen of Texas

Dallas, TX

Please vote to ensure ballot integrity, clear and verifiable chain of custody of ballots, up-to-date and clean voter roles that are maintained annually, access to sight of ballot processes by poll watchers, limiting time of early voting with verifiable identification of all early voters, including watermarks and CV codes,

Gwen Withrow, mrs

a citizen of Texas who cares about election integrity

Beaumont, TX

I am for election integrity. I am for this bill however the rolling polls is an item that is not good. Also, we need very strong protection of poll watchers. Strong poll watchers are necessary to bring light to the election process. It is important that they receive protection from haressment from poll workers. Poll watchers must be given access to the voting process to give all

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citizens assurance of a fair election process. Please consider enhancement of stronger penalties for prevention of poll watchers from performing their work. the enhancements of the mail voting protections against fraud in mail ballots are important.

Linda Miller

Self

Austin, TX

I AM AGAINST THIS BILL. I have been voting my entire adult life. I come from a very red state, Indiana, that does NOT make voting so difficult. Replace this bill with one that:

1. Increases voting days
2. Moves voting day to Sunday
3. Creates an online method to register to vote
4. Creates public service announcements educating voters on their voting rights and how to vote
5. Provides volunteer opportunities for young people to get school credit for working the polls

There are SO many ways you could be protecting and improving our democracy. This bill is not the way.

Making it easy and safe to vote is the absolute cornerstone of a healthy democracy. I question the patriotism of anyone intent on creating more, not less hurdles to voting. This bill is also intended to make people afraid to vote, to make people feel unworthy of voting. I can promise you that it will impact ALL Texas voters, not just the voters of a specific party. My HOPE is that it will also make people even more determined then ever to vote, the harder you work to take this right away. Texas voters are watching. They are very aware of your suppression efforts.

Nancy Toole

self

Houston, TX

My name is Nancy Toole and my zip code is 77042. I am representing myself, as a proud and active US citizen, who is a precinct chair, an election judge, and a Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar. I strongly oppose the voter suppression bill before you (HB-3 by Murr) Being an election judge is already a difficult and stressful job and the people, like me, who do it, do it out of a deep sense of duty and pride in our country as a beacon for democracy. One person, one vote is our most important bedrock value. And this bill will make it almost impossible for election judges to conduct their honorable work. Election judges are tasked with making the voting process fair and legal, not with dealing with unruly, untrained people with an ax to grind. The current system allows trained poll watchers in the polls AND that should remain AS IT IS. But this law you are threatening to enact, will allow untrained, partisan poll watchers to harass judges with no consequences for their actions and will make a mockery of our voting system. This is deplorable and an affront to our democracy. Allowing poll watchers to have free rein to disrupt the voting process by distracting judges from their sworn duties, is an awful idea and you are encoding this disruption of our democracy into law. You are empowering poll watchers to stand in the way of a voters right to vote. **IF YOU VOTE YES TO THIS BILL, YOU ARE VOTING NO TO DEMOCRACY. PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING AND VOTE NO THE HB-3 Murr!**

Cindy Skinner

Self/ retired

Lago Vista, TX

My name is Cindy Skinner, and I am a current resident of Travis County, having also lived in Harris, Montgomery, Brazoria, and Fort Bend Counties. As a 50-plus year Texas citizen, I strongly oppose the proposed legislation HB3. Voting is the fundamental right for all American citizens. Our government should seek to increase access to the ballot box, not limit it. This legislation would significantly constrain local authorities from managing elections as they see fit to best suit the citizens of their communities. It is unfair to impose one-size-fits-all mandates to both rural and urban communities in our state. I oppose prohibiting local election officials from distributing or soliciting absentee ballot applications, as well as the proposed bans on nearly all drive-through voting and 24-hour early voting. The state should not set early voting hours. This should be reserved for local officials. I oppose the requirement that mail-in ballot applications must supply driver license or SSN4 information. I oppose allowing partisan poll watchers to hassle voters and interfere in the voting process. Further, election officials should not be barred from providing voting resources nor from reacting nimbly to local conditions, especially in unforeseen circumstances.

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It is incumbent upon Texas elected officials to ensure that all Texans can enjoy the voting franchise, their fundamental right as Americans, without hassle. HB3 will do the opposite of this. Keep our democracy strong. Vote HB3 down.

Jennifer Miller

Self

Weatherford, TX

As a Texan I'm severely discouraged with many Texas leaders lack of push for election transparency and integrity. With new concerns evolving daily regarding the 2020 election, we MUST come to the table, answer the call, and LEAD in this area! Texans MUST believe that their vote counts. Please initiate hand PAPER ballots, ELIMINATE all electronics, implement complete chain of custody and audit trails, increased/enhanced access for poll watchers with full protection of the law for their complaints. There should be no waivers by Secretary of State, Governor, or local officials. Please implement limited early voting and enhanced restrictions on mail ballots, annual maintenance of voter rolls, as well as, stricter oversight on voter registration. These are all areas of GREAT concern for voters!! We need to restore election integrity and voter confidence! Texans are watching.....Americans are watching.....THE WORLD IS WATCHING. The world looks to Texas to lead in LIBERTY AND JUSTICE! Texas needs start LEADING in this fight!! Praying for supernatural wisdom, boldness, courage, and discernment as You lead our great state. Make us proud. We are all watching.

Marianne Lang

Self

Cypress, TX

I support strengthening election integrity, please!

Graeson Lynskey

self; student

Rockwall, TX

I come today in opposition to what can best be described as a dangerous infringement on Texans and their liberty. HB3 is a continuation of the same malfeasance that we saw in the regular session. This bill's attacks against drive through voting, mail in voting, and 24 hour polling places disproportionately affect our community members in Harris county. This bill claims "the reforms to the election laws of this state made by this Act are not intended to impair the right of free suffrage guaranteed to the people of Texas by the United States and Texas Constitutions, but are enacted solely to prevent fraud in the electoral process and ensure that all legally cast ballots are counted." I wonder what the bill's authors and backers would say to the millions of voters in Harris county who will have their ability to vote limited by provisions of this text. To claim that these restrictions equalize access to voting would be intellectually dishonest at best, and deliberately divisive at worst. Texas statute already provides for different early voting requirements depending on the size of the county, as you all are aware. Harris county is almost twice the size of the second largest county in Texas. Certainly, it stands to reason that additional extensions could be granted to these large cities. To claim that the intention of this bill is to root out fraud, as has been claimed many times by proponents of the legislation, fails to recognize all the evidence supporting the security of our elections. The findings of a bipartisan task-force in Harris county last December found no evidence of fraud. Democratic members of the legislature have also dismissed these claims of widespread fraud, pointing to more than 22,000 staff hours in the AG office looking for voter fraud of any kind, with no widespread fraud found. Indeed, all the resources Texas has put toward rooting out voter fraud in our state have shown time and time again that our elections are secure, safe, and fair. As Diane Humetewa, a republican judge, put it last November, "Allegations that find favor in the public sphere of gossip and innuendo cannot be a substitute for earnest pleadings and procedure." This bill is retaliatory, plain and simple. It limits the access of certain voters in certain areas while doing little to affect the rights of others who don't live in cities that benefited from the voting methods that would be made illegal under this bill. Provisions of this bill deliberately challenge efforts by Harris county election officials to make voting easier, safer, and more accessible during a global pandemic that claimed the lives of thousands of Texans. To me, this points to a disdain for the kind of voters that Harris county provides, rather than the safety of the election. This is a dangerous path, and I hope you'll consider expanding ballot access, rather than limiting it, to ensure each Texan has the ability to exercise their right to vote free from unnecessary restrictions.

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Lorraine Diaz-Andrews

Retired

Channelview, TX

I am vehemently opposed to HB3. This proposed bill is a thinly disguised vehicle to try to strip away Texan's access to voting. This measure is directly in response to strides taken to expand voter access during the last election. This is not a voter integrity bill! It is a blatant attempt to ensure that working class Texans, those with disabilities and people of color have limited access to the polls. # Let the People Vote!

Tanya Robertson, SREC SD11

Self

Taylor Lake Village, TX

SPEAKING 'ON' HB3

Although this bill has some good election integrity reform actions as seen in SB7 & HB6 during the regular session, it doesn't give us the whole reform plan needed to enact real integrity safeguards.

Our Republican Party of Texas 2018 Platform opposed the rolling polling provision outlined in this bill & was removed in 2020 due to the law being passed in the 86th session prohibiting it. Therefore, I consider reenacting it to be in opposition to our platform.

There should be no carve outs or concessions made for any county or political subdivision when addressing election integrity reform laws. Having 254 different sets of rules/guidelines for 254 of our counties is why we need standardized election laws statewide in order to prosecute violators.

This is a serious issue that millions of Texas voters care about & are expecting our lawmakers to pass this session. Our Republican Primary Ballot Props in 2018 & 2020 prove that fact.

Thank you for your consideration!

Karen Kelley

self - admin

austin, TX

Voting should be easy and non-intimidating. The more who vote the more representative democracy. Don't suppress our votes. As an election worker I observed an election judge who discouraged, yes, discouraged a voter from using his right to a provisional ballot which has a curing process already in place. The voter relented and didn't vote. How awful! Imagine the intimidation when election workers and voters can be penalized or arrested for simple unintended mistakes! Poll watchers also intimidate those who are easily bullied: the disabled, elderly, victims of abuse, socially disadvantaged, and others. Let's make voting feel safe!

Jameila Meme Styles

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I was ready to give this testimony but I had to leave to take care of my child. This was to be my testimony:

Good Morning,

My name is Meme Styles and I am a nonprofit founder and Texas resident + good voter.

This morning when I was feeding my baby I realized that I would be making my down here to the capital to fight against the same voter restriction problems that her great great grandmother had to fight for.

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It's bizarre that fear against voter fraud that does not even exist has me .. you and all these good folks up in arms and stressed out over on this Saturday morning. I simply don't understand why anyone would even entertain the thought of enacting more restrictive voting laws at a time when we need as much civic engagement as possible. It's old..outdated ...ancient fight and actually embarrassing.

We've learned so much from being right smack in the middle of a pandemic. We've learned that giving good voters options to drive thru makes sense.

We've learned that 24 hours of uninterrupted voting at a few polling places makes sense for Texas.

Lastly this bill says there is no significant fiscal impact but we all know the incredible cost of criminalization.

People that vote are good. Stop the fear and end the voter trauma. Texas deserves better.

Jonathan Respaldiza

Self, construction

Aubrey, TX

Considering the fact that there was no fraud proven in the state of Texas in the past election, this is a solution for a problem that doesn't exist. It will increase the difficulty of voting in the state, making our state less of a representative democracy and more of an oligarchy where only those who can afford the time and effort to understand and go through the administrative roadblocks are able to be represented. That is unAmerican, and that is why I oppose this bill.

Blanca Blanco

East End Alliance, Houston

Houston, TX

Let the people VOTE — this a Democracy! There's been no voter fraud to speak of— this HB3 is built on Trump's lies & conspiracy theories. Make free & fair elections for ALL for people. More voting opportunities— the better for all communities.

Phil Suitt

Convention of States

Buda, TX

I respectfully want to show my support for HB 3. We do need to increase the integrity and security and prevent fraud in all elections and punish persons committing fraud in our elections.

Mary Paz

San Antonio Voter Advocates

San Antonio, TX

Increasing access to voting strengthens our democracy, please do not weaken our wonderful democracy.

David Todd, Mr.

Wray-Todd Ranch LLC

Austin, TX

I am appalled at the gall of the Legislature in considering these restrictions on the franchise. We should be doing all we can to

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make voting more accessible, not less, especially when the claimed reasons for restrictions are based on claims of fraud that have been frequently investigated and found to be baseless.

Kathy Turner
self, retired
McGregor, TX

I support the enactment of legislation on election integrity and security. It should be easy to vote and hard to cheat. Voting is a privilege, and in-person voting should be encouraged. Balancing the good of standardized processes and hours statewide with the varying sizes of Texas counties is important. Chain of custody, access of poll watchers throughout the process, audit trails, and other security measures are important. Thank you for hearing this bill and I urge you, as a committee, to get this bill voted favorably on by the committee, and to the full House for debate and passage expeditiously but carefully.

Sylvia Medina
Self
Houston, TX

We must protect the right to vote this is a non partisan issue. Do not make it harder to vote it should be the easiest of our rights.

Diane Olmos-Guzman, Mrs
Promoters of Education, Awareness, & Community Engagement
Houston, TX

Keep our elections free from suppression. Stick to our Constitutional Rights and protect our voting privileges.

David King
self
Austin, TX

Honorable Members of the House Select Committee on Constitutional Rights & Remedies,

Please do not support HB 3! The bill is specifically intended to suppress voting by working families, seniors, low-income families, Indigenous people, and people of color.

Please pass legislation that expands and facilitates voting by all voting-age Texans! Please enact online and election-day voter registration; expand early voting times and locations; increase ballot drop-off locations; and expand vote-by mail so voters may vote by mail for any reason prior to and on election day.

Respectfully,
David King

Jessica Ramirez, CEO
Pinche VOTE
Austin, TX

Voting is the most American and Parotic activity we are given as citizens of these United State. We the People need to be provided a safe and equitable pathway to voting. What are you doing as our elected election official to help us? This bill is a waste resources. I pray that you will do the right thing, not the white thing. If you truly do care about Texans and want to help us. Stop this bill! I showed up on Thursday for this suppression session and am here today on a Saturday in writing as I have to work

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to pay for shelter and food. While you could be providing a more direct path to voting. HB3 is getting presented. I wonder if you get time an a half while you make it hard to testify and be heard. Know when you attack one Texan you attack all Texans.

Malinda Moller

Self

League City, TX

This is a shameless attempt to expand the Big Lie & brainwash Fox "News" watchers that somehow elections aren't already secure despite multitudes of evidence showing that our elections are indeed secure & the incidence of voter fraud is numerically non existent. Stop trying to limit access to the polls-having MORE polling places with expanded hours is literally the most American thing ever! The fascist tendencies our Texas legislature is showing is appalling to those of us who spend our weekends registering more voters in the name of upholding democracy & the promise that is America.

Making voting more challenging isn't helping anyone. Promoting the Big Lie is just cementing your place in the shameful parts of history that will file you all away with similarly corrupt, shameful events in our nation's history as slavery, the Mai Lei massacre, the Tulsa riots, the Wilmington Incident, the Comstock Act, Trail of Tears, Chinese (& Italian, Irish, Polish) exclusion laws, segregation & Jim Crow. Do the right thing by ALL Texans and defeat this corrupt hateful Heritage Foundation written terrible for Texas bill. Do the right thing.

Judith Gray, Ms

Self, self-employed

Buda, TX

Bills SB1 and SB31 are cruel and absolutely unnecessary

William Buckley

GOP

Cypress, TX

I support strengthening election integrity. Easy to vote is okay but it has to be hard to cheat!

Dottie Poston

Self / community volunteer

Dallas, TX

Please protect the voters of Texas from election fraud! We desperately need to have strong laws about voting. Especially with our border "open," as it is now, those who have invested years, taxes, prayers and love for our wonderful state must have their rights protected. Let's keep Texas the great state it is and not see it corrupted by election/voter fraud!

Maureen Cummings

Self/retired

Cypress, TX

TX (as all states) need to really monitor voting. EVERYONE needs to show a voter ID in order to vote. One of the most important things we can do is vote and should be considered a privilege given to all LEGAL citizens of the U S. It should not be abused.

Anthony Peters

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Self

Houston, TX

We must have honest, secure voting in order to preserve our Republic. Voter ID is a minimum requirement and is not discriminatory in any way.

David M Eppley, Mr.

Nome

Cypress, TX

I support election integrity, easy to vote, but hard to cheat !! HB 3 by Murr

Bonnie Seelig

Self - Retired

Spicewood, TX

I support HB 3

Voter identification to vote by mail is as important to the citizens as any of the other hundreds of times that a driver's license is needed in daily life. Voting By mail shouldn't be a license to illegal voting. The same requirements of ID should be for both in person or mail in.

Chain of Custody is needed to secure the integrity of the vote. Paid vote harvesters are not secure risks for any ballot.

Poll watchers must be able to watch, not forced into corals that would require xray vision to see the election workers and their computer screens. The vote must be transparent or the citizen will not trust the person elected.

Stop the unrequested vote by mail applications. With voter rolls filled with illegal, dead, moved and felons, thousands of applications are floating in apartment and home mail boxes for anyone to forge. Post Office Boxes are not addresses for voters - aka HOUSTON! VOTER ROLLS MUST BE UPDATED WITH THE DEAD, ILLEGALS, MOVED OUT OF STATE, AND FELONS DELETED IN A TIMELY (MONTHLY) WAY.

Election fraud cases must be heard in a more timely way. Stop giving the prize of winning an election to the fraudsters.

Janette Lindner

Self - parent, spouse, taxpayer, employer, lifelong Texan

Houston, TX

our elected officials should be working on encouraging citizens to vote. This bill runs counter to that, does not encourage civic participation, and is a complete waste of time and energy. please vote no.

Mandy Wright

Self

Wimberley, TX

I believe voting should be easy. We should not restrict voting. We should be allowed to vote by mail and students should be able to vote with student IDs. Texas is 45th in voter turnout in the US. Stop making it harder to vote!! We live in a democracy.

Lisa Robinson

self/retired Teacher-Librarian and inactive attorney

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Houston, TX

I'm writing because as an educator, attorney, mom, and community volunteer, I believe that the absolute foundation of our democratic form of government is our right to VOTE. I always taught my students, and my own children, that our most important right in the United States is the right to choose our elected representatives at all levels of government. Those of you whom we have "hired" through our elections have a sacred duty to protect that right at all costs. You should be making it EASIER to vote, not HARDER. You should be supporting the ability of local officials to meet the needs of their local residents when it comes to flexibility in voting. A big city needs more options when there are so many more voters. Flexibility benefits ALL voters, not just voters of a particular political party. There are just as many Republicans who benefit from having drive-thru voting as there are Democrats. There are just as many Republican healthcare workers and others who work odd hours and want to take advantage of night time voting or weekend voting as there are Democrats. THIS IS A NONPARTISAN ISSUE. There are just as many Republicans as Democrats who can benefit from mail-in voting. Maybe they do or don't have a documented health condition but have difficulty getting around. Do you really want to antagonize your own voters because of an invented, supposed voter fraud "crisis"? Please stand up for the right to vote! Stand up for making the voting process easier, not more difficult! Stand up for what is right! Sincerely, Lisa Sandoz Robinson, Houston TX

Mary Patrick

Self - Retired

Austin, TX

Please do not support this bill. We must protect the right to vote, and make it as easy a possible for registered voters in Texas to vote.

Rena Suberg

self - retired school speech/language pathologist

Canyon Lake, TX

First, thank you for your service. I appreciate your willingness to work for the people of Texas.

Now, I know you were all called back by Governor Abbott primarily so that he can advance his political chances. You are all his pawns at this point. He believes that if he can ingratiate himself to the vile former President enough, he will be declared a golden child and will stay in favor with the orange one. Forget about all the Texans who froze to death, literally, in February, and that the power grid is a MUCH more important issue. You could all be making meaningful, positive changes that could save citizens! But, no, Governor Abbott wants you all to make voting more difficult for working people, the disabled, elderly people, and people who need representation the most. There are currently no problems with election integrity, and in recent elections, expanded early voting and voting centers, among other changes, made it more convenient for more people to vote. That should be the goal! In my county, Comal County, a heavily Republican area, our Republican county judge, Judge Krause, came and spoke to our Democratic Women of Comal County group and was in favor of voting centers, because he said he realized that would make voting easier for everybody. That is the way it should be! Hey, a Republican demonstrated common sense and integrity!!!! All interested people should be able to vote without waiting in long lines in the heat of the day. Accommodations should be made for the elderly and disabled so that they can comfortably vote. Voting hours and days should be expanded, so that people with all kinds of work schedules will be able to vote. This HB 3 does nothing that will help elections be more secure; it only makes it more likely that voices will be silenced.

Please stand up to this self-serving Governor and refuse to rubber-stamp his agenda. Please work on important things, like having adequate energy for all Texans, instead.

Thank you for your attention and time.

Ronnye Cowell

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill 100% and it's efforts to validate elections and maintain the integrity of our elections. Penalties need to be

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increased and to become stronger criminal offenses in order to discourage fraud in the future. Thank you for supporting HB3 and thank you for your service.

Joseph Littlefield, Mr.

Self - US Air Force

Boerne, TX

After the last election cycle it is clear to me that we as a nation and as a state need to take steps to protect the integrity of our elections. Texans should be confident that the result of any election were fair and accurate.

Silvia Reveles-Scheller, Ms

Self, Retired Library Specialist and Voting Rights Specialist

Austin, TX

My name is Silvia Reveles-Scheller, a lifelong Tejana hailing from Amarillo, Texas, voter, and daughter of a veteran. I thank you for your consideration. This attempt from the nefarious voter suppressionist and voter obstructionist Greg Abbott and fellow Texas House Republican cronies to hijack voting rights in Texas will destroy democracy in this Great State of Texas. Prior to today, Texas currently is ranked as the most difficult states to vote in the US.

What is clear is that Abbott, an attorney sworn to uphold --not abuse--Texas State law called this Special Session to prevent and intimidate hard-working, dedicated Texas voters from casting votes in local, county, municipal elections throughout the state. This will not stand Greg and Texas Republicans! Honorable Texans who believe in democracy, including Texas veterans (both living and deceased) who have dedicated and sometimes risked their lives for democracy will not allow you to make a mockery of their service, state and nation.

Many of the provision in the 40 pages of HB3 authored by Murr are egregious. Allowing the 254 Texas County Voting Clerk to decide whether or not their individual county will offer Early Voting on Saturday and Sunday in an Election Cycle allows a great deal of discretion to deny hard-working, poor voters access to the polls. The Texas Secretary of State along with the Texas Elections Division is obligated to streamline voting right days and times which are uniform across Texas.

Voter Purging of voter rolls has been a favorite Voter Suppression tactic of Greg Abbott (pronounced a-butt) with his appointment of his Secretary of State (SoS) which has oversight of voter rolls. In 2019 Abbott and the acting interim Secretary of State unlawfully purged millions of eligible voters, mostly Latino, Black and Asian. In fact in 2019 Abbott recognized and feared the growing numbers of youth voters, new residents. POC were capable of upending Republican seats. In fact according Reclaim Our Vote FOIA records, by June 2019 Greg Abbott and then Acting SOS purged 33% of Texas Latino voters; 28% of Texas Black Voters and 27% of Asian voters from Texas Voter rolls.

Mail in Ballots are critical for individuals who live in rural areas in which poll access due to distance and time is difficult. Mail in Ballots are critical for elderly, the hard working poor, the disabled, single parents can be guarantee each citizen their unalienable right to vote.

In addition, HB3 will make it difficult for good Samaritans, even criminalize their acts for assisting the disabled and poor for providing a simple service of like providing rides to the polls.

Greg Abbott, Murr and Republican Members of this Constitutional Rights and Remedies Committee do not hide behind this facade to circumvent our basic fundamental right to vote in an effort to stay in elected by voter suppression and voter subversion. You are better than this. We will not let you steal our democracy.

Thank you.

Gracie Silvas

Self

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Austin, TX

Voting should be made easier not harder. Voting by mail should be expanded. 45, Texas is ranked 45 in voter turn out! Gerrymandering is a huge problem in Texas. Stop making it harder. You should want to be top 10 in Voter turnout!!!

rita bergers, RN BSN

self retired RN

houston, TX

Dear House Members,

I am giving my written statement in opposition to HB3.

My name is Rita Bergers. I am a second generation American. My grandparents left Europe at the turn of the 2000 century. I am a retired from Health Care and the Pharmaceutical Industry and have lived in Houston Texas since 1981.

My husband and I became DVR's prior to 2014 through a non-partisan training program offered in Houston. We support voter registration drives through the League of Women Voters as well as other organizations. One of the most inspiring events for us is to volunteer for Naturalization ceremonies. After swearing in, eligible participants can register as new US citizens! It made us immensely proud to be American and reaffirmed that this is the greatest country in the world. Everyone had the opportunity to register, regardless of race, creed, country of origin... they were now Americans! We will resume this activity as the pandemic resolves.

My husband's bi-racial grandson came to live with us when he was 9 years old. As with so many young people, the pandemic up-ended his education. While he now lives independently at the age of 20 we continue to provide him with additional support because he works in minimum wage jobs. Ours is a blended family of blacks and whites, all striving to raise this young man, keep him safe and create a future of self-reliance and self-determination. To that end, we ensured he registered to vote when he turned 18 and registered eligible friends and classmates. We also ensured that he voted in each election since he was eligible.

Until 2020 when voting was made easier by extended early voting, 24-hour voting, drive through voting and county wide voting at any polling station in Harris County, it was a hardship for our black family to vote. The polling places in their neighborhoods had fewer voting machines, and the previously restricted voting times resulted in long lines and waits, as well as conflicts with work hours. Obstacles that my wife and I did not experience.

Please show me direct evidence of wide scale voting fraud. I welcome verifiable proof. To date none has surfaced ANYWHERE IN OUR NATION! We do not need new laws in Texas to make it harder for people to vote. We should be a state that encourages everyone to vote. Voter registration should be automatic when you access public resources, turn 18, get a driver's license or other licenses, etc.

We live in a computer age. We should embark on verifiable, electronic, and hack-free systems of voting that can be done at home or in the workplace. Many states hold their elections 100% by mail in ballots and guess what??? NO FRAUD. Let us stop the fear mongering of the "what if there is voter fraud." Let's ensure instead a fair and equitable access to the ballot box. Uphold the constitutional rights of the citizens of the United States: as supported by the 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th Amendments, all addressing equitable voting access to Americans.

Thank you . Rita Bergers

Charles Overly

Self

Hiuston, TX

Please stand strong against those that mischaracterize this election security bill. Represent Texans that demand free and fair elections. This bill strikes a good balance and should be adapted in this session. There will be hell to pay for those that cave to media and activist pressure.

Matthew Jenkins

Self/Environmental Manager/City of Houston Housing & Community Development

Houston, TX

Urging the Legislature to vote NO on this manipulative scheme of a voter suppression bill disguised as an "election security"

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measure.

Leola Ross

Self. Retired.

Katy, TX

As a member of the League of Women Voters and a Texan who takes voting seriously, I urge you to vote against HB 3 and any similar bills that would restrict and needlessly complicate the process of voting in person or by mail ballot. I urge you to make the Vote By Mail (VBM) process more straightforward, and less complicated. I oppose requiring additional voter ID information on an already crowded VBM application and carrier envelope. A signature match is already required; additional voter ID information is part of the voter's registration record. I *do support* offering voters an opportunity to correct or "cure" any defect or omission before the VBM ballot is rejected.

I also ask that you conduct a fully transparent process and provide public hearings on any election law bills.

I take pride in being part of the democratic process: it's my civic duty. Evidently more than 11 million Texans who cast a ballot in the last election feel the same way. While listening to Mr. Keith Ingram, Director, Elections Division, at the Elections Committee hearing on March 4, 2021, I learned that approximately 87% of voters cast their ballot during Early Voting. I refer to Mr. Keith Ingram's testimony to the Elections Committee (at approx. minute 46 on the livestream recording for 03/04/2021): "Texas had an election that was *smooth and secure*." Mr. Ingram never stated or inferred that rampant voter fraud is a major problem in Texas. Factual information confirms that voter fraud is indeed rare. As one example, Attorney General Paxton's task force in 2020 spent more than 22,000 staff hours tracking alleged voter fraud cases, but netted only 16 prosecutions. Therefore, restrictive measures related to voting procedures are not warranted.

Do not restrict election officials' power to decide how best to serve the voters in their communities. I *trust election officials*, who do a challenging job, to make voting secure and efficient. They know the details of logistically organizing for the citizens' and election workers' optimal experience.

I oppose any restriction placed on the number of hours that polling places can be open, or the type of structure in which they must be located. I *trust election officials* to make good decisions in appropriately serving their communities in the best way possible. Our election laws must support growth in participation.

HB 3 makes it more difficult for voters to maneuver the state's already complicated system.

Again, I refer to Mr. Keith Ingram's testimony to the Elections Committee (at approx. minute 46 on the livestream recording for 03/04/2021): "Texas had an election that was smooth and secure." There is much room for *modernizing* and streamlining our voter registration system and laws related to elections. Texans want voting to be safe, simple, and accessible. I urge you to reject HB 3 and similar bills that restrict our voting rights.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Kelley, Mr.

Self

Houston, TX

I strongly support increased Laws Supporting Election Security and Integrity....It is Pass TIME for this be a Foundation of Voter Rights.One must believe their Vote Counts and is Not going to be canceled out by an illegal vote or by misguided behavior in the polling place or the misuse of mail in votes... Each time one vote is cast illegally a legal vote is canceled...so if your going to count the LEGAL VOTES, You should stop all possibility of illegal votes being cast... I would support the use of body cameras / recording of audio between all election workers, election judges and poll watchers. As it stands right now all we have is a she said he said polling place enforcement that goes NO Where because it is so difficult to prove.. The Body Camera would do away with He said She said and document facts that could be used for enforcement and presented in Court....THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT RECORDING THE PERSONAL VOTE OF ANYONE...HAVE THE COURAGE TO SUPPORT ELECTION Integrity.... MAY GOD'S PEACE BE WITH YOU AS YOU VOTE ON ELECTION INTEGRITY...

Linda Ward

Self

Dallas, TX

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Please vote FOR HB 3. We need strong amendments for election reform!!

Please also consider •hand paper ballots, no electronics

•complete chain of custody and audit trails

•increased/enhanced access for poll watchers with full protection of the law for their complaints •no waivers by Secretary of State or Governor or local officials

•limited early voting

•enhanced restrictions on mail ballots

•annual maintenance of voter rolls

•stricter oversight on voter registration.

All of these are critical to a safe and secure election!

Matthew Jenkins

Self/Environmental Manager/City of Houston Housing & Community Development

Houston, TX

To follow up my first comment:

Please honor the letter and spirit of America's Voting Rights and respect the memory of Americans who fought and died for the right to vote, by expanding, protecting and preserving voting rights in Texas and not restricting them and making up stories about a fake voter fraud epidemic.

Have some real integrity for a change.

Thank you,

Matt Jenkins

A Houston resident and a Texas voter

Erica Harris

San Antonio Voter Advocates

San Antonio, TX

Good Morning

My name is Erica Harris and I am speaking on behalf of San Antonio Voter Advocates. SAVA is an all-volunteer group that encourages voting by providing voter registration opportunities and non-partisan, practical, accurate voting information to the residents of Bexar County. As a coordinator for SAVA, I have seen first-hand the tremendous need to encourage and involve all eligible Texans in our democracy by making the voting process clear, accessible, safe, and transparent. We are opposed to any legislation that deliberately puts up barriers to voting. Democracy only works when WE ALL PARTICIPATE.

Last fall, a record number of Texans participated in the election. This should have been cause for CELEBRATION for everyone who believes in "one person, one vote."

Instead, it has become an opportunity for alarmism and scare tactics for those who FEAR expanded, widespread, total, and equal participation in our democracy.

Regardless of zip code, income, race, or political party, EQUAL ACCESS to the polls is our fundamental right.

Provisions of HB3 make it substantially harder for Texans to vote by:

Adding new I.D. requirements to vote-by-mail,

Limiting early vote windows to prevent 24-hour voting, thus impacting shift workers, and

Prohibiting the distribution of unsolicited applications for mail-in ballots.

In addition, this bill would foster voter intimidation by allowing so-called "poll watchers" the ability to move, unrestricted, throughout the polling place in every area except the actual voting booth.

I am also quite concerned that as a voter registrar, I can be held criminally liable for honest simple mistakes.

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We respectfully call on this committee, the Governor, and the Texas Legislature to use this special session, our time, resources, and tax money as citizens of Texas to address the problems that ACTUALLY NEED FIXING. We ask you to vote NO on HB3. Thank you for your time.

Bill Hussey

Self

McKinney, TX

AGAINST - do NOT reduce penalty

Sheryl Hazelwood

Self retired

Tyler, TX

If we do not secure our elections, we are CHOOSING slavery. This is NOT some third world country! It is pitiful that the state and federal government cannot conduct a fair and honest election with ONE vote per LEGALLY REGISTERED CITIZEN!!!

Rayfield Hearne

Self/Retired

Manor, TX

The proposed voter suppression bills are egregious and negatively impact voter rights. If there had been fraud, all of the results would be fraudulent - including the Republicans who were victorious in winning their seats.

Valerie Street

Our Vote Texas

Austin, TX

On behalf of Our Vote Texas, we oppose HB 3 as a harmful bill for Texas voters and specifically, we oppose provisions in the bill that ban measures put in place to improve the voting process for Texans.

HB 3 prohibits drive thru voting and puts new restrictions on early voting hours, including prohibiting 24 hour voting. These were all efforts that were both successful and highly favorable with voters in the 2020 general election. They were put in place not just to make the voting process run more seamlessly but to provide safe opportunity for Texas voters to participate in the 2020 general election amidst a pandemic.

The bill further complicates vote by mail in Texas by adding an unnecessary identification requirement which could present a new hurdle for Texans who must rely on it as their method of voting. It is also worth noting that providing false information on a VBM application is already prohibited.

HB 3 also gives alarming new range to poll watchers and makes it harder for election workers to do their jobs. Ultimately this bill does nowhere near enough to improve the voting process in Texas and only further complicates it while laying potential groundwork for future disenfranchisement of the many Texans who wish to engage in the electoral process. We urge you to reject this bill outright and instead look to solutions that will truly work for Texas voters, not against us.

Irene Smith, Ms

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

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I feel that a strong Election Integrity bill to secure our elections is the top priority of this special session. The bill must include:

1. US citizenship I.D. verification on voter registrations and mail-in ballots
2. Clearing voter rolls of deceased people and felons
3. Much stricter penalty for Election Judges who prevent Pole Watchers total access to computer screens and printed registers

Nanette Mitchell, Ms

Self

Tyler, TX

Stop the fraud so prevalent in our elections

Annette Bennett, Ms

Republican Party state delegate , Fredericksburg Tea Party

Fredericksburg, TX

I am in favor of election reform that makes it easy to vote, but hard to cheat. I am also in favor of the following key issues: Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition leaders have highlighted the following as priority election integrity/ballot security reforms for passage in the Texas Legislature's Special Session:

Set felony penalties for election fraud crimes.

Verify only citizens are registering and voting in Texas elections. From the point of voter registration to casting ballots, citizenship and residency SHALL be verified.

Clean up voter rolls and mandate ongoing voter roll maintenance.

Strengthen penalties and enforcement for fraudsters and election officials, including a prohibition on changes of election procedures in the middle of an election.

Prohibit mail ballot trafficking and harvesting.

Auditable paper trails for voting systems to ensure election results can be verified. 100% transparency and auditability of all ballots, machines, records, system logs, and software.

Codify poll watcher protections with penalties and enforcement for violations.

Prohibit public officials (elected or appointed) from altering, suspending, or waiving election rules since the legislature is the sole authority as specified by the constitution.

Expedite legal proceedings in election-related cases and give citizens legal standing to bring election results challenge to courts. Currently, only candidates may bring a challenge.

The Secretary of State SHALL employ interstate crosscheck to avoid double voting due to dual registration.

Install real-time fraud reporting.

Require enhanced training and uniform standards for all officers, observers, poll workers or volunteers involved in elections.

Require ID for mail ballots. Prohibit unsolicited sending of applications for ballots by mail; improve reporting for challenged but accepted ballots.

Strengthen requirements/require proof of disability for mail in ballot applications.

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Early Voting: Close the gap between early voting and election day.

Restrain use of computers:

Susan Patrick

Self

Iola, TX

I am IN FAVOR of HB 3. I have worked the polls for many years as a clerk or Election Judge. Currently, I am a County Chair. The measures in this bill CLARIFY procedures, help to ENFORCE existing law & procedures, make it EASIER for people to vote. Particularly, the new language in Article5-voting by mail, causes the mail-in voting procedure to more closely match the procedure of in-person voting. This is important for equity & democracy as no vote should count more or be easier to cast than another. A signature & verification is reasonable & not burdensome, but important for protection of our rights! Thank you, Susan Patrick

Jerusalen Garcia Jordan

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Jerusalén García Jordán. I'm representing myself and am in opposition of HB3. As a Mexican-American and a college student, I do not agree with trying to restrict the ability to vote because doing so limits participation in the democratic process.

My civic duty to vote and my ability to vote is important to me because as the oldest of three daughters, I was the first child to not just go to school and attend college in the US, but I was also the first child that was able to vote in US elections. Having grown up on the east side of Austin, there aren't a lot of voting locations near me. I've been voting since 2014 and I usually have to travel on public transit in order to vote. I'm a college student, so trying to balance my life isn't always easy. Some years I've had to make time to vote in between classes or work or on my way home when I'm already tired. I have two little sisters that vote too and while they haven't had any issues voting, they've also struggled to find time to vote. I don't want my little sisters or I to have to wait in lines and possibly lose time from work, classes, medical appointments or other matters we may need to take care of for the simple reason that we're having trouble trying to vote. My sisters and I have nieces, a nephew and cousins that will be eligible to vote in the next two to 15 years. The decisions made on this bill wouldn't just affect those of us that already vote, but it will have an effect on future voters including my younger family members. I ask that you please oppose the bill. We should be doing everything we can as a state to ensure that every eligible voter can cast a ballot, instead they want to restrict access. Thank you and I'm open to answer any questions you may have.

Terry Putnam

self

Georgetown, TX

HB 3: Penalties need to be increased for election officers that violate a poll watcher's rights or breaks the law. An election officer commits an offense if the officer intentionally or knowingly refuses to accept or harasses a watcher for service when acceptance of the watcher is required by this section. An offense under this subsection should be a Class A misdemeanor.

Joyce Doyle

Self - I am a retired community college teacher

Canyon Lake, TX

I urge all members of the Texas House to vote NO on HB3.

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The 2020 election showed that our current voting laws work fine, and there is no need to make voting even more restrictive and intimidating to voters or anyone trying to help those who need assistance. As a current election judge, I am particularly concerned with restrictions and threatened lawsuits when dealing with partisan poll watchers, who will interpret the bill as giving them power to stand close to and even video tape a citizen while voting.

The county elections office and the election clerks have already checked the legality of each voter. Tell me, how does this intimidation make our elections more secure? It certainly doesn't protect the principle that every citizen has the freedom, right and responsibility to vote without feeling in any way threatened.

If as judge, I understandably see this as intimidation and ask the poll watcher to step back, I could be threatened with legal action even though I feel I'm in the right. Therefore, there will be many election judges who will simply not say anything and allow the intimidation to continue. This is NOT RIGHT.

Throughout our history, Black voters even been threatened and even murdered as an example to others not to vote. We need to be very careful not to discourage them or any other voter in any way if we claim to support one person, one vote democracy. If any party fears the way they might vote, they need to rethink their attitude toward all voters and how party policies may affect them – NOT strategize to keep them from the polls.

Thank you for your attention. Please vote NO on HB3.

Kathie Teuscher

Self

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose this bill and am ashamed of the legislature that proposed it. Voting is the right of every citizen. No person or entity should interfere in a person's right to vote and it is the DUTY of every citizen to ensure that right's protection, especially those employed by the state in any fashion. Disenfranchisement by accident or intent should carry penalties under law. Voters should not be penalized for attempting to vote, and should be assisted by the State in their efforts to vote. Election day should be a day, 24 hours, that polls are open, with NO RESTRICTIONS on HOW the vote is cast, walk in, in a car, on a boat, or by mail. This law is disgusting and shameful because it is based on a LIE! This law caters to the ultra conservatives and does not address issues important to the thinking people of Texas.

JC Dwyer, Sr. Strategist

Feeding Texas

Austin, TX

Comment Against HB3:

Feeding Texas advocates for bipartisan policy solutions that benefit our twenty-one member food banks, which provide charitable food in each of your districts, as well as the Texans they serve. As a recent example, nearly all of you voted to pass two bipartisan bills that we championed during this last legislative session.

It is in that spirit that we offer our opposition to HB3. As practitioners in struggling communities across the state and across the political spectrum, we know that these communities rarely get their fair share of public resources and political attention. We routinely witness a lack of public investment in these Texas families, and the creation of public policies that are misaligned with their needs, resulting in increased hunger.

This is in part because the Texans we serve are rarely present when the policy decisions affecting their lives are made - and those decisions begin at the ballot box.

According to a 2020 analysis of voting records, eligible voters with incomes less than twice the federal poverty line routinely vote at a much lower rate than their higher-income peers. In 2016, the voter participation rate of near-poor Americans was 22% below

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that of those with higher incomes.

We want Texans experiencing hunger to be viewed by their elected representatives not as a perennial social issue to be managed, but as constituents with needs. That is why last year, many of our food banks invested in nonpartisan voter registration and education among their clients.

The Houston Food Bank, our largest member took this work a step further. During early vote and election day, they served as a polling location to ensure legal and fair access to voters in their community.

Two options were available to voters during early voting – walk-in voting for those able to access the traditional format and drive-thru for those significantly constrained, including seniors, individuals with disabilities, parents caring full-time for their children, and populations more vulnerable to COVID-19. These latter groups are also strongly represented among individuals seeking food bank services.

By all accounts, the operation was secure, accessible and a benefit to both food bank clients and volunteers who otherwise may not have been able to cast a ballot. Nearly 4,000 Harris County residents cast their ballot at the food bank, and over half of these voters used the drive-through option. The flexibilities that made this opportunity possible would be disallowed under HB3.

The diverse perspectives reflected in the choices that voters make at the polls are necessary to meet the policy needs of all Texas communities, including those experiencing hunger. We ask the Texas House to continue to protect legal and fair access for these voters and oppose passage of HB3.

Paula Kubala

Self

Schertz, TX

Voter ID is absolutely necessary. Any ballot harvesting is illegal and persons should be prosecuted and fined and jailed. This is the only way to protect election integrity. **ABSOLUTELY NO VOTING MACHINES SHOULD BE CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET. No DOMINION VOTING MACHINES, EVER.**

Jayne Burkhart

Convention of States

Katy, TX

Free and Fair election are paramount to our Democratic Republic! Please pass this bill to tighten up any possible loopholes and give citizens more confidence in our elections!!

Betty Weed

Rideshare2Vote

Austin, TX

Good afternoon Chairman Ashby, members of the committee.

My name is Betty Weed, I'm speaking on behalf of Rideshare2Vote. I am speaking in opposition to House Bill 3.

At Rideshare2Vote, we believe the right to vote is a fundamental right, and not a privilege.

We know firsthand that there are significant barriers to voting in Texas, particularly for people without transportation because of income, disabilities or age. Drive-through voting has given access to the ballot box for many many elderly voters as well as people with physical disabilities.

One of our volunteer drivers took a blind woman to vote for the first time in over 40 years. She had kept up her voter registration,

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but had not been able to find someone to take her to the polls and help her through the process. After she voted she cried, her driver and helper cried, they were so happy.

What you are proposing in house bill 3 will place even more hurdles in her ability to find someone to help her cast a ballot ever again. We took people confined to wheelchairs, we took folks who worked 12 hour days and needed to vote late at night. What you are proposing would severely prevent from voting workers who do shift work or have schedules that are not predictable.

HB 3 is an attempt to further silence citizens who already feel ignored in this State. We urge you to vote against voter suppression by voting NO on HB 3.

Send a message that every voter matters.

Thank you

Kirsten Tanges

self

Bee Cave, TX

I'm totally against this bill being passed.

Marisa Catanzaro

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I oppose HB3!

Cynthia Easton

self

Houston, TX

Having voted in nearly every election for 40 years, I do not think that restricting voting is needed. Until recently I lived in Burleson, tx. and this last election was made so much easier for us to vote. It makes no sense to keep us from voting when Republicans nearly ALWAYS win there. You are basically cutting your own throats. Why would you do that?

Al Burkhalter

Self

Mt. Pleasant, TX

Get election integrity passed! THIS IS TOP PRIORITY! Don't fail to do this!!

Judith Telge

self

Corpus Christi, TX

I am opposed to this and any bill that seeks to curtail the right to voter participation by people of color, individuals with disabilities, non-traditional genders, aging individuals and those who may be considered by one political party to be inclined toward an opposing political party. I am an older, savvy adult who votes and actively participates in our democratic processes.

Judy Telge

Corpus Christi

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Terri Hall, Steering Committee Member

We the People - Liberty in Action

Ingram, TX

Every Texas voter has a fundamental vital interest in the legislature ensuring every LEGAL vote is counted and illegal votes prevented and prosecuted if necessary. HB 3 is a good start, but here is what must be in the final election integrity bill that becomes law:

- Set felony penalties for election fraud crimes.
- Verify only citizens are registering and voting in Texas elections. From the point of voter registration to casting ballots, citizenship and residency SHALL be verified.
- Clean up voter rolls and mandate ongoing voter roll maintenance.
- Strengthen penalties and enforcement for fraudsters and election officials, including a prohibition on changes of election procedures in the middle of an election.
- Prohibit mail ballot trafficking and harvesting.
- Auditable paper trails for voting systems to ensure election results can be verified. 100% transparency and auditability of all ballots, machines, records, system logs, and software.
- Codify poll watcher protections with penalties and enforcement for violations.
- Prohibit public officials (elected or appointed) from altering, suspending, or waiving election rules since the legislature is the sole authority as specified by the constitution.
- Expedite legal proceedings in election-related cases and give citizens legal standing to bring election results challenge to courts. Currently, only candidates may bring a challenge.
- The Secretary of State SHALL employ interstate crosscheck to avoid double voting due to dual registration.
- Install real-time fraud reporting.
- Require enhanced training and uniform standards for all officers, observers, poll workers or volunteers involved in elections.
- Require ID for mail ballots. Prohibit unsolicited sending of applications for ballots by mail; improve reporting for challenged but accepted ballots.
- Strengthen requirements/require proof of disability for mail in ballot applications.
- Early Voting: Close the gap between early voting and election day.
- Restrain use of computers. Senator Bob Hall says it best: "The current Texas election process, which depends on computers and wireless communications, will not be even minimally secure until a statewide universal paper ballot process is implemented statewide. All states except Texas and 12 other states have recognized the importance of the paper ballot. Unfortunately, a paper ballot trail that depends on complex computers, finicky touchscreens, rewritable memory cards, and unsecured WIFI communications is still highly vulnerable to vote fraud and errors."

Piper Madland

Self

Houston, TX

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I oppose HB3, a bill looking to solve a non-existent problem. Voter fraud is extremely rare in Texas and across the country. As the leaders of our state, you should know that. This bill makes it harder for disabled people to vote, allows poll watchers to menace voters and poll workers, and limits access to voting for shift workers. Texas is already one of the hardest states to vote in. Please put your energies into a bill that creates automatic voter registration, no-excuse mail voting, and expanded access to the polls.

Harriet Schneider

Self. Retired educator

El Paso, TX

I support efforts to strengthen and ensure our election integrity. I have served as a poll watcher and have seen violations of law with my own eyes in the last two national elections. I find objections to such common sense measures as requiring ID and limiting mail-in ballots to be absurd. It is absolutely offensive to suggest that people of color cannot get a voter ID. They are just as smart as every other person in this country. Mail in ballots our invitation to fraud. They should be used only in the most limited sense.

Megan White, OD

Self, Optometrist

Kerrville, TX

This bill represents restrictions that would set voting in free and fair democratic elections back by 100 years. Restricting who can vote, what times/dates/locations, and criminalizing voting for citizens who are simply trying to enact their constitutional rights is against the very core of this nation. To restrict voting further instead of creating more encrypted and secure, more easily accessible ways to vote is unconstitutional.

There is no logical reason for U.S. citizens to be able to renew their social security cards, drivers licenses, passports, and other sensitive personal information, but not be able to vote from the safety of their homes amidst a global pandemic that shows no signs of stopping. The ways that our U.S. government has prioritized restrictions and criminal policy over civilian life and accessibility is outrageous and should be criminal in and of itself.

Shame on the authors of this bill for taking their time and energy to bring this to the table before ERCOT revisions, before pandemic mandates, before raising the minimum wage to a livable wage, before revising and stabilizing our Texas education system, and before protecting underserved and over-policed communities. Co-signing this bill tells your constituents that you care more about making civilian life more difficult instead of more livable, despite current, unprecedented difficulties. As an individual who has dedicated her entire 28 years of life to the service of others in a variety of small ways, I am appalled at the inhumane and apathetic stance this bill represents. I urge you to vote NO to bill HB3 if you believe in preserving the nation our forefathers aspired to build. Thank you.

Sheila Bernhard

self Retired RN

Houston, TX

This is a subject that I feel very strongly about! If we don't have SECURE ELECTIONS we will lose our republic for sure! Ballot harvesters, people who give false information and double voters need to be held ACCOUNTABLE! Yes, increase criminal penalties until people get the idea that CHEATING during elections won't be tolerated! If people can be allowed to steal other people's vote, by double voting, false information or stuffing the ballot box, eventually those of us who care about election integrity will quit voting. Maybe that's the goal! I have already spoken to more than one person who says they don't vote because they don't think their vote counts! This is a shame and people should not feel this way. MY VOTE IS MY VOICE and people who seek to stop that need to be fined or jailed depending on the severity of the offense.

Kim Miller

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Self

Kyle, TX

Please don't support an effort to make voting more difficult for Texans.

Edra Shalla

Self -retired

Eustace, TX

Texas must lead the way on Election Integrity. There is no time to waste and the Democrat agenda of stealing elections must be denied. Your non-Texan priorities will be remembered in the upcoming gubernatorial primaries.

Kevin Reardon

Self Researcher

Austin, TX

I do not believe this bill should pass. I am incredibly concerned that bill that is framed as protecting election integrity will in fact make it much harder for many Texans to vote. After reading up on the issue of voter fraud I have not seen any instances where large numbers of votes were illegally cast and I do not think it is possible for this bill to remedy a problem that does not exist. Beyond that outside groups have made it clear that this will make it harder to vote for Texans who already have a hard time voting. I am particularly angered by the criminalization of the distribution of vote by mail materials. Outside of this being a purposeful and sinister act I have no idea why a politician would make it more difficult for their constituents and Texans to vote.

Jim Chew

self / Retired vocational instructor for Texas A&M University System

New Braunfels, TX

For the sake of American democracy and our sacred right to vote, please vote "NO" on HB 3. It is not the American way to place roadblocks and undue restrictions on our right to vote.

It is my true belief that this movement is based on the "Big Lie" that Donald Trump won the 2020 Presidential election but was cheated out of it by voter fraud. Dozens of court cases to that effect were thrown out of court by judges (some appointed by Donald Trump) who said that there was not a shred of evidence to support those suits. Trump's own Department of Justice said there was no appreciable voter fraud. Many State election agencies said there was no voter fraud. Why does the Texas Republican Party still worship Donald Trump? Is it fear of the the power that only they give him? Do his many lies and transgressions not convince people that this not who they should be led by.

I am sorry if I have stepped on some toes, but I pray that some light will be shone. I invite anyone in the esteemed Texas House of Representatives to contact me.

Johanna McCrary

Self

Lubbock, TX

I am in favor of this bill. It's important to secure integrity of the voting ballot. It begins with registering rightful citizens of United States, and the process in placing person in correctly in precinct. Informing them that photo ID is needed at voting poll. Those responsible from beginning in handling the ballot as one votes to securing the ballot once casted. Accountability is needed and penalties should deter any fraud.

Jasmine Torain

Self

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Pflugerville, TX

To change the scope of how many Texans vote is unconstitutional. As a legislation, you are working to suppress the vote of black and brown citizens and democratic counties seeking change in the state. Suppressing the vote will further marginalize the many voices that the state and legislature actively works to silence. There are any that are not satisfied with the current realities that exist within this state. The only thing that allows us to change any of the inequitable institutions in the state is to vote. The governor working to suppress the vote simply shows how little his concern is with the constituents of the state he is supposed to serve. Passing this bill would be a disservice to Texans. Our governor is mediocre and does not deserve to be voted back in. Suppressing the vote shows support for mediocrity.

Lauren Krieger

Self - Homemaker

Houston, TX

We support anything that instills public faith in the electoral process. Voter integrity must be maintained. Elections should be legal, secure and in order for one to exercise their right, they should show acceptable identification. Voter fraud should be easily punishable but difficult to pull off.

Lena Jones

Self - pastor

Sugar Land, TX

Needs to be easy for Texans to vote but hard for them to cheat

Tammy Blair

Self. Accountant.

Tyler, TX

It is imperative that we strengthen election integrity in Texas. With that aim in mind, Please consider the following topics:

1. Set felony penalties for election fraud crimes.
2. Verify that ONLY citizens are registering and voting in Texas elections. From the point of voter registration to casting ballots, citizenship and residency SHALL be verified.
3. Clean up voter rolls and mandate ongoing voter roll maintenance. There is no excuse for not doing this!
4. Strengthen penalties and enforcement for fraudsters and election officials, including a prohibition on changes of election procedures in the middle of an election.
5. Prohibit mail ballot trafficking and harvesting.
6. Auditable paper trails for voting systems to ensure election results can be verified. 100% transparency and auditability of all ballots, machines, records, system logs, and software. Our Texas constitution is clear and IS the law!
7. Codify poll watcher protections with penalties and enforcement for violations.
8. Prohibit public officials (elected or appointed) from altering, suspending, or waiving election rules since the legislature is the sole authority as specified by the constitution...both State and federal!
9. Expedite legal proceedings in election-related cases and give citizens legal standing to bring election results challenge to

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courts. Currently, only candidates may bring a challenge. But elections are the business of the people, and NOT the politicians!

10. The Secretary of State SHALL employ interstate crosscheck to avoid double voting due to dual registration.

11. Install real-time fraud reporting.

12. Require enhanced training and uniform standards for all officers, observers, poll workers or volunteers involved in elections. I have seen good training and BAD training. Standardized training would help.

13. Require ID for mail ballots. Prohibit unsolicited sending of applications for ballots by mail; improve reporting for challenged but accepted ballots.

14. Strengthen requirements/require proof of disability for mail in ballot applications.

15. Early Voting: Close the gap between early voting and election day.

16. The Secretary of State has NO business altering election law and must adhere only to codified law! Waivers to the law are ludicrous!

Kevin Patrick

Self - retired

Eules, TX

Section 3.04 prohibits drive-through voting; Sections 3.08 and 3.09 prohibit early voting before 6 a.m. and after 10 p.m. Monday-Saturday, as well as before 9 a.m. and after 10 p.m. on Sunday. Section 3.12 prohibits using a moveable structure as a polling place. None of this improves election integrity, and these prohibitions should be removed.

Section 4.04 says that a poll watcher cannot be denied free movement within a polling place and can sit or stand near enough to see and hear election activities. This is too vague; it could be interpreted as allowing poll watchers to stand close enough to voters to see how they vote. As a former election judge and poll watcher, my opinion is that the current language degrades election integrity.

Section 7.04 prohibits public officials from giving an application to vote by mail to someone who didn't request it; it also prohibits spending money to help a third party distribute unrequested applications to vote by mail. If a public official does so, it would be a state jail felony. This makes no sense; a blank application form (which is publicly available) is harmless. How can this be a felony when unlawfully distributing vote by mail ballots is only a class A misdemeanor?

Paul Courry

Mr. and Mrs.

Houston, TX

This bill is designed to strip Democrats of their right to vote. FIGHT IT!

Rebecca Robbins

self

AUSTIN, TX

Please vote against voter suppression bill HB 3.

Summer Lollie

Self

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Desoto, TX

Hello my name is Summer Lollie. Thank you for allowing me to testify. I am here in opposition to HB3.

I am a proud Texan. Texan born and raised. I learned about Democracy in Texas public schools all throughout elementary, middle and high school.

And as a lot of Texans do, I love to brag about how great Texas is, much to the chagrin of my out of state friends. After all, everything's bigger in TX, right.

I mean how can you not brag about Texas? I mean doesn't everyone know everything's better in Texas?

In Texas public school I learned about the struggle to get to where we are now. An inclusive democracy, that we had to work to get to. One that opened up its door to the likes of women and people of color after long struggles with the powers that be.

Democracy is something we must be vigilant to protect.

A more perfect democracy is a more expansive democracy.

Everything is bigger and better in TX. Right?

HB 1, which

In the 2020 elections, I tried to vote at my neighborhood voting center in the southern sector of Dallas where there is a significant number of eligible minority voters.

Twice I went to go vote in my neighborhood, only to be met with extremely long lines and people leaving telling me that they stood for hours in line.

I had to go back to work, so twice I tried, and I couldn't vote. But I am a voter. My vote is my voice. My vote is my power.

The next time I tried to vote, I asked my boss for time off work, I got in my car, filled up the tank, and drove to a North Dallas polling location and was able to vote in less than 10 minutes.

My mobility, being able to find time off work and not missing wages, having a car, being able to afford gas, is a privilege that not all Texans have, especially in the Southern Sector of Dallas.

HB 3 would

HB 3 does not make Texas Democracy bigger and better. It makes democracy smaller and weaker.

Don't mess with Texas really means Don't mess with the citizens of Texas. HB 3 messes with our ability to vote, and we don't take kindly to that.

The world is watching to see whether you exercise your right to vote to limit the ability of those who elected you to participate in our great Texas democracy.

But whatever happens, just know that I and other voter registrars will not stop fighting for voting rights for people who look like me.

We're not going anywhere.

Roger Hall, Steering Committee Member

We the People - Liberty in Action

Kerrville, TX

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We cannot leave our elections process rife with ways to cheat and have 2020 happen ever again. We need YOU, our reps, to ensure every LEGAL vote is counted and illegal votes prevented and fully prosecuted. I am so disappointed in the lack of action during the session... We need to have courts actually hear cases, and prosecute, so the law needs to be clear. NOTHING can taint the sanctity of one's private vote or we don't have a representative republic.

HB 3 is a good start, but here is what must be in the final election integrity bill that becomes law:

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- Early Voting: Close the gap between early voting and election day.
- Restrain use of computers. Senator Bob Hall says it best: "The current Texas election process, which depends on computers and wireless communications, will not be even minimally secure until a statewide universal paper ballot process is implemented statewide. All states except Texas and 12 other states have recognized the importance of the paper ballot. Unfortunately, a paper ballot trail that depends

Mark Harless

Self

Watauga, TX

As a Texas resident I am in favor of this bill and the reforms it puts in place to protect the security of our states elections and I hope you all as our representatives will do everything possible to pass it into law. We MUST secure our elections to maintain our

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republic and keep the confidence of our citizens lest we become a state of lawlessness and stolen elections.
Thank you for your hard work and support of this bill.

regards,
Mark Harless
Watauga Tx

John Benton
Self
Houston, TX

I support strengthening election integrity. Easy to vote is ok, but it HAS to be hard to cheat.

Judy Hill
Self
Cypress, TX

Free and fair elections are what sets us apart from other countries. Election integrity is essential to the future of the USA as we know it. Please pass HB 3

Myra Dumapias
Self, social worker/ CBO administrator
Converse, TX

As an Asian American woman who has been a caregiver for home bound family members and who identifies with incidences that are part of a history of Anti-Asian American discrimination in the U.S., I am very concerned about the language and detrimental impact of HB3.

The right to vote is basic and should be protected at all costs. If all US citizens are all truly American, then all Americans should have all opportunity to vote that does not discriminate against certain individuals who are protected by civil rights laws, such as the American Disabilities Act, the nation has already considered just and basic.

HB3 can make it harder not only for people with disabilities, the elderly with health issues, dependent adults and other individuals with conditions that restrict their mobility or access to transportation to be civically engaged and practice the basic right to vote. Family caregivers at times also have to work at unusual hours, limiting their hours to do certain errands in person during traditional office hours.

People with disabilities and family caregivers have the right to vote and the mail-in ballot application and submission process, early voting periods, 24 hour voting and drive-thru voting should be protected or expanded not banned or restricted.

Especially for cultures where caregiving is part of the family infrastructure or culture of kinship, restricting or banning mail-in ballots, reasonable access to mail-in ballot applications itself, drive-through voting and other factors that can make it fair for people with limitations practice their right to vote,
HB3 is clearly a move of voter suppression against certain racial or ethnic populations.

The Voting Rights Act is the law. Please don't let Texas be a state that obviously and shamelessly disregards this law.

Johnny Nail
Self
Splendora, TX

HB3 should include doing away with voting machine and returning to paper ballots with signatures, mail in ballots should be evenly restricted and IDs are easily obtained and required for most every activity and should be required for every vote.

Victoria Little

Self

Dallas, TX

I support HB 3. Please do the same. Texans want to make it easy to vote but difficult to cheat. Adding voter ID to vote by mail, prohibiting paid ballot harvesting, protecting poll watcher access, prohibiting public officials from distributing unrequested vote by mail applications all are common sense measures that would protect votes - not suppress votes. Thank you for being Texas strong.

Victoria Little

Benjamin Portugal

Self

Bellaire, TX

My name is Ben Portugal. I am from Houston and I have some comments on the new bill. I think the bill is going to spread hysteria across Texas. Even though you all do not care about that. You think that the bill is preventing "fraud" well I mean there has only been a few cases that have been actually confirmed in the last election. This comment is for the integrity of voting in this country. The US is for the people, but our government wants it only for the certain few. It really sucks that people in the government do not want to give the people a fair and honest election, but that has not stopped you guys before. I write this because it is important to realize that voter suppression is a real issue masked in the whole "fraud" case. Voting should not be an issue in this country because our country was built on principal that every man or woman can vote. That is why in the sixties MLK was trying to stop voter suppression laws and put in place the voting rights act. It is imperative to this state that we recognize people's right to vote and to not just leave voting for the people who are in power.

Milt Shalla

self retired with "primary" time on my hands.

Eustace, TX

Dear Governor Abbot. My senate representative is Bob Hall so I know what a "representative" looks like. You don't. You make a big public display of election integrity and then it isn't even on your list of priorities!?! What a weasel! The primaries are coming up with some really good choices. You're not one of those either.

Anngail Smith

Self - retired

Canyon Lake, TX

As an older person, and a female, I object to restrictions on voting. Women fought for decades for the right to vote. We know that restrictions impact minorities and the poor. As a Jew, I recall restrictions on what college I could attend. While I have no problem with an ID, everyone should enjoy the mail in voting process we elderly are given, as well as extended hours an easy access. Thank you.

Jeni Cook Furr

self

Canyon Lake, TX

HB 3 This proposed bill does not fix a problem with election security. There is no indication that there has been any significant fraud in Texas elections, and this is already one of the most restrictive states for voting. This is a bill to discourage voters. I am a senior, as is my husband. After surgery, I was physically unable to STAND in line in order to vote last year. Requiring voter ID along with mail in voting will likely cause many seniors, like us, not to vote in future elections, since being able to copy an ID from home is not at all convenient. I don't think you really want to discourage seniors from voting. Criminalizing those who would assist voter while standing in long lines is nothing short of cruel.

Martin Moretti

self

Fort Worth, TX

The right to vote is fundamental. It should be easy for every citizen to do so. Furthermore, there is no evidence of any widespread voter fraud, and perpetuating the Big Lie that there has been leads to violence like the events of Jan 6th. Stand up for the ideals America is supposed to stand for instead of further dragging us into fascism. Quit trying to win an election that was lost fair and square and spend the energy on something useful, like helping Texas residents dealing with extreme weather or actually fixing our broken energy network. Stop this Bill before you confirm Texas's reputation as a racist State that cares more about corporations and kickbacks than people.

David Lunt

Self

Katy, TX

It is not an option for a free state to encourage election fraud. Make laws that clearly state election fraud is illegal along with harsh punishments. Keep us free. Thank you.

Cindi Castilla

Texas Eagle Forum

Dallas, TX

Texas Eagle Forum supports (with several additions) HB 3.

We appreciate several features of this bill but feel like some need to be strengthened to give voters confidence that their vote is secure- which helps grow turnout.

Poll watchers must be allowed by law to record misdeeds during the election and tabulation process. Just the threat of being filmed will cut down on fraud. Workers and staff do have phones so watchers should not be prohibited.

Poll watchers cannot be excluded from closed door areas where ballots/flash drives/USB's/computers are in use. We have this issue in Dallas County.

Poll watchers must be allowed to follow the ballots/flash drives or USB's to the tabulation site.

An election judge runs a tape of a vote centers vote to talks after closing the polls. After the county is done, we can not go back to view our reported tally. The votes are instead sorted into the voters ballot style - so a judge does not have a way to double check that their ballots were registered in the same way they were tallied on the counter/ballot box at the polling place.

We stand for going back to paper ballots and moving to as many hand counts as we can manage. We believe this is the best way to encourage people to learn about candidates and cast a ballot in every election. When people feel like they might be cheated, they tend to lose interest. When I was an election judge working with paper ballots I could assure my voters that their ballot would be counted exactly as they voted it (even more so if hand counted vs counted by a machine that had a human programmer

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Doug Hopkins

Self. Retired

Farmers Branch, TX

Currently the present guidelines are adequate to ensure secure elections. The attempt by the governor to place limits on voting places did nothing to increase the election security, the only outcome was the appearance limiting the vote and had nothing to do with voter security. I do not believe additional laws are necessary at this time unless the laws encourage additional voter participation.

Maya Mackey, Ms.

Texas Students for America

San Antonio, TX

My name is Maya Mackey. I am an 18 year old student speaking on behalf of myself and Texas Students for America. I am here to testify in strong opposition to House Bill 3, especially but not limited to provisions in the bill that would make it harder for Texans to vote early and that ban drive-through voting.

I decided to testify today because I've worked hours on the phones to encourage voters across Texas. I've spoken with people who learned how to register to vote, people who vote early, people who eagerly bring friends to the polls. It takes a massive effort to make sure people can get to the polls in Texas, an effort that involves not just reminding people to go vote but also helping them jump through the complex and often difficult hoops that have become prerequisites to be able to exercise this constitutional right. I find it particularly egregious that both drive-through and 24-hour early voting would be banned by this bill, as both of these forms of voting make it more convenient and accessible for voters, particularly low-income, full-time workers, who do not have the time to wait hours in lines at polls during the work day. My experiences communicate to me, as I hope they do to this Committee, that we need to make it easier, not harder, for Texans to vote.

I just turned 18, and have not yet cast my first ballot. I am coming of age in a nation that is coming to grips with a tradition of racism, classism, and ableism. This legislation is unabashedly a continuation of that tradition and a threat to the very core of our democracy. I believe that Texas is a good state, but if we are to move forward as a great one, it is crucial that this bill does not pass. I urge you to vote no on House Bill 3. Thank you.

Mylene Mackey

Self

San Antonio, TX

Senator Ashby and the Select Committee on Constitutional Rights and Remedies members, thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today.

My name is Mylene Mackey, and I speak on behalf of myself, but also working professional mothers. I am in strong opposition to House Bill 3/Senate Bill 1, as among other things it decreases access to the polls by banning drive through and 24 hour early voting.

As a working mother, voting is a schedule challenge. From dropping off my kids at school to going to work to feeding the family and putting them to bed, I can't find the time on my work day to slip away to the polls and go vote. If I could go to the polls late after putting my kids to bed, it would be so much easier to vote. That is why I think we should be promoting 24 hour early voting and drive through voting, not banning it. Our society is moving towards convenience—I can drive through to pick up groceries, get a vaccine, and make deposits at my bank. We can even drive through to pick up alcohol, and get carded in the process. Voting should be as easy and convenient. We are a democracy, and every Texas citizen deserves the right to vote and opportunities to do so. This right can be fully and equally guaranteed if we make efforts to expand the window of time and convenience for voting to occur. These bills do just the opposite, and they are antithetical to our democracy.

Once again, I urge you to vote against House Bill 3. Thanks for your time.

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Maria Nicholas

Self

Farmers Branch, TX

I support HB3. I support voter identification to vote by mail, making it consistent with in-person voting. I support strengthening prohibitions against paid vote harvesting. I support poll watcher access, improving transparency. I support prohibiting public officials from distributing unrequested vote-by-mail applications. It protects voting.

Perri McCary

Think Peace International

Houston, TX

SB1/HB3 are very important legislative bills to address voter suppression. As a 68-year old elder in the community I recognize voter suppression having lived in the 60s. Stop the madness. GIVE EVERYONE an opportunity to vote. Make voting something available to all. You are not doing yourselves any favors by marginalizing and disenfranchising others.

Ray Batts

Self - Software Engineer

Dallas, TX

Hello everyone, my name is Ray Batts and I'm here to speak to my opposition of HB3.

I've lived all across North Texas my entire life. I love my city, and adore my state.

I love it because we are leaders in innovation, but most of all growth. Growth is a core component of our cultural DNA. Every second our crops grow taller, our cities proliferate, and our populations grow rapidly.

Our propensity to grow is our greatest strength. But in the face of this, we fall embarrassingly short of the right and more importantly accessibility to vote.

As is, Texas is inarguably one of the most difficult states in the country to vote in. When it comes to voter registration we lack the ability to do so, automatically, online, or on election day. The privilege of a mail in ballot is blocked off to many, and difficult to both obtain and use for the few who can. Voting locations are regularly over capacity and are rarely able to effectively process voters. We are consistently among the lowest in the nation for both voter registration and election day turnout.

Our system is worse than inefficient, it's borderline broken and needs to adapt to our growth.

And in the face of that, rather than attempt to lead the nation in voting accessibility methods like drive-thru, or 24 hour, or mail in voting HB3 will gatekeep accessibility from an even larger group of people. It aims to further diminish our notoriously low voter turnout.

HB3 as it stands is exclusionary, anti-democratic, and directly conflicts our Texan values of growth and cultivation, and adaptation. It reduces our fundamental right to a privilege many can't afford. It takes away far more than it pretends to give us.

As a black citizen in today's climate, my vote is the only weapon that I can safely brandish. To me, it's an extension of my first and second amendment rights. It's how I speak to you, it's how I protect myself from you.

Restricting access to that toolset sets a dangerous precedent and a dark future for our state. It shows that rather adapt to our growing society, we are unwilling or unable to rise up and directly address issues head on.

We as Texans are not just entitled to, but overdue for legislation that empowers voters. HB3 is not that.

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I thank you for your time.

Walter Coots

Self

Austin, TX

I've lived in Texas my entire life. There's no evidence of widespread voter fraud or compromises in our elections' security, and I strongly believe the measures in this bill create unnecessary red tape for folks who just want to vote. The time, money, and resources of our state are precious and should be used on things we actually need. At best, this bill is an honest mistake that needs to be prevented. But I fear it's the play of career politicians who are looking out for their own self interests rather than serving the people of our state.

Amelie T. Parks

self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose any effort to in any way limit the ability of eligible voters to exercise their constitutional right to voice an opinion in any election. Indeed, as there is scant evidence (anywhere, including Texas) of attempted vote fraud, I feel our elected officials should endeavor to make voting easier rather than imposing obstacles. An engaged citizenry is our only hope for sustaining democracy.

Respectfully,
Amelie Parks

Sunday Shibley

Convention of states

Kingwood, TX

This is one of bills on the top of my most important to pass list. It should be crucial to everyone that we have safe & fair voting . Anyone who doesn't feel this way they should Be brought up on criminal charges. We need to ensure one person one vote with a ID ,no ballot harvesting ,and total transparency. I hope when addressing this bill everyone keeps America in mind

Barbara Harless

SELF

Murphy, TX

HB 3 destroys the ability for watchers to get into the polls and the central counting station by reducing the criminal penalty to a Class B misdemeanor when obstructing a watcher from observing an activity the watcher is entitled to observe.

CURRENTLY it is a Class A misdemeanor to obstruct a watcher (33.061).

Reducing the penalty is unacceptable.

AG Ken Paxton's office won't prosecute Class A's, so how will I as a poll watcher, be supported by the Texas Legislature in acting in any meaningful capacity? Watchers will be blocked all over Texas.

HB 3 needs to be amended to increase the penalty from a Class A misdemeanor to a felony.

HB 3 as filed... "SECTION 4.03. Section 33.051, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsections (g) and (h) to read as follows:

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(g) An election officer commits an offense if the officer intentionally or knowingly refuses to accept a watcher for service when acceptance of the watcher is required by this section. An offense under this subsection is a Class B misdemeanor."

Even the first paragraph of HB 3 violates SECTION 4.01...

"...increasing criminal penalties."

I ask that the House Committee on Constitutional Rights & Remedies pass a committee substitute that supports poll watchers. Increase the penalty for obstructing me as a poll watcher.

Quinn Bratteng

Self, student

Austin, TX

I am Quinn Bratteng, voicing my opposition to HB 3, speaking on my own behalf. Today I want to advocate for one person, one vote. Texas should not pass further restrictions to vote when we seek to enfranchise every eligible Texan. This state has a long history of disenfranchising Black, Brown, Native voters and this legislation seeks to make it even harder for them to vote. Removing 24 hour early voting and curbside voting will unfairly impact communities of color. Instead, we should be removing barriers to voting participation and make every Texan feel safe to vote. HN 3 has further provisions that add additional, needless barriers for voter registration as well as penalizing normal interactions between campaigns and voters. I am concerned for everyday working class Texans being confronted with longer lines, less polling places, and onerous registration to vote. This will hurt our democratic process and unjustly target many communities already facing an uphill battle against systemic violence and discrimination.

MARIA F CORREA

Self

New Braunfels, TX

Every American should be allowed to vote without fear of intimidation. There was no voter fraud and Jan 6 did happen. Our democracy is in danger, vote NO on HB 3.

Hayward Williams

Self

New Braunfels, TX

Vote against HB 3

Ray Furr

None

Canyon Lake, TX

I am 67 years old. For the first time in my life, I tried voting by mail last year. It was a miserable experience. It took 2 months to get my ballot, then news reports that mail in ballots might not be counted forced me to return my ballot and go stand in line subjecting myself to Covid-19 (I have 5 risk factors) around people who are too stupid to wear masks. Fortunately, I was able to vote from my vehicle alleviating my risk. There is no significant measure of voter fraud. I would still like to vote by mail but now your are trying to make it even harder for me to vote. I have news for you, you are not just hurting Democrats, you are really making it hard for Republicans to vote. You are also making me afraid that the other side is going to make it unsafe for old people to have to stand in long lines. I don't want a Democrat nor a Republican walking around looking over my shoulder while I vote. Some people are stupid enough to believe that our elections are not secure, but I have been voting since I was 18 and I have never observed any voting irregularities. Stop this idiotic nonsense and make it easier for us to vote. Stop pretending that a boogie man

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exist where there is none. Do Not pass this bill or you'll be cutting off your nose to spite your face. If you pass this law, I will vote Democratic until somebody makes it easier for us to vote. I am sick of this ridiculous charade. Pass a law to make it easier for me to vote. This is not it and I have a right to vote for whomever I want to elect as my representatives. Ray Furr

Carlos Vazquez

Self - Customer Support Manager

Cypress, TX

I support doing all things possible to strengthen the integrity of our elections. It should be relatively simple for eligible citizens to vote, or to obtain credible assistance in registering or voting, but still provide proof that they are who they say they are. This is common sense. However, it HAS to be nearly impossible to cheat! NO non-relative proxies, NO ballot harvesting, NO party-backed assistance at places like nursing homes, NO "stumping" at our polling places, etc., better education regarding the elections and ballot processes for our students and new citizens.

Michael Meriwether

None

houston, TX

I support strengthening election integrity. Easy to vote is ok, but it HAS to be hard to cheat

Erica Leak

Self

Austin, TX

As a working mother who cares deeply about the future for all of our children and the future of our democracy, I urge you to vote against HB 3. This bill threatens democracy because it limits access to voting, especially for Black and Latinos. Texas is already one of the hardest states in the the nation to vote in - we need to broaden access to voting, not narrow it. For the future of our democracy, please vote no on HB 3.

Karen Hopkins

self. retired

Dallas,, TX

This attempt by the governor and the Texas legislature to enact laws that restrict voting are deplorable. There is no evidence at all that any part of our elections have been fraudulent. They are presenting a law in search of a nonexistent problem. The right to vote is the basis for our democracy and clearly prominent in our Constitution. Attempts to circumvent this right are unconstitutional, despicable and unAmerican. Any politician who supports this legislation should be heartily ashamed.

Tommy Thomas

Myself

Tomball, TX

This must pass

Adam Zornes

Self - oil & gas sales

Houston, TX

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My name is Adam Zornes and I am a Texas resident who resides in Harris County. This is a common sense bill that needs to be passed.

Joseph Kalka

Lawful citizens of Texas and the United States of America

Dallas, TX

HB 3 destroys the ability for watchers to get into the polls and the central counting station by reducing the criminal penalty to a Class B misdemeanor when they are obstructed from observing an activity the watcher is entitled to observe in law.

Currently it is a Class A misdemeanor to obstruct a watcher (33.061).

Reducing the penalty is unacceptable.

AG Ken Paxton's office won't prosecute Class A's, so how will I as a poll watcher, be supported by the Texas Legislature in acting in any meaningful capacity? Watchers will be blocked all over Texas.

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Even the first paragraph of HB 3 violates SECTION 4.01...
"...increasing criminal penalties."

I ask that the House Committee on Constitutional Rights & Remedies pass a committee substitute that supports poll watchers. Increase the penalty for obstructing poll watchers.

Walter Goodman, Dr.

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I am a Christian pastor and seminary teacher who believes that all humans are created equal and each one is created in the image of God. Much of what I am reading concerning voting is to prevent people from minority groups from voting. I am NOT in favor of creating or increasing criminal offenses against people who are attempting to vote for the candidate of their choice. It seems to me that you are attempting to criminalize people who want to exercise their right to vote. Do everything to treat all Texans with the same dignity with which you want to be treated. My 7th grade teacher once said that my freedoms end where another's rights begin. Do NOT make it more difficult for people to exercise their right to vote. By the way, there is very little evidence of fraud. Republicans are using this as a ploy to deny Texans their right to vote.

linda lester

myself your constituent

New Braunfels, TX

This is against democracy. There is no voter fraud. This just legitimizes election fraud. The worst is every part of it allowing the Legislature the power to overturn the election when they do not want to listen to the voice of the people. . Poll watchers allowed to intimidate voters. Vote no.

Kurt Hyde

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Self

Corinth, TX

Earlier this year there was an excellent opportunity to pass an excellent Election Integrity bill. I see where many of the excellent Election Integrity provisions that were in SB 7 are not in HB 3. I urge you to reinstate as many of those Election Integrity provisions as possible in HB 3, specifically:

- Poll watchers' ability to make audio or video recordings if they see tabulation fraud
- Audits of voting equipment
- Protections for poll watchers
- Rules for chain of custody for electronic election media
- Rules for storing ballots for contested elections
- Rules to secure early voting machines and media

I also urge you not to reduce the penalty for failure to accept a valid poll watcher. Please keep that as Class A Misdemeanor. Thank you.

Patricia Garris

Self

Spring, TX

Restricting Texas voter access is like giving Christians only the Old Testament to read. Just as the foundation of Christianity is the New Testament, the foundation of our democracy is everyone having the right and the freedom to vote. Without it, we are only a nation of the people not for the people.

Working and rural Texans, who often work irregular and long hours to provide for our health and safety, need convenient hours, locations and enough days to vote. My neighbors were relieved to be able to work the irregular hours needed to care for my elderly friends and deliver their groceries, and still be able to conveniently vote.

HB3 and SB1 are designed to make it harder to vote and undermine our democracy. No democracy-loving Texan can in good conscience support them.

Beverly Oeltjen, Ms.

None

Austin, TX

I am opposed, and I disagree with every legislator who says it doesn't suppress voting turnout. Republicans need to propose some positive agenda for the people rather than trying to stop social progress. I am NOT a Democrat, btw.

Leah Jordan

Self

Beach City, TX

I support strengthening election integrity. Make it easy to vote and **HARD TO CHEAT!!!!**

Joy Davis

Texas Organizing Project

Houston, TX

I oppose this bill. House bill 3 bans drive-thru voting. It eliminates 24-hour voting which many hardworking shift voters utilized. It also specifically targets Sundays by delaying the start time of voting. This is crucial! In our communities there are events

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known as "souls to the polls" that occur on Sundays. These events have a historical presence dating back to the Civil Rights era. These events led by the Black churches were meant to encourage voter engagement but also to protect the lives of voters that wanted to cast their ballots during dangerous and deadly times when one could easily be killed for voting.

HB3 seeks harsher penalties such as creating a felony offense for simply mailing someone an application for a mail-in ballot. This is an assault on our democracy based on lies that the 2020 election was stolen. Those lies also led to the deadly insurrection attack on the White House on January the 6th.

Craig Parker

Self

Austin, TX

Imposing increased criminal penalties on volunteers at our polling stations for minor errors is just not right.

Sarah Heflin

Self teacher

Arlington, TX

I strongly oppose this bill and all attempts to make voting harder in this state. This bill seeks to disenfranchise Black, indigenous, and people of color and first time voters. It's a cynical attempt to hold power and is shameful in a state that is still trying to heal from the sins of past. Vote no on HB3

Kathlene Foulsham

Self, engineer

Cypress, TX

It is paramount in a free society that we have free and fair elections. I support HB 3 where we are making it harder to cheat but simple to cast your vote.

Megan Hedges-Poole

Self/Realtor

San Antonio, TX

I support the reforms in HB3. The concerns about fraud during the 2020 election are real and we need to make sure it never happens again. We need to investigate fraud and ensure we actively discourage and penalize fraud in our elections. This is the only way to have free and fair elections in Texas.

Robin Snell, Mrs

Self, merchandiser

San Antonio, TX

I support the reforms in HB3. The concerns about fraud during the 2020 election are real. We need to secure our elections with voter ID for mail-in ballots, prevent paid ballot harvesting, and protect poll watchers from being obstructed or stopped from entering the polling place. Only with these reforms can Texans have confidence that are elections are transparent, accessible, and secure.

Sally Davis

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Self and Election Integrity Project of Nueces County

Corpus Christi, TX

My thoughts are that this bill be should be scrapped and broken into individual bills that address one issue at a time.

For HB 3, issues that I don't agree with:

** carrier envelopes drivers license and last 4 digits of the social security number as ballot boards do not have access to these databases and only ballot boards are allowed to open carrier envelopes

** clerks office does not check signatures on requests for applications against another signature

** in regards to correct defects on mail-in ballot and being sent back to the sender - I say NO!

Regardless of the political party- the majority of Texans agree that voting should be easy and cheating should be hard!

Annie Williams

Self

Bulverde, TX

It is of the utmost importance to protect the voting integrity in Texas. It has become clearly evident that there are bad actors in this country that are hijacking the vote of the American people. It is our God given right ...BY The People For the People .

Eliminate all machine voting, voter ID is a must. To do anything an ID is required, to buy alcohol, to get on a plane, to claim tickets at will call. This is a no brainer.

Joanne Salas, Dr

self retired psychologist

San Marcos, TX

I am writing to express my deep concern that HB 3 seeks to make it more difficult for Texans to vote. As a Latina, I felt extremely proud of the work that Judge Lina Hidalgo did to increase voter turnout in Harris County in spite of Covid restrictions. Instead of celebrating her success, Governor Abbott and Republican legislators are trying to make it even more difficult to vote in this state, which already ranks among one of the most difficult states to vote in. The restrictions in this bill including an end to drive-through voting, restrictions to the mail-in balloting process; and expanded rights for poll watchers will only serve to disenfranchise communities of color; the poor and working class; and individuals with impaired mobility. Requiring driver's license numbers and the last four digits of Social Security numbers on mail-in ballots and on the envelopes is an intrusion on privacy and an extra burden that will likely discourage people from using them. Drive-through voting makes the process of voting so much easier, especially for people who cannot stand in line for hours in order to vote. Empowering partisan poll watchers to move around freely runs the risk of having them intimate voters and poll workers. Instead of trying to silence our voices, the Republicans could be doing more to make the party inclusive of all communities. Increased voter turnout only serves to strengthen our democracy. There is no reason, other than a fear of losing power, for enacting laws that only serve to suppress voter turnout. As a person who has directly experienced racism and being silenced in this state, it saddens me that lawmakers continue to devalue communities that have been traditionally disenfranchised. I hope you will reconsider your support of this bill and instead stand for democracy, equity and inclusiveness.

Tom Colkin

Self

Rusk,, TX

Suppressing votes is simply wrong. I strongly recommend you vote against this bill

James Woods, Property owner and registered voter

Self

Murphy, TX

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Reducing the criminal penalty from a class A to a class B misdemeanor for interference of a duly appointed election observer will do nothing to make election integrity better. As witnessed in Georgia and other states, when observers are removed chances of fraud increases dramatically. With the political climate now it is of the utmost importance to uphold our election integrity. As a native Texan I urge you to prevent the downward spiral of this great state and Nation due to the forces of lawlessness. The silent majority is watching.

Carla Kron

self retired

New Braunfels, TX

Please vote no. This bill will adversely affect us seniors. Very age discriminatory!

Susan Casper, Ms

Self

Hoydton, TX

Texas MUST preserve the integrity of our elections AND increase penalties for those who violate election laws!!!

Valerie Gray

Self, Student & Community Center Intern

Webster, TX

This bill is attacking our freedom and should by no means become law. As Texans, we should be proud of our free and fair elections, which this bill does nothing but attack. I am frankly disgusted that the house would even consider such a measure. It is nothing but an attempt to subvert the will of the people, who you claim to represent. We're told this bill is about fraud, but really it's about control. You want to control who is allowed to vote - you want to pick your voters instead of allowing your voters to pick you. You NEED to focus on taking care of the issues facing this state that actually exist, that harm us every day because you're too busy trying to make it impossible for us to vote you out of office. Fix our power grid, make sure our kids are fed, support our schools, and most importantly, LISTEN TO US instead of feeding us these self-serving narratives that do nothing but help you get what YOU want, with no thought for the actual wellbeing - the very future - of your state and the people who live here. Stop this anti-freedom nonsense before it's too late.

james johns

myself

cypress, TX

Try to prevent fraud. Remove all the extra election changes placed by HC Collins which promote illegal irregularities

Fred Reitman, Senior Toxicologist (retired)

Self (retired toxicologist)

Houston, TX

Chairman Ashby and members of this committee: My name is Fred A Reitman. I am a Texas resident and am testifying on my own behalf. I support HB 3.

I have worked regularly at the polls since 2010 as poll watcher, election clerk, alternate judge and as presiding judge so I am familiar with the Texas election process.

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Members opposed to regular session House bill HB 6 expressed particular concern over two of its provisions. One pertained to Sunday voting hours. The other was a new form for voter assistants

Sunday voting hours

HB6 provided for Sunday elections to be held from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

- Opponent concern: this provision would have disproportionately reduced the black vote because it would have interfered with the 'souls to the polls' tradition in the black community that encourages churchgoers to vote after attending services.
- Remedy: HB 3 does not include this provision. It has been dropped.

Form for voter assistants

HB6 required persons who would be assisting a voter to respond to four questions on a form. These questions were: (1) the name and address of the person assisting the voter; (2) the manner in which the person is assisting the voter; (3) the reason the assistance is necessary; and (4) the relationship of the assistant to the voter. Relationship can be expressed in a single word: e.g., spouse, relative, friend, neighbor.

- Opponent concern: These questions are intrusive, and an invasion of privacy
- Remedy: the second and third of these questions have been dropped. The new form requires only the name and address of the assistant and relationship to the voter. Neither of these questions are intrusive. The voters surely receive enough junk mail to know that their names and addresses are hardly a secret.

This still begs the larger question: how would HB 3 affect voting in Texas should it be signed into law?

- It would remain easy to vote. There are no new impediments to voting in this bill. It does not change eligibility requirements. It does not change registration requirements. It does not change voter identification requirements.
- It would become harder to cheat. HB 3 removes dead people from the voter rolls. It makes ballot harvesting illegal in Texas. It makes organized election fraud illegal in Texas. It makes it illegal to send ballot applications or actual ballots to someone who didn't request it. It requires that watchers must be permitted to do their jobs. It adds enforcement provisions. None of these provisions disenfranchise voters.

Please vote for HB 3, so that in Texas it is easy to vote, but hard to cheat.

Thank you,
Fred Reitman
Houston

Cris Strong

self: administrative assistant

Austin, TX

Voting is the basis of our democracy. It is at the very heart of America.

At a time when our country has historic and what will be longstanding policies, every voice has the right to be heard. HB3 threatens our American's freedom to vote, starting right here in my home.

My daughter, Alex, turned 19 last year. She was frustrated at her inability to vote in the 2016 presidential election and readily stepped up to vote in the 2018 Primaries.

Young voters like her have the opportunity and obligation to make a positive impact on our country's future through their vote.

- Limiting 24-hour access to voting eliminates the possibility for my daughter who works 2 jobs (Goodwill and 59 Diner) to be able to vote.
- Additionally, eliminating the drive-thru option directly affects her safety. Houston is a city with over 2.3 million people and associated crime. As a young woman working 2 jobs and long hours, she is exhausted and vulnerable. Eliminating the drive-thru option compromises her to safety. All she wants to do is be a responsible member of her community by contributing to her civic duty and be able to vote without intentional roadblocks such as HB3.
- Separate from my daughter's safety is my Mom's. Being over 80 years old, she has no business driving the highways of Houston and therefore has no driver's license. As we all know, sadly, the elderly are an at-risk population often preyed upon. Identify theft abounds and her privacy and safety are threatened by HB3 requiring her put a portion of her social security number

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just so she can vote by mail. This is another unnecessary measure at limiting senior's right to vote.

HB3 is intentional voter suppression. Every small step in this bill is a big step backward in our nation's right to vote, in our democracy, and in the promise of our founding fathers, "To live in a free and fair state."

Taylor Evans

Self

Cypress, TX

I am FOR HB3...need election integrity for sure!

Sandi Hebley

Self

DALLAS, TX

Please reject this bill! The issue you claim to be trying to address does not even EXIST. There has been no evidence of significant voter fraud, and most cases called fraud are honest mistakes by a voter. Making it harder to vote and criminalizing mistakes is abusive. Your constituents deserve better!

Paula Martin

Self

Houston, TX

The great state of Texas needs to perform a full forensic audit, just like the Arizona, for the November 3rd, 2020 Presidential Election. as well as increasing criminal penalties for those who violate election laws. Texans will not rest until we get down to the bottom of what happened on November 3rd.

Denise Stufflebeam

self

Allen, TX

Elections should be fair. Voting should be available to every eligible voter. What does not matter is race, gender, economic status, or sexual preference.

Voting is serious business. It is how citizens elect their leaders and thus the direction of the entity, whether it's the county, school board, state legislature, federal offices, or some other entity large or small. Only those with a vested interest should be allowed to vote, and rightly so. No one should expect to be able to vote in an election for any organization to which they do not belong, and that's true no matter what the organization is. If I'm not a member of the PTA, or garden club, or whatever, I may not vote in their elections. Their members can each cast one vote. Past members or even 'wanna be' members are not allowed to vote. That's the way it should be and that is fair.

Elections for the government officials who will be making official policies should be much more secure than PTA or garden club elections. Fair elections require security. Voter ID laws are part of that security, and in many ways are no different than having to prove one's identity for a variety of other things such as banking, purchasing alcohol, boarding a flight, clocking in at work, getting a library card, and numerous other activities. Verifying ID is a part of making transactions more secure, and voting is no different. If everyone was honest and wanted a fair outcome, laws to prevent fraud would not be required. That is not the world we live in, nor has it ever been. That is why 'Election Integrity' is necessary.

Those who claim Voter ID laws or other election integrity laws are racist are simply putting up a smokescreen to try to get away with fraud. With the importance of elections, and with trying to get every eligible vote to count, there is really no other plausible reason for anyone to pull out the 'race card'.

Integrity is 'the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles'. It's become a buzzword and the idea of it has become demonized, but is there really anyone who thinks we should not have integrity in our elections? Election integrity is 'every

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eligible vote counts' and shame on those who say that is racist, because they want their side to win whether or not they are truly winners, and they are simply trying any and every method possible to allow fraud.

Please vote for any bills that seek to stop as much election fraud as possible and allow eligible voter security for all voters regardless of race, gender, economic status, or sexual preference.

Anne Gulick

Self, Retired

New Braunfels, TX

I urge you to vote NO on HB3. As an election clerk during the 2020 General Election I did not witness any behavior that could be considered fraudulent and believe that it is vital that voters have fair and equal access to voting locations. I am opposed to poll watchers having any additional powers, especially the ability to photograph or record voters as this would be intimidating.

John Lanzillo

Self

Plano, TX

I disagree with bill as written, I think the penalty should increase not decrease. Please enter my vote to change the penalty to a felony.

Curtis Tempel

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support the bill to improve election security

Jason Castillo, Mr

Self, IT Desktop Support

Houston, TX

During the 2020 primaries, I was forced to wait four hours to cast my vote for the Democratic nomination. When the election opened up and more sites were up for voting I was able to easily vote and feel safe. these measures you are proposing will make things harder and to vote and in some cases harm citizens for trying to fulfill their duty as Americans.

John Pickard

Self

Dallas, TX

Good day,

I am what most would consider fortunate in regards to the current voting parameters and even under these purposed changes I am likely privileged enough to still be able to vote without much issue. But that is the rub of the whole affair isn't it? That your purposed legislation would continue to erode the RIGHT of every citizen to vote and move it towards a PRIVILEGE. Make no mistake that that is exactly what you are aiming for and me and mine will not sit idly by and have this most basic of rights curtailed. Since childhood we have been taught that voting is not only a right but our duty to be heard by those that represent us. To participate in the political process. Was that incorrect? Should those that have a more restrictive or hectic schedule not be allowed to participate? Those with physical limitations or illness have hurdles thrown up in their path? The answer is plainly no. In fact there are no reasons, no legitimate studies, that demonstrate that voting should be curtailed in any way. There are many rights that should in point of fact become easier to exercise and chief among those is the right to vote. In this wonderful, modern

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time, this leading nation of the world you cannot tell me that the right for each and every citizens voice to be heard by those that were VOTED for cannot be made more accessible. This legislation is an insult upon the idea of democracy and cannot be passed.

Thank you for your time.

Kurt Friederich, Re. Dr.

Self

Richardson, TX

I urge both the Texas State House and Senate to defeat any legislation that in any way inhibits Texas residents from the right to vote. It is our right as citizens and no state should make attempt to interfere with that right. The bills presented are shameful. Those presenting the bills are even more shameful. A day will come they will regret their actions.

Shannon Rose

Self

Austin, TX

I am here to represent myself as a former five year veteran caregiver who is in opposition to HB3.

I came today to speak out in opposition to provision 6 within HB3, which directly targets the hardworking people who day after day show up to assist our disabled community members. As someone who worked within the field for five years, while also attending college full time, helping my residents with cognitive disabilities brought me so much joy and connection. As an advocate there to help my residents with daily tasks, physical assistance and of course access to voting there was nothing that me and my colleagues wouldn't do to promote our residents ability to participate in every aspect of American life, including democracy. After reading the exceptionally harmful sections in HB3 which criminally penalize caregivers for assisting with voting, i gave pause to understand what intentions the legislature had for further restrict access to participate in the democratic right to vote for all of our community.

I will always say that being a caregiver during the five years that I was getting my undergraduate degree, was one of the best experiences of my life. But I won't lie to you, it was hard. Being a full time student, and the emotional, physical and mental taxation that comes with being on for 12-24 hour shifts isn't easy. So my question to the committee is this, why would we make our caregivers jobs harder. Criminalizing the explanation of key voting information has only one outcome- making it harder to support our disabled community members. The Texas I grew up in, the Texas I love, is a place for easier access to voting, a place where everyone is able to participate in democracy; not criminalizing those attempting to help widen access.

Under HB3 the integrity of our elections and health of our democracy suffers so that caregivers have greater difficulty providing assistance to safe voting for their residents.

Caregivers work tirelessly to help in any way necessary for our community and I am imploring you to vote 'no' on HB3 which explicitly criminalizes caregivers from assisting and promoting access to voting.

Thank you again for your time.

Anthony Marshall

St. Luke Community United Methodist Church Political-Social Action Ministry

Dallas, TX

St. Luke Community United Methodist Church is a Dallas-based congregation of residents from the entire Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The word community in our church's name marks the fact that we strive to always work for our Lord Jesus Christ through community service. We are regularly reminded, through Micah 6:8, that we as Christians are to "do justice" as we walk humbly with God. Our church's Political-Social Action Ministry writes in opposition to House Bill 3 with this in mind. HB 3 strips voting rights from far too many Texans, in particular, Black Texans and other marginalize populations. In this regard, many

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of its provisions violate the voting rights act and the Constitution of the United States. Members of our church have for years engaged in voter registration, voter education, and voter mobilization. This has included Sunday Souls to the Polls and assistance with Black and Latinx elderly and disabled residents of Owenwood, South Dallas and other low-income neighborhoods in and around our church. In particular, the joy that overcomes the faces of those who have completed their requirements under the criminal justice system and learn from us, not their parole officers, that they are now eligible to vote is priceless. A reading of HB3 appears as if the populations whom we assist with registering and voting are specifically being targeted by provisions such as those that limit early voting and voting locations. Other troublesome provisions unnecessarily dissuade potential new voting registrants who are actually qualified to register. We ask that you not move forward with HB3 and its suppressive voting provisions but, instead, increase access to voting while creating a welcoming system to attract eligible registrants. Thank you for your attention.

Karen Schroeder

Self and Election Integrity Project of Nueces County

Corpus Christi, TX

The majority of Texans, regardless of party, believe that voting should be easy and cheating should be hard. While the Election Integrity Project of Nueces County supports Election Integrity in general, this bill has both good and bad issues. When you present an omnibus bill like this, that happens. That's what happened with HB 6 and SB 7 during the regular session. That's why those bills didn't pass. Issues are better addressed individually through "gap bills" that only address one issue at a time. That allows both parties to sort out individual issues and come to agreement on that one issue. In HB 3, issues that we do not agree with, that do not support our easy to vote and hard to cheat platform include: carrier envelopes including DL# and the last 4 digits of the SS#, because ballot boards do not have access to these databases, and only ballot boards are allowed to open carrier envelopes. Also, the clerk's office does not check signatures on requests for application against another signature. Ballot boards need to have a copy of the same ID that is used for in-person voting, not for the picture but for a legal signature. Fraud is likely committed by one person (not actual voter) who completes the application for mail-in ballot and signs it, then signs the ballot. Ballot boards check these 2 signatures against each other – not against another ID (as would have been requested by in-person voting). In regards to the opportunity to correct defect on mail-in ballot: absolutely NO WAY should the carrier envelopes be sent back to the sender (voter?) that may have signatures that don't match, because this is a way to allow someone to destroy evidence of fraud!

What really needs to happen is to require the same voter ID for mail-in voting as we do for in-person voting. So, scrap HB 3 and replace it with individual bills that address one issue at a time, which will make it easier for both parties to agree on Election Integrity. Again, the majority of Texans, regardless of party, believe that voting should be easy and cheating should be hard.

Ali Foulsham

Self

Hockley, TX

I support strengthening election integrity. Easy to vote is ok, but it HAS to be hard to cheat.

Thomas Schubert

Self

1905 N Waterview Dr., TX

My wife can't be sitting next to me here as I type this and can't come down to the capital to speak because she's asleep. She's a night shift nurse. She keeps the poor and rich alike healthy while everyone is comfortable in their beds. Her schedule is so irregular that it has her in a perpetual state of exhaustion. Because of this schedule she has little to no time to participate in her right as a citizen of this state. When she can vote, it's because of several of the things this house is attempting to abolish. She's not the only night-nurse or night worker that benefits from these perfectly reasonable and appropriate accommodations.

The grease in the gears of this state, like my wife and myself, are being hurt by HB3. Stop hurting the people that help keep this state alive, the night-shift nurses, doctors, fire fighters, and the thousands of other jobs that demand too much from their employees.

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Vote no on HB 3 and allow the people of Texas who sacrifice more than they should to continue to have a voice in this state.

Thank you for your time.

Alexandra Guio

Myself

Dallas, TX

To the members of the Constitutional Rights & Remedies Committee:

I am writing again to strongly oppose HB 3 (and SB 1). After session ended, your communities across Texas have told you that the language in this bill and the prior bills are unacceptable. Now, the entire nation is looking at Texas to see whether these bills will continue through the legislative process against the will of the people.

One of the rights I hold most precious as a U.S. Citizen is my right to vote. I will continue to fight to protect that vote for myself and for my community.

Texas is growing more vibrant, diverse, young, and urban. This bill significantly diminishes the voting rights of the people in Texas.

Texas has had a long history of discrimination against people of color and women when it comes to voting rights and its time we stop this injustice. From the passage of the 15th amendment, the Voting Rights Act in 1965, and even today, disenfranchisement continues in many forms. The history is important because it continues to repeat itself.

Texas has a history of literacy tests, poll taxes, “white only” primaries, the Expatriation Act of 1907, and thousands of poll watchers that led to intimidation in neighborhoods with high populations of people of color. After the Voting Rights Act, Republicans falsely claimed of a hundred “phantom votes” but were corrected when the allegations were found to be a clerical error. Temporary voting locations that benefited college students and rural towns were forced to close because they couldn’t meet the requirements that were written in a Republican sponsored bill.

Personally, the worst form of discrimination was the attempt to purge the voters rolls based on knowingly false data from DPS records on citizenship data. It is personal because my name was included on that list. I became a naturalized citizen in May of 2013 but DPS did not have a record of that until later when I came to change my address – and that is when I provided my proof of citizenship. So, while this attempted purge was ongoing – I lived in fear that I would show up to my polling location only to find out that I was no longer registered. That fear is unacceptable. [SB 1 includes language that references to monthly citizenship checks and this is only a reminder of the horrifically botched 2019 voter-rolls review I lived through].

Now today with HB 1: it is the same techniques of the past – just with a new name.

- Tougher voter ID requirements
- This bill gives poll watchers overwhelming control and power when we know historically poll watchers have been used to intimidate and deter voters of color in the past
- More regulations on mail-in ballots
- More restrictions on early voting hours & a ban on drive-thru voting

Simply put - This is Jim Crow language cloaked in 21st century political rhetoric.

This is nothing more than a clear attempt to rig the election system and make it harder for people of color to vote.

Alex Wallenwein

Texas Nationalist Movement

Houston, TX

Texas needs election integrity legislation just as badly as Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Georgia. The outcome of state judicial district court elections of 2018 in Harris County is just too homogenous to be the result of a fair and open election. All judgeships held here are of the same gender,, race and political party.

Katherine Newell, Ms.

Self retired

Canyon Lake, TX

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I am a US citizen and long time Texas resident. I consider it a right for all eligible voters to have access to voting and that it should be easy to vote. I can't say that emphatically enough.

If I need to vote absentee or mail-in ballot, that also should be easy for me to do. I have always had to provide my drivers license as identification, why should it be necessary to provide identification on envelope and ballot and to match with DPS information. Every time you have to write it in, there is another possibility for error, so there should definitely be the means for correcting mistakes available. Providing the reason is an invasion of privacy and might not be legal.

Criminalizing potential mistakes of volunteers in the voting process is just wrong or of anyone trying to help voters in need of assistance.

Partisan observers in voting places should not be allowed. They could easily be intimidating.

Please consider this: voting is the absolute right of every eligible voter and it should be easy and safe.

Donna Stallone

Self and family

Cypress, TX

Without election integrity America is doomed and on a fast track to no return! It is of the utmost importance and a **PRIORITY** to our nation. What a shame it had to go to special session to ensure America remains free. Make it happen now for "we the people!" deserve to be free to pursue life, liberty and happiness! If America fails, where will we go? We are the beacon of hope but without election integrity we are dead! Make it happen!

Angelica Razo

Mi Familia Vota

Houston, TX

My name is Angie Razo and I am the Texas State Director for Mi Familia Vota, a national nonpartisan civic engagement organization whose mission is to promote social and economic justice for the Latino and allied communities. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in front of you today. I am here today to testify **AGAINST** HB3 AND SB1- relating to election integrity and security. More specifically, I want to expand on why banning 24 hour voting hours would impact our community.

Our organization supports and empowers Latino voters to participate in our democratic processes. Our community consists of newly naturalized citizens, English language learners, and young people who are participating in elections for the first time. The proposed language in this bill would increase the barrier that our community and other communities of color face when trying to cast their ballot. For example, in 2020, expanded early voting hours, including 24 hour voting, allowed many of our community members who work long shift hours and are juggling multiple family responsibilities to cast their ballot at the time that best fit their schedule. I remember getting a text message from a community member during Early Voting late in the evening asking where and when they could vote. I was so happy that I could direct them to the 24 hour voting location that was underway. Within 30 minutes, they were able to pull up to an open polling location and vote.

I remember when I voted for the first time. As the first person in my family to vote, I was confused by the process and with my busy school and work schedule and lack of transportation, I ended up voting 3 minutes before 7pm on Election Day. We have an opportunity to create an election process that welcomes people to our democracy. Our community has suffered disproportionately during the Pandemic and Winter Storm. We should be encouraging our own elections administrators to make voting accessible for all of us that care to vote, because we care about the future of our state. Banning 24 hour voting hours would greatly impact several of our community members. Under HB 3, the integrity of our elections and health of our democracy will suffer due to limiting the hours that voters have access to the ballot box.

Again, I want to make it clear that I **OPPOSE** HB3 AND SB1. Thank you very much for your time.

Jennifer J Johnson, MS

Self

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Spring Branch, TX

Please Vote No!

Eileen Kay

Self

Houston, TX

I do not believe the judges and DAs are acting in the best interests of our safety Justice does not seem to matter anymore.

Karen Martinez Perez

Mi Familia Vota

Plantersville, TX

My name is Karen Martinez Perez and I am a resident of Grimes County. I am also representing Mi Familia Vota and I am a student at Rice University. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in front of you today. I am here today to testify AGAINST HB3 AND SB1- relating to election integrity and security. More specifically, I want to expand on why empowering poll watchers is damaging while penalizing individuals that want to assist voters.

Some of my family members and friends are naturalized citizens. They are eager to vote and participate in our democracy. However, as new voters, they require assistance from trusted family members or friends. Adding barriers and criminalizing voter assistance would deter several of my own family members and friends from rightfully casting their vote.

Additionally, poll watchers can be very intimidating to my community. When my father voted in November 2020, he was the single person of color at that time at the polls in Grimes County. He was aware that there were several community members at the polls that supported White Supremacy. This completely horrified him given that this community has committed atrocities against communities of color and have been very vocal about harming communities of color. When we empower individuals to serve as poll watchers, my community is hesitant to vote knowing that we might be targeted with either silent or vocal opposition. Texas is a diverse state, but historically we have seen communities of color be intentionally intimidated through the voter registration and ballot casting process.

We should be encouraging our own elections administrators to make voting accessible for all of us that care to vote, because we care about the future of our state. Banning 24 hour voting hours would greatly impact several of our community members. Under HB 3, the integrity of our elections and health of our democracy will suffer due to limiting the hours that voters have access to the ballot box.

Again, I want to make it clear that I OPPOSE HB3 AND SB1. Thank you very much for your time.

Kirk Wilson

Self

Austin, TX

Those who support HB 3 and SB 1 are (1) trying to solve a problem that does not exist; (2) acting to gain favor with the anti-democratic forces who believe the blatant lie propagated by the most corrupt and incompetent President America has ever had; (3) only proving that they do not understand or believe in democracy, and in fact live in fear of the will of Texas voters; (4) casting themselves as the ultimate losers because they are so clearly on the wrong side of history.

Richard Ertel

Self

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Mountain Home, TX

My comments are based on my experiences as a County Chair for four years, an election worker for over a decade, a member of the Early Vote ballot board for numerous elections, and a volunteer deputy voter registrar for over a decade.

As County Chair, I recruited Election Workers for all of the precincts in our county, supplemented their training, monitored activities at polling places during early voting and on election day, and monitored the vote counting by the Elections Administrator at Central Count on election night. I previously served as an election worker at our precinct polling location and processed mail-in ballots on the Early Vote Ballot Board.

In my experience, there is no evidence of voter fraud at any level in our county. HB 3 is creating the appearance of an election integrity problem where none exists.

Texas already has many impediments to voting. HB3 will create more impediments to voting. HB 3 will make it harder to vote by mail, harder for persons with disabilities to vote, and harder to register to vote.

HB 3 will create problems in the conduct of future elections. Election Judges will not be able to control the conduct of partisan poll watchers who will disrupt polling places. As a County Chair, I could not in good conscience recruit election workers to work in such an uncontrolled environment and subject them to legal jeopardy.

Robert Garvin

Self, Graphic Designer

Elm Mott, TX

This bill will not actually fix anything and will instead create even more problems. If you really wanted to fix the election system, you'd be mandating paper ballots or at least a paper trail for the e-Voting machines.

Moreover, continuously attacking the integrity of the election with these frankly appalling bills from this state and other states endangers the stability of this state and nation and the ramifications of this continued madness is going to hurt everyone. We as a nation saw Jan 6, we know where this is leading if you keep pushing this insane rhetoric.

Tamara Bonning

Self

Cypress, TX

I would like to see voter identification required, it can be easy. Why not have elections done on our tax returns, since everyone has to file a tax return right?

Kimberley Duda, Ms

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I urge you to respect the rights of every eligible Texas voter and vote NO on this bill.

Ron Stringer

self

Corpus Christi, TX

Please vote NO on HB 3 because it allows signature fraud and we can not have that.

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JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director
Grassroots America - We the People PAC
Flint, TX

HB 3 as filed... "SECTION 4.03. Section 33.051, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsections (g) and (h) to read as follows: (g) An election officer commits an offense if the officer intentionally or knowingly refuses to accept a watcher for service when acceptance of the watcher is required by this section. An offense under this subsection is a Class B misdemeanor."

Currently, it is a Class A misdemeanor to obstruct a watcher (33.061). Grassroots America - We the People PAC strongly opposes any reduction in penalties to obstruct poll/central count watchers. Instead, the penalty should be upgraded to a felony. With 254 TX counties, there are at least 254 ways to run elections; therefore, the Legislature should send a strong message to election officials mandating full transparency & strong, consistent application of the law.

Failure of the past 3 regular sessions to pass commonsense reforms for enhanced election integrity/ballot security is completely unacceptable. Texans deserve better. We therefore reiterate the much-needed reforms we communicated before and during the 87th Texas Legislative session and the 2 prior legislative sessions:

Strengthen/set felony penalties for election fraud crimes.

Verify citizenship for registering/voting. From the point of voter registration to casting ballots, citizenship and residency SHALL be verified.

Clean up voter rolls; mandate ongoing voter roll maintenance checks for citizenship, residency, felons and the deceased.

Prohibit changes in election procedures in the middle of an election.

Prohibit mail ballot trafficking & harvesting.

Mandate auditable paper trails for voting systems to ensure election results can be verified. 100% transparency and auditability of all ballots, machines, records, system logs, and software.

Codify poll watcher protections with penalties and enforcement for violations.

Prohibit public officials (elected or appointed) from altering, suspending, or waiving election rules since the legislature is the sole authority as specified by the constitution.

Expedite legal proceedings in election-related cases and give citizens legal standing to bring election results challenge to courts.

The Secretary of State SHALL employ interstate crosscheck to avoid double voting due to dual registration. (The SOS has thus far ignored the Legislature on this.)

Install real-time fraud reporting.

Require enhanced training and uniform standards for all officers, observers, poll workers and election volunteers.

Require ID for mail ballots.

Prohibit unsolicited sending of applications for ballots by mail; improve reporting for challenged but accepted ballots.

Strengthen requirements/require proof of disability for mail-in ballot applications.

Early Voting: Close the gap between early voting and election day.

Implement statewide universal paper ballot process, eliminating all opportunities for hacking, use of rewritable memory cards & unsecured WIFI connectivity

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Andrew Neal

Self

Watauga, TX

Election integrity would be best created by increasing the ease in which Texans can vote. Extending voting times and creating procedures that allow easier voter registration would best serve the needs and wants of all Texans, not creating restrictions that would hinder and harm those who wish to vote. This bill creates neither integrity nor security and only saddles more hurdles for those wishing to vote. I urge and implore all members to vote against this bill.

Stephanie Ertel, Ms.

self; retired

Mountain Home, TX

I oppose HB3. I have served as an election judge, alternative judge and election clerk in elections in Kerr County since 2008, and have never witnessed an act of election fraud, although I have seen many voters forced use provisional ballots that were never counted due to lack of information about where to vote, or what type of ID to provide. I have seen voters who had the correct ID decide not to vote because they did not know that their ID was the correct type. I have seen and heard of voters who brought guns, cell phones, and other forbidden items into the voting booth. I would like to continue to work as an election judge, but the prospect of being charged with a newly created offense for making a correctable mistake causes me to oppose this bill as interfering with voting rights and the ability to work at the polls.

Ron Boyd

self

Allen, TX

This needs to be amended to increase the penalty from a Class A misdemeanor to a felony. Please increase the penalty for obstructing poll watchers.

Marcia Daughtrey

Self

TYLER, TX

It's way past time to get this done; we are conservatives, remember? Without ballot integrity, we do not have a lawful, honest, and fair election. Lets get with the program and get this passed....

Richard Ertel

Self

Mountain Home, TX

I oppose HB 3 for the reasons set forth I'm my comments previously submitted.

Annie Lyon

Self / Student

Sugar Land, TX

This bill is attacking our freedom and should by no means become law. As Texans, we should be proud of our free and fair

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elections, which this bill does nothing but attack. I am frankly disgusted that the house would even consider such a measure. It is nothing but an attempt to subvert the will of the people, who you claim to represent. We're told this bill is about fraud, but really it's about control. You want to control who is allowed to vote - you want to pick your voters instead of allowing your voters to pick you. You NEED to focus on taking care of the issues facing this state that actually exist, that harm us every day because you're too busy trying to make it impossible for us to vote you out of office. Fix our power grid, make sure our kids are fed, support our schools, and most importantly, LISTEN TO US instead of feeding us these self-serving narratives that do nothing but help you get what YOU want, with no thought for the actual wellbeing - the very future - of your state and the people who live here. Stop this anti-freedom nonsense before it's too late.

Theresa Vasek

Self Retired

Cypress, TX

Easy to vote is ok, but it HAS to be hard to cheat."
Must have voter ID.

Shirley Bugosh

self/retired

Cypress, TX

I support election integrity - I want my vote count! It is ridiculous to think that ID requirements and signature verification result in voter suppression or that being allowed to review or even ask about election information regarding questionable election practices is undemocratic. I must show ID for things that do not even compare to the importance of electing an official to represent my interests in how my government is run - and I stress 'represent my interest' heavily. Let's make this citizen right as easy and simple as possible but make it hard for those that would commit fraud in our election process. If this means going back to paper ballots then so be it!

Kristin Hancock

Self, Physical Data Management Team Lead

Cypress, TX

I support strengthening election integrity. Easy to vote is ok, but it HAS to be hard to cheat.

Gene Lantz

Texas Alliance for Retired Americans

Dallas, TX

Retirees have the best voting record of any age demographic. We do not like being smeared with untruths about our cheating in elections. We do not like being penalized on the basis of these untruths. Instead of allowing the Legislature to curtail our voting rights, we demand more and better access to the ballot! --genelantz, President, Texas Alliance for Retired Americans

Susan Shelton

Self

Austin, TX

This bill only serves to suppress voters, discourage poll workers, and frighten deputy voter registrars. I urge committee members to let this bill die in committee.

Jessica Justice

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self

Houston, TX

My name is Jessica and I am a teacher and I am here to speak up on my own behalf, but also on the behalf of my disabled father who is unable to provide testimony in person, my friends in the armed forces serving abroad, my poor rural family members who cannot afford to make this trip, my friends and acquaintances who are people of color, and my students, who are not able to be present today to challenge their rights and access to the ballot being limited. I vehemently oppose the voter suppression bill SB1 and I am pleading with you that you vote against it. As a lover of history, and someone who has taught Civics, I know that the primary characteristic that helps define the competency of republic and the legitimacy of governing institutions, is the ease in which you can cast a ballot. Texas has now been ranked by scholars as LITERALLY the most difficult state to vote in. I'll say that again. 50th out of 50 states. Why? Because Texas maintains an in-person voter registration deadline of 30 days prior to an Election Day, Texas has eliminated more than 750 polling places across the state (most of which have been removed from densely populated counties with high numbers of young and diverse voters, and Texas also happens to have the most restrictive pre-registration law in the country. This is all without HB3's intentional and unnecessary barriers to the ballot box...These unnecessary measures are solutions looking for a problem. And they are meant to discourage or downright prevent young people, the disabled, service-members, people of color and the poor from casting their votes. This is Jim Crow 2.0.

Perhaps some of you simply want to win elections & believe that reducing young, minority voting levels is a hell of a lot easier than breaking their attachments to current party affiliations... or maybe you're simply averse to actually advocating for legislation that will improve people's lives and that the majority of people can support. But I can assure you, that if you move forward with this legislation, the political backlash will not serve you in the long run. And people don't forget the names of the people who tried to disenfranchise them.

Right now, you have a decision to make. Are you going to stand on the right side of history and play to win by playing fair? Or are you going to try to rig the game in your party's political favor to protect conservative white political power from having to acknowledge and actually attend to the concerns and needs of a diverse state?

If you choose to move this bill forward, you may as well call this a Suppression Session instead of a special session.

Please oppose this bill in its entirety.

Sincerely,

A fellow citizen who believes in the integrity of our people and our electoral process, who is pleading with you to abandon efforts to put up intentional and unnecessary barriers to the ballot box for fellow citizens.

Patricia Morgan

Self-Tx LPC

Austin, TX

Against- this is voter suppression. I am a VDR in Travis County and am very proud of the job we did registering voters for the last election. The election went off without a hitch in Tx- these proposed rules are in response to the RIDICULOUS and FALSE narrative that the election was stolen from Trump! We need to encourage voting by making it more accessible- there are too many take aways in this bill.

Cary Reynolds

Self Realtor

Austin, TX

Please do not use the false premise of voter fraud to pass restrictive voting laws. Our elections are currently virtually fraud free.

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Vincent Ligotino

Self

Cypress, TX

"I support strengthening election integrity. Easy to vote is ok, but it HAS to be hard to cheat." Voter ID required!!

Melissa Lum

Self Analyst

Coppell, TX

My name is Melissa Lum. I am a volunteer Deputy Registrar and a Precinct Chair for Dallas County and I am testifying against HB3 for the pointless bureaucratic hoops that it puts citizens through in order to exercise their right to vote.

HB3 creates confusing and arbitrary restrictions and requirements on registering to vote, prevents local officials from providing resources to explain voting options to citizens and prevents local officials from making voting more convenient safe and reliable.

Section 2.01 and 2.03 create vague and over broad restrictions requiring an unfounded mandate of registrars to draft sign and deliver multiple affidavits every time a voter dies and seems to prohibit the supply of basic voting information to voters.

Further more even when local officials are ready and willing to make voting more safe and convenient to voters this law would restrict innovation with no compelling rational.

Texas voters do not need this bloated bureaucracy. They want convenient clear cut rules to access their right to vote. HB3 suppresses the vote by putting arbitrary obstacles in front of them and I urge you to vote again it.

Samantha Chang

self and QA/bio pharma

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB3. Texas already have some of the most restrictive voting laws in the country. As a poll worker in several elections, the MYTH of voter fraud is offensive. There are so many checks and balances for our elections that promote a fair election process. The citizens of Texas already need to jump through many hoops and hurdles just to vote, adding more is tantamount to voter suppression.

Gabrielle Moore

Self, Realtor

San Marcos, TX

Hello Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak today in opposition of HB3/SB1

Some of the egregious portions of this bill that I oppose are:

Inviting poll watchers to intimidate voters. Criminalizing election workers who are only trying to help people vote.

Deputizing people to act as handwriting experts to throw out valid votes.

Criminalizing anyone for helping people to vote.

In 2018 I assisted with on-campus voting at Texas State University in San Marcos. Voters waited between ONE and FIVE HOURS to exercise their constitutional right to choose their representation.

These students had registered to vote at their new address by the required 30 days before election day. What these students didn't

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know is that their campus had had an invisible line drawn through the middle of it by the county commissioners court, cutting their campus into two voting precincts. So half of them were mandated to vote at another precinct across town. A fraction of these young voters did find rides there- only to be told there that they were again at the wrong location. Somebody in the county elections office had screwed up the maps used for the election workers, and now these students couldn't vote ANYWHERE. Many left after hours in line without ever having their vote counted.

There are many voting horrors in this story. I tell this story to illustrate the need for election volunteers to assist voters, especially the newest ones. This bill attempts to criminalize my assistance.

President Ronald Reagan said:

"Every time we vote we're helping to pull America forward into the future. Every time we vote we're standing up, side by side, with the Founding Fathers, with the men of Valley Forge, with patriots and pioneers throughout our history, with all those who dedicated their lives to making this a nation of the people, by the people, and for the people. Every time we vote we help to make America stronger."

This bill is yet another solution searching for a problem. Texas already mimics a third world country when it comes to running elections. This bill makes it practically a crime to try. Perhaps legislators propose this bill because they think it will make us give up our vote.

They are only lighting a match.

Lauralynn Bennett, Concerned Citizen

Self

Cyoress, TX

I support strengthening election integrity. Easy to vote is ok, but it HAS to be hard to cheat.

Bruce Carpenter

self

New Braunfels, TX

Comments on Texas Legislature Bills H3 and S1

I open my remarks with your own words from HB 3:

“Sec.A1.0015.AALEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature that the application of this code and the conduct of elections be uniform and consistent throughout this state to reduce the likelihood of fraud in the conduct of elections, protect the secrecy of the ballot, promote voter access, and ensure that all legally cast ballots are counted.”

However, on examining the provisions of HB3 and S1, I find that many components of this legislation directly contrast with that stated legislative intent. I find the proposed legislation includes:

- Provisions that make ballot access more difficult such as restrictions on voting hours, drive-through voting, increasing difficulty for use of mail-in and absentee ballots;
- Provisions that criminalize with severe penalties minor acts of election officials intending only to maintain order in polling locations and protect the privacy and security of voters and;
- Provisions to politicize the counting, recording, and certification of elections.

Such provisions to accomplish those ends included in this proposed legislation are inconsistent with the opening statement of legislative intent.

Until appropriate amendments of these legislative bills, drafted solely by Republican legislators and their staffs without input by the Democratic minority, are adopted to remove provisions inconsistent with the stated legislative intent, and other amendments are added that do improve access and voter security and integrity, I request both of these bills be rejected by legislators.

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Thank you,

Malissa Torres

Self

Three Rivers, TX

Thank you committe for reading my testimony. I am providing testimony in opposition to HB3. I live in a county that is 1038 sq miles with only one early voting location. There is no public transportation, no uber, and no taxis. Most adults work and risk being fired for requesting time off since Texas is a right to work state. Many working adults work outside the county in San Antonio, Corpus Christi or for oil and gas and have travel back to our county before the election's office closes at 5pm; this is limiting. There is no weekend or after 5 pm voting in rural counties. A few accommodations are made for disabled voters but, not enough. Drop boxes for ballots are nonexistent. Less hindrances to voting should be the goal of Texas. I served my county for 20 years in the USAF and voted mostly absentee by mail. Why is the best state in the union working so hard to disenfranchised her citizenship from honoring my service and millions of other veterans when exercising their right to vote? Please do not vote for HB 3. Thank you

Benny Mason

Self Consultant

MONTGOMERY, TX

Please do not allow the Texas Democrats to hold this bill hostage by walking out. They have a job to do and even if they do not have enough votes to overcome HB 3 they cannot run like children. Every legal voter in Texas has access to ID or access to help in providing ID. This is a security issue and not a race issue and Republican legislators need to stand up and get as loud as Sheila Jackson Lee, Beto, the Castro brothers and Al Green.

Deborah Chavez

Self Retired teacher

Buda, TX

My name is Deborah Chavez. I am a resident of Buda in Hays County and I am representing myself.

I am opposed to provisions in HB3 that make it harder for Texans to exercise their right to vote. In particular I want to address the issues regarding early voting and voting by mail.

At one point in my life I was a single mom raising 2 boys, working a full-time job and all while working to earn a college degree. Between work, school and kids it was hard to get to the polls to cast my vote. If the line was too long it could become impossible.

Today many young people are in similar circumstances - working, going to school, raising families. In some polling locations the lines can be several hours long. If a voter has to get to work or pick up the kids from school or daycare he or she may have to leave without casting a ballot. No one should be disenfranchised in that way.

That is why I oppose any provisions that will limit early voting dates and hours. Early voting needs to be expanded, not reduced.

Now that I am over 65, I am eligible to vote by mail. In order to receive a mail in ballot, I have to first submit an application form every single year. I have been so appreciative in the past when I have received an application form in the mail.

If passed, HB3 would prohibit election officials from distributing or soliciting absentee ballot applications. Not everyone has the ability to download and print out the application form. Traveling to San Marcos to pick up a form can be a burden. This provision places just one more unnecessary obstacle for the voter.

I love voting by mail. I receive my ballot well before Election Day. It gives me plenty of time to research candidates and issues

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before I make my choices. Then I seal it up, sign the outer envelope and drop it in the mail. It's an easy, safe and secure way to vote that should be expanded not curtailed.

If a woman is 65 she can request a mail-in ballot, but if her husband is 64 he cannot. Why?
Young people who are busy with work, school and kids cannot vote by mail. Why? There is no justification for denying this option to any Texas voter.

Again, I oppose any provisions that place state-mandated limits on early voting dates and hours. I also oppose provisions that will hinder or restrict access to mail-in ballots.

I urge you to vote no on HB3.

Thank you

Deborah Watson

Self/ teacher

Austin, TX

I am very much against this bill. I registered voters two years ago. I didn't ask what their party was. I didn't say anything about my party. My goal was to encourage people to exercise their right to vote no matter who they vote for. I feel that voting is a privilege in the United States of America. I voted as soon as I turned 18. It meant everything to me. In some countries, people risk their lives to vote. I fear we are heading to some of the same restrictions, and threats often imposed on residents in violent undemocratic countries. Countries that want to keep women from voting and people of a different religion or a different race from voting. My family is split on political lines. We still love each other and would never deprive the other of voting for their candidate. We are passionate in our beliefs, but our parents taught us to love people and not fear someone, who is different from us. This past election with Covid raging, it would have been extremely scary for me to vote in person. I am grateful for my mail in ballot, and was grateful to put my ballot in the drive in box. Everything I witnessed was done by the book. I worry about the hard working people in the service industry that don't have the privilege of getting off work to vote. The people with children that go home after a long day of work to feed their children and tuck them in bed. These people do the jobs many of you would never want to do. Please don't make it harder for them to vote. God made all of us equal. It is man who makes us unequal. You as a legislator represent all the people, not just your party. I pray you do the right thing, and vote against this bill.

Alfredo Quesada

Self- IT Support

Austin, TX

The only intents and purposes of this bill are flat out voter suppression and taking away the right to vote from those less fortunate or who are physically unable to get to the polls. This blatant attempt by Republicans to prevent people from having their voices properly heard and counted is disgusting and smacks of a lack of integrity to their oath to uphold the Constitution of our Great State.

Norma Arratia Armendariz

Self, E-commerce Specialist

Dallas, TX

I am writing in opposition of HB 3. This bill is a rehash of SB 7, a terrible bill that would have abridged the right to vote. This bill makes it harder to vote by mail by requiring the voter to write part of his/her social security number or driver's license number; that is completely unnecessary. It would also abridge the right to vote for citizens with disabilities by invading their privacy requiring the disclosure of their condition. This is a stark violation of HIPAA laws that protect the privacy of a person's health records.

Furthermore, I have myself served as a bilingual election clerk on several elections since I became a U.S. citizen. I help voters

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cast their ballot by explaining in Spanish how to use the voting machines. If a partisan poll watcher is unable to understand what I am saying, he/she might decide my helping the voter looks suspicious and charge me with unlawful behavior. This would be another abridgement on the right to vote of a Spanish-speaking U.S. citizen.

I urge this committee to oppose HB 3. The right to vote is sacred in our representative democracy.

Ramon Chavez

self retired professor

Buda, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to address this important issue and voice my opposition to HB3. I am Ray Chavez, currently a resident of Buda. However, I was born and raised in El Paso, Texas, the son of Mariano Chavez Jr.

My father was a first-generation immigrant from Mexico who was brought to this country as a child by his parents during the turbulent years of the Mexican Revolution. Ever since I can remember, my dad expressed his love of his adopted home in the U.S. and Texas. He flew the U.S. flag on every national holiday. In his room, he had a portrait of JFK right next to a painting of the Virgen of Guadalupe, patron saint of Mexico. But I believe the thing he valued the most was his civic duty of voting in every election. It wasn't always easy at first, particularly during the days when he had to pay a poll tax in order to vote. I remind you that the Texas poll tax was finally found to be unconstitutional and discriminatory.

You see my dad earned his passion while serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. His Army enlisted record shows the various battles and campaigns in which he fought. He was in Normandy, France; The Ardennes, Belgium at the Battle of the Bulge; the Rhineland in Germany, and throughout Central Europe. He completed his service in 1945. He returned home with his EAME (European-African-Middle Eastern) Campaign Medal with five Bronze Stars and an additional Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service. As a private citizen thereafter, he took voting seriously as part of his patriotic duty.

I leave it to others testifying today to address the specifics of this flawed bill. Nevertheless, I want to bring to your attention the consequences of this bill as stated by various political and legal experts. They have stated that the overall impact of this bill will be to diminish the number of voters from communities of color, from the poor, and from new, young voters. The consensus is that this bill will disproportionately disenfranchise Hispanic voters in general, and newly naturalized U.S. citizens in particular. My father would be appalled at the harmful measures his beloved and adopted country has taken. I ask that you reject this bill in honor of my father and so many others who have honorably served this country and state, in war and in peacetime.

Chris Rummel

Self

Plano, TX

I find it embarrassing that this house is holding special session to make and trying to pass a bill making it harder to vote after finding only 16 false addresses on registration forms out of 11 million votes in 2020. Last time I checked in a Democracy the more people that vote creates a more representative state government for ALL Texans.

Melissa Moeller

Self

SUGAR LAND, TX

This bill is attacking our freedom and should by no means become law. As Texans, we should be proud of our free and fair elections, which this bill does nothing but attack. I am frankly disgusted that the house would even consider such a measure. It is nothing but an attempt to subvert the will of the people, who you claim to represent. We're told this bill is about fraud, but really it's about control. You want to control who is allowed to vote - you want to pick your voters instead of allowing your voters to pick you. You NEED to focus on taking care of the issues facing this state that actually exist, that harm us every day because you're too busy trying to make it impossible for us to vote you out of office. Fix our power grid, make sure our kids are fed, support our schools, and most importantly, LISTEN TO US instead of feeding us these self-serving narratives that do nothing but help you get what YOU want, with no thought for the actual wellbeing - the very future - of your state and the people who live here. Stop this anti-freedom nonsense before it's too late.

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Mellany Lamb

Self

Flower Mound, TX

It is imperative that this passes making any voter fraud or voter/poll irregularities reported via an affidavit and proven to be true and correct to be punishable as a Class A felony. We have to restore faith and confidence in our elections. One Person. One Vote. Make our vote sacrosanct again.

Joanna Cade, Executive Producer

Self

DALLAS, TX

This proposed bill would diminish access to vote, especially for young and minority voters. It's unconstitutional and should be stopped. Please look to expand access to vote, for all citizens, and stop this bad bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Gene Daigle, Retired Coast Guard Chief

Our Revolution Brazoria County

Alvin, TX

I am writing in opposition to this legislation. I've served this country for 22 yrs in the Coast Guard and the reasons I served this legislation is counter to that and am embarrassed that this is what the special session with all needs of this state, this is what is being focused on. With the highest turnout in Texas history was there a high number of voter fraud cases? The Brazoria County Clerk indicated this was a successful and nearly flawless election in the middle of a pandemic that is still ongoing today. Texas in the past ranked near the bottom in voter turnout and this year was just the opposite so what is the Texas Legislature majority want to do? Roll those gains back and making this state ranked bottom in voter turnout again. The most basic item we have as a democracy is the ability to cast a vote. If the risk vs rewards is to prevent 16 cases of possible voter irregularities of the tens of millions of votes cast vs suppressing the vote of millions of people, that is something countries that have autocrats and dictators attempt to do. NOT IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Please DO NOT proceed. This bill needs to die before it comes up for a vote. A vote for this is a vote against our democracy.

Thank you for your time. This Retired Coast Guard Chief sends.

Robert Jernigan

Convention Of States

Goldsboro, TX

The only way to keep faith in our elections is to make sure they are fraudulent free, every legal citizen of the United States has a right to vote but also share the right to know our elections are secured from cheating.

Denise McDonald

Self

Nacogdoches, TX

SB1 & HB 3 are voter suppression bills disguised as safeguards against voter fraud. From 2015-2020 out of 44.1 million votes, there were only 197 complaints of voter fraud filed and only 23 were for the 2020 election. These bills are supposedly fixing a problem that doesn't exist. We know that these bills are only designed to make it harder for non-white voters to vote. Republicans are losing their grip on the state wide elections and are using these bills to stack the deck in their favor. One would hope that law makers would want to make it easier not harder for folks to vote. It's interesting that these bills mimic the same verbiage as other Republican controlled states' recent voter suppression bills.

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Jane Lesnick, Ms.

self

Houston, TX

I am submitting testimony as a Precinct Chair and election worker of Harris County Precinct 0293, a mother and concerned citizen of Texas.

HB3 is a solution in search of a problem - but one that will *cause* so many more problems than it purports to solve.

The contention in Section 1.03 "Findings" in part (3) on pp 1-2 of the bill, "reforms are needed to ensure that fraud does not undermine the public confidence in the electoral process" is untrue. As a member of the public, I think what will increase public confidence in elections is for people to stop lying, embellishing, and fear-mongering about fraud happening in elections, both in the 2020 cycle (most egregiously) and before. We know that the TX Attorney General's office has spent countless hours and public dollars looking for fraud, and finding nothing of any scope that would justify this bill. The Texas S.O.S. said the 2020 elections in Texas were orderly and secure - and they were. As a state that used to be 49th in the nation in voter participation, it is good that in 2020 we moved up to only 46th in the nation. But that is not a status of which we should be proud. We ought instead to be encouraging every eligible person to become a fully participating, well-informed voter in our state.

As elected employees of the citizenry, our representatives in Austin should be looking to find every way to promote voting, not inhibit it. The former versions of the bill, that were submitted for a vote in the regular session of the 87th Legislature, showed even more plainly the mission of this bill. Some of the most obvious parts have been removed (though it is possible they may be added back in during the process of the bill) that aimed to decrease participation by specific communities of people, but there are remaining parts that will have a negative effect on voting in our state. Though HB3 no longer has a part clearly targeting Souls to the Polls by mandating polls open no earlier than 1pm on Sundays, it does continue to reduce hours of poll operation, restricting access for shift workers and low wage workers who are disproportionately people of color.

Making mistakes by election workers, people assisting people in need of help to vote, and people applying to vote by mail into crimes chills participation in many parts of our electoral process, and should not happen. These penalties are likely to impact many Texans who are elderly and living with disabilities.

Regarding Article 7, Sec. 276.016 (p. 43) "A public official commits an offense if the official, while acting in an official capacity, knowingly: (1) solicits the submission of an application to vote by mail from a person who did not request an application": to me this makes no sense. Why should this be a criminal offense? This is another unnecessary obstruction of reasonable efforts to expand the franchise and remind eligible people to vote.

Do not push this suppressive bill on the people of Texas.

Cristina Logan

Self

Lancaster, TX

Depending on how I am doing,
I use a cane,
a walker,
or an electric wheelchair.
Pain makes the decision for me.

Caregivers are a God sent
for those that can afford them.
Me, I have little to nothing,
so a caregiver is an extremely expensive need.
no caregiver access,
no voting access.

Medicaid doesn't allow caregivers to drive me anywhere.
Medicaid says, "Use medical transportation,"
but going to vote is not a medical situation.

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no transportation access,
no caregiver access,
no voting access

Some Non-Medicaid covered caregiver companies
would allow a caregiver to drive me anywhere,
but at a cost too steep for me.
No one on Social Security Income
can afford a \$50 an hour charge while waiting on a voting line.
I can't even make it to the voting line
to be waiting for hours on end.
No transportation access,
no caregiver access,
no voting access.

But I digress,
even if I could make it to the voting poll,
all on my own.
I would need the help of my fellow humans to vote.
I would depend on the kindness of strangers
to open the door for me,
to write my name for me,
to mark my ballot choices...
without help, I cannot vote.
Without help, you are denying me the right to vote.
Without help, you are disfranchising me,
but isn't that what you are after with your HB 3?

Don't give any excuses!
Your rationalizations don't pass muster.
In trying to "prevent voter fraud,"
HB 3 is actively cheating me of my right to vote.
HB3 is dehumanizing me.

Joy Cunningham
Self, property management
Austin, TX

There is no fraud in elections. The fraud is the claim of fraud. Fraud is what Republicans scream when they can't win elections on their own merits. This bill is based on a lie and therefore cannot serve transparency or the best interests of Texans. I oppose it without qualification

Elizabeth Waldrop
Self
Pflugerville, TX

Remove barriers for voting. Fraud is miniscule and this just serves as a door to making it harder for poor and working class people to vote. Vote no on HB 3.

Theresa Regan
Self - retired IT professional
New Braunfels, TX

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I oppose HB 3 and encourage all members to oppose it in its current form. Of particular concern are the provisions for allowing voters to be recorded by poll watchers and for prosecuting poll workers for mistakes. Having worked at the polls in the past, I support the rule of no recording devices allowed. The change in rule does not solve or prevent any actual problem and it opens the door to abuse as an intimidation tactic. Voting is vitally important in our democracy and we need to make sure we are protecting citizens' free and fair access to voting. HB 3 introduces more potential problems than it resolves. Please vote NO.

Linda Litzinger

Texas Parent to Parent

Austin, TX

Ramped van rides to the polls:: This bill attempts to send drivers into costly lawsuits and prison, for helping 3+ people in power chairs who have no other way to get to the polls. It is especially egregious to citywide paratransit drivers who drive ramped-vans for their living. It threatens good people trying to earn a living or trying to help friends who ask for a ramped ride. As a result of this bill, my husband and I will need to loan our vans to other drivers once we've provided 2 rides.

Curbside voting: If I would bring more than one person to vote curbside and they had been helped into my car by someone back home, they would need to stay put in the car instead of satisfying your proposed rule "everyone out but the voter". Even if they have a chair in the trunk, I wouldn't know how to lift or transfer them, for each person is different. Yet this bill requires everybody out of the car while others are voting. This is voter suppression.

Ballot curing: With cerebral palsy you could probably sign your name a thousand times with no match. Success depends on how someone places the pen in your hand, how far you roll under a table, where your elbow lands, if the pen is felt nub or ball point, if someone is holding the paper still. A corrected ballot might still fail. Cure it with movie clips showing them signing it, or just ask if they did in fact sign it. By being so narrow, you're taking away the vote of a person who needs it and has a civil right to have it.

Oaths: The oath says you may only help people who cannot write or see. There are more physical conditions needed, beyond writing. Consider not being able to use two hands to hold curbside materials, keep things on laps, fold and stuff envelopes, and whatever is needed as you vote in any of these three scenarios. Please broaden the reasons why a person needs physical supports during voting. "Can't see or write" are not enough.

In summary, we're pretty traumatized by what this bill does to people with disabilities and their assistants. Please vote no for HB3, protecting the rights of persons with a disability..

Aimee Carpenter

Self, CEO/Owner Construction

Austin, TX

thank you for allowing me to give testimony today. My name is Aimee, and I am a resident of Austin. I am writing on my own behalf, but also on the behalf of my friends and acquaintances who may not have the time or resources to comment.

I vehemently oppose the voter suppression bill and I am pleading with you that you vote against it. Simply put, these are intentional and unnecessary barriers to the ballot box. It...

Prohibits election officials from distributing or soliciting absentee ballot applications to voters.

Banning drive-through voting

Banning early voting sites not located inside buildings

Banning 24 hour early voting

Require voters to supply their driver license number or SSN4 on mail ballot applications and mail ballot envelopes, which must match the corresponding ID number on file

Giving partisan watchers special rights to intimidate voters and disrupt polling places

Creating vague criminal penalty against "vote harvesting" that could encompass ordinary interactions between campaigns and voters

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Making it a felony for someone to be paid to assist voters who vote by mail (with a limited exception)
Requiring voter assistants to complete additional forms & oaths under penalty of perjury
Preventing local election officials from proactively and accurately informing voters about their voting options
Limiting local election officials' ability to adapt their offices' procedures to unforeseen circumstances and local conditions
Preventing local election officials from providing voting resources based on their knowledge of local needs and voting patterns.

As Texans, we deserve REAL solutions to REAL PROBLEMS that our state is facing like the devastating impacts of the pandemic, and strains on the grid system. Not Jim Crow laws in a suit and tie.

The voter suppression scheme being pushed this session does nothing to advance our democracy and only further silences the voices of Texas voters. For democracy to work for all of us, it must include us all.

You should oppose this bill in its entirety because it is a shameless attempt to make voting in Texas harder, especially for communities of color and young voters. Voting rights are the bedrock of our democracy.

Demetria McCain

self

Dallas, TX

I speak in opposition to HB 3.

As a Black Texas teenager, I anxiously awaited my eighteenth birthday so I could register and vote. Because of my understanding of Texas History, U.S. History and Critical Race Theory, I was well aware of the struggles Blacks had over the decades when it came to voting. As an adult and a volunteer deputy registrar, I have been able to impart the same excitement to others who had never previously registered to vote. Voting is fundamental and we should not dial back the clock to pre-1960s by creating extra hurdles for Blacks, Latinx, disabled, elderly and low income persons as they attempt to register and vote. We should not employ scare tactics that keep qualified citizens from registering to vote. The state's criminal justice system already does a poor job of informing persons, who have completed their sentences and parole time, that their right to vote has been reinstated. Additionally, there should be ample access to voter information, early voting, mail-un voting, voting centers and voting polls. I ask that you oppose the discriminatory, suppressive provisions of HB 3. And I ask that you consider legislation that encourages more voter participation.

Catherine Morris

Self

austin, TX

Please don't pass a bill that makes it so difficult for disabled people like me to vote.
Honor everyone's rights.
Texas has had no fraud.

Ambrosia Urias

Self

Katy, TX

Hello! My name is Ambrosia and I am a Latina Texan representing a voice in my district. I am not in favor of HB3 or SB1. I am asking Senators and Representatives to represent my voice by maintaining my liberties to vote by saying NO to HB3. Thank you!

Valerie Carrillo, Attorney

Self- attorney

San Antonio, TX

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I urge you legislators to do the right thing and not pass the voter suppression law. This bill disproportionately affects people of color. There was no election fraud discovered on a state or national level that has affected the outcome of elections. Do the ethical thing and focus on passing the bill for educating our youth on domestic and dating violence and addressing the ERCOT shortcomings!!!!

Craig Licciardi

Smith County GOP / self

Flint, TX

Election integrity is crucial to the maintenance of a free state and country. The ONLY REASON to oppose ELECTION INTEGRITY is to FACILITATE FRAUD. Bar none, this MUST get passed and it's a travesty that it didn't get passed in the general session. Securing elections, ensuring mail-in ballots can't be hacked and stolen, or if they are, the perpetrators are SEVERELY PUNISHED is MANDATORY. Cheats, crooks, and other thieves must be dealt with forcefully, quickly, and decisively. It is unconscionable that they can still get away with stuffing the ballot box, so to speak. Additionally, we have had numerous instances across the larger cities (mainly) where people who are authorized to be poll watchers in polling locations and especially in the counting rooms while votes are being tallied, are prevented from seeing, entering, and even being threatened, assaulted, and arrested for trespassing when THEY are the ones with the authorization to be there and the criminal miscreants who are actively violating laws YOU put in place are free as a bird. It's completely insane, and in the larger cities, the corruption extends straight to the top to the DA's offices, where they refuse to prosecute anyone from their side of the aisle. I can tell you as an election judge, when I had a guy show up with a huge Trump shirt and hat on, I made him leave immediately. The laws have to be implemented fairly, across the board. MAKE IT EASY TO VOTE, AND HARD TO CHEAT.....

Patrick Bachman

Self - retired

Austin, TX

I wholeheartedly approve HB 3 related to election verification. I find it racist and demeaning to suggest that minorities are less able to follow election laws than whites. I am happy that 24 hour voting will be prohibited because this practice promotes fraud. I am especially happy that sending out absentee ballots to people that do not request them is prohibited. The only logical reason to allow this is to promote fraud. I agree with additional voter requirements to vote by mail. For instance, people with disabilities must document their disability to receive preferential property tax treatment. Why should voting be different? Why shouldn't appraisal districts just "trust" taxpayers to establish disability exemptions with no documentation? I agree with all of the other changes to enhance voter verification. If voters cannot meet these requirements, they will have an extremely difficult time navigating all facets of life such as opening a bank account, getting a driver's license, applying for a credit card, and applying for a job. Every verifiable vote should count.

Deborah Majors

self, general contractor

Cypress, TX

I want my vote to count, and I believe everyone who votes should have their identity verified. This does not limit anyone, and helps prevent fraud. Our voting machines and software, and procedures should have the strictest standards possible. Why would anyone want cheating? Why would we not want to prevent fraudulent elections?

Ray Furr

none

Canyon Lake, TX

Stop making it harder to vote and fix the damn grid.

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Joel Artzt

Self

Austin, TX

I don't believe that Texas has any meaningful voter fraud problem. We have millions of people who vote and at most tens of valid claims for voter fraud. I do not support this legislation and would prefer that the Texas legislature work on meaningful changes designed to make it easy for more eligible people to vote. Our democracy only works when all of our people who are eligible have a chance to participate.

Tyler Comfort

Self

Austin, TX

I have no faith that anyone who can change their mind reads these comments, but I wonder how many sleep at night knowing they are making such an elaborate case for a bill based solely on a lie. Everyone smart enough to follow this closely knows there was NO election theft - this is the nonsensical musings of a would be authoritarian despot who can't handle losing. This type of stuff is what leads to the degradation and eventual replacement of democracies around the world. Of course, those legislators supporting this bill don't seem to worry too much about democracy.

One hopes that they recognize the precedent they're setting as a party would bite them in the even the shoe was on the other foot. What if President Biden loses in 2024, but claims "Fraud" and pressures legislators in such a way that the election is truly handed over to him? When you wield this weapon as a party, there is no guarantee it won't be wielded against you in the future. Shame on those harming our democracy for short term gains.

Joan Goldsmith

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3.

William Shaeffer

Self. Director of Operations

San Antonio, TX

Texas does not need new laws that restrict our citizens right to vote. We should be making it easier for people to vote, not harder. This right is a bedrock of our democracy, and should not be inhibited by the restrictions in this bill. I urge all representatives, including those representing me in 78258 in north central San Antonio, to cote against this bill.

If it's sponsors feel so strongly about these provisions and their need, publish your reasons. Show us the data. In every profession, we strive to make data-based decisions. Where is the data behind this bill? What are the objective reasons for its passage? It should not be difficult for you to do so.

James Holloway

The people of Texas. I'm an Engineer.

Round Rock, TX

There is no reason for HB 3 other than to suppress the votes of poor people and old people.

Texas spent millions and 22,000 hours and found zero cases of voter fraud from 2020.

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What you are doing is sad and racist. You fear losing power so you are making it harder for people to vote. Voting should be easy and secure. But what you are doing is hindering the vote to lower the percentage of minorities that can and will vote. It's shameful. It's in-Texan. It's un-Christian. Stop kowtowing to Trump and his klan-like followers. Stand up for voting rights like you do gun rights.

Christian Long

Freelance

Austin, TX

This is nothing but political theater - and a painfully obvious one at that. All claims about this bill are done to pander to Trump as his base, without any empirical evidence of actual voter fraud. It's a desperate, pathetic attempt for the GOP to hold onto power in a world where their antiquated belief systems are no longer relevant and are clearly afraid they can no longer appeal to the actual majority of voters.

Meanwhile, our power grid crumbles when it's too hot OR too cold, and has caused hundreds - if not thousands - of deaths while Texas politicians engage in this worthless chicanery. Revolting on literally every level.

Gus Romero, Mr

Self

Irving, TX

You should be ashamed of yourselves, you are vile and Texans will vote you out. For once in your pathetic lives stand up for ALL of your constituents and stop hiding your misogynistic, theocratic views that only benefit a small percentage of racist white males. You have woken us up, young liberals included, to doing anything possible to vote and turning Texas blue.

Narinderjit Sidhu, Mrs.

Self

Austin, TX

Please do not make it harder to vote. Our democratic process is the best in the world. Once it is lost, it'll be hard to bring democracy back. Just ask the Russian or Iranian people and even Chinese. Have more voting places and booths available for Texans to exercise their right to elect honorable officials and not let the government get controlled by criminals with money. Thanks

EVA ALMENDAREZ

Fellow voters.

SAN ANTONIO, TX

Do not make it harder to vote. Everyone should be allowed to vote. Election Day should be a holiday!

Joan Berger

Self

Fulshear, TX

Do not allow partisan poll watchers- unacceptable
Provide more polling places and longer hours so can have greater participation

Marcia Grissom

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Self

Richardson, TX

I want to speak in favor of same day registration. I am a high school teacher, and we do a good job of encouraging our seniors to get registered and vote, but then they go off to college and don't think to register again in their location and become politically inactive. It needs to be easier to register to vote in Texas. With current technology and data bases we should be able to prevent people from voting multiple times.

A M

Self

AUSTIN, TX

This voter suppression bill tries to restrict voting instead of making it available to everyone. And it allows our votes to not be counted, elections to be overturned, with zero proof. It attempts to remove our votes. And Gerrymandering - Texas does not have the right to choose its voters. We choose You. Gerrymandering must stop so our voices are heard, especially black and brown communities who are kept down and disregarded. You either embrace that you are taking our votes or you embrace giving us our votes. Your choice, our lives. I want elected officials who will improve my life, you can ensure this happens if our votes count. Do whatever WHATEVER you can to help us please. I believe in Texas Dems. Are there any Texas Rep. who can do the right thing for us?

Cassandra Roberson

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

I strongly oppose any legislation that creates barriers to vote. The right to vote, for our collective voices to be heard, is the cornerstone of our democracy. As a voter, a proud citizen of the great state of Texas, I ask that the legislature re-consider and reject any and all bills that impede or thwart democracy.

Sincerely,
Cassandra

Pamela Phillips Pringle

Self nurse

Bedford, TX

I am opposed to:

Elections being overturned by a judge without proven WIDESPREAD fraud. Who oversees the judge? You?

Forcing caregivers to take an oath while performing their duties in caring for their patients

Poll workers not having behavioral protocol!!!!

Poll workers allowed inside my vehicle...no one gets in my car with me unless i know them

Increasing the poll hours...even 24 hours if necessary...many of us work nontraditional hours and days

Fines in lieu of criminal charges for voter irregularities. IF it applies to voters, it should also apply to poll watchers creating a disturbance and interference with my right to vote

I am in favor of:

Drive through voting

Increased ballot boxes

Increased poll sites

Elections are not far away.

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Respectfully
P. Phillips Pringle

Charlene Shafer, Precinct Chair
Self, retired
Cypress, TX

I am a precinct chair, election judge & Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar. Texas should be trying to increase voter participation & helping election judges & poll workers. This bill does the opposite. You should not be making it easier for poll watchers to intimidate election workers. You should not decrease voting hours or locations. Vote against this bill!

Ric Galvan
Self
San Antonio, TX

I do not believe this bill is necessary, matter of fact this bill will only bring harm to Texans's right to vote. Voting in Texas is harder than any other state, and our voter turnout is the lowest of most if not all states in the US — especially in communities of color and low income communities. We need automatic voter registration, online voter registration, election machine security, expanded polling locations, and expanded mail in voting. Texas shouldn't be scared of having more people vote, especially when our voter turnout is so low as is our voter fraud. Voter suppression doesn't have my support and it doesn't have the support of the people of Texas either.

Steven Bedard
Self, software developer
Austin, TX

There is overwhelming evidence that our elections are already secure. Tougher voting laws will do nothing but prevent people from voting. It is unproductive and un-American. There are real problems that need solving, we can't be wasting time on the imaginary ones.

Angela Parsons
Self, teacher
Georgetown, TX

This bill makes it much more difficult for Texans to vote, and it is important that every citizen has the right to vote. The idea of poll watchers intimidating voters is not a democratic practice, but one seen in authoritarian regimes to suppress votes the party in power wants to keep from voting against it.

Sharon Becker
Self (unemployed)
Austin, TX

I believe the purpose of this bill is to make voting more difficult and as a citizen, I am opposed to making voting more difficult. I don't believe this bill would even be in existence if Republicans, who control the state government, were not worried about recent elections, where (for example) Senator Ted Cruz only won by 2 points, or where (for example) the Republican presidential candidate bested his Democratic opponent by a mere 6 points.

The disservice this bill does to the disabled community is disgraceful. It seems as though the Republican party in Texas does not want disabled people voting. Our governor is a disabled person but he has the luxury of voting any way he wants, as nobody will

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deny him an absentee ballot if he wanted one. Wouldn't it be nice if citizens had similar voting privileges as the people who control elections?

Nadeem Ahmed, Dr.

Self

Addison, TX

This bill is an abomination against the constitution of the unified states. This body is a disgrace

Andrew Naudin

Self Project Manager

Leander, TX

Unnecessary exercise.

John Hannappel

Self

Coppell, TX

I thought Texas 2020 election was secure and trustworthy. Why erode this process if there was no problems. Let's focus our effort in getting more people to vote.

Jared Schwartz

Self

Dallas, TX

This bill is an act of voter suppression and white supremacy. This is a shameful act upon our great state and should be kicked out of the legislature.

Amy Culpert

Self

Austin, TX

I do not support HB 3 or any bill that limits voters rights in the state of Texas. There is no need to increase criminal penalties when voter fraud is not a widespread problem. This bill simply limits opportunities for many voters to vote, which is the most undemocratic thing that can happen in the US. Do not forget that you represent "We the people".

Pamela Phillips Pringle

Self nurse

Bedford, TX

Criminal charges for voting irregularities must be case by case.

Poll workers must have behavioral guidelines. There should be zero interference in my signing in or voting. My vote is sacred. I want NO ONE looking over my shoulder. No poll worker should have unlimited power. And if they touch me, that is illegal.

And yes, they should be held to the same standard of behavior as anyone in the community and removed if disruptive.

Poll workers are NOT allowed in my car. I let no one in my car. No. No. No.

It is not necessary that caregivers be scrutinized to perform their duties to their patient. No oath. No i.d. should be required.

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This is absurd. As a nurse, I take caring for my patient seriously and if I push him/her to the booth, I should have zero requirements from the state of Texas.

Drive through voting was conducted exactly the same as in person. It should continue.

Who oversees judges overturning an election result? This reminds me of Iran, African and South American countries. It is bizarre to even suggest

Thank you
P. Phillips Pringle

GLENN BENAVIDES

MYSELF

AUSTIN, TX

AS A TEXAS RESIDENT FOR OVER 40 YEARS , i WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT AGAINST THIS BILL- IT IS WRONG TO TAKE THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE AND MANIPULATE IT FOR PARTISAN CONCERNS - IT TARNISHES THE INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS. TO MY REPUBLICAN FRIENDS LET ME SAY THAT MORE THAN ONCE I HAVE BEEN ON THE LOSING SIDE OF AN ELECTION AND IN TURN WORKED HARDER TO SUPPORT CANDIDATES WHO AGREE WITH MY VIEWS AND WANT THE GREATER GOOD FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE AS BEST AS THEY CAN. i NEVER ONCE HELD MY NOSE AND CRIED 'FOUL' AND WHINED ABOUT ELECTION INTEGRITY - THIS IS SERIOUS - MY MOTHER IS HANDICAPPED AND I HAVE WATCHED AS THE RULING PARTY HAS MADE IT MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT FOR HER TO CAST HER RIGHTFUL BALLOT. THERE IS NO NEED FOR CHANGE TO THE SYSTEM IN TEXAS - THE ONLY FRAUD I SEE IS THE LIE BEING PASSED AROUND BY GROWN MEN AND WOMEN - EDUCATED PEOPLE- TRYING TO DENY THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE - I AM A TAXPAYER - YOU WORK FOR ME - DONT MESS WITH OUR ELECTIONS . THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT - AND PLEASE MOVE ON AND USE YOUR POWER AND INFLUENCE TO DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS, LIKE FIX THE POWER GRID.

Sheri Hughes

Self

Grandview, TX

Texas already has the strictest voting laws in the nation. We've had very little fraud and I have confidence that our voting citizens are honest and our election officials are very competent. We need more Texans voting we DO NOT need to try and prevent people from voting! This Bill is a waste of time and just plain wrong!

Vijaya Tummala

None

Plano, TX

This is waste of tax payer dollars since there are ZERO prosecutions for voter fraud. Instead I want the legislature to focus on reforms to the electrical grid and ERCOT during special session.

Connie Villasmil

Self

Houston, TX

This bill must not pass as it takes away the right everyone has to safely, conveniently and openly vote in our state. The Texas legislation is already stricter than most states. The older population in our state might not think this is a problem but ask anyone under the age of 35 and they will agree that if this bill passes they will do anything they can to ensure the Republican Party becomes a part of a long forgotten and shameful history of the great states of Texas.

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Mark Pringle

Self retired

Bedford, TX

Voter fraud is often unintentional and should incur an appropriate fine not criminal charges. If it was intentional, that should be proven and criminally prosecuted.

I had a sister with a fatal disease. Her caregivers did everything for her and they shouldn't be required to show ID or take an oath. That is State over reach. It's none of your business who is pushing her wheelchair.

We enjoyed staying in our car to vote. My nurse wife insisted it was safer for us seniors. The process was identical to in person. Please continue this method especially until COVID is all but gone.

When I hear a Judge can overturn an election it makes me think of a third world country. It's ridiculous to even suggest.

Are you saying a poll worker can not be removed for causing a disturbance or interfering while I am checking in and voting. State of Texas interference. VERY Big Brother-ish. NO. Poll workers should have policy and protocol re: behaviors

Thank you

Christine Hopkins

Self

Dallas, TX

I am an attorney licensed to practice in the State of Texas and have served as an election watcher. I oppose this bill because it will make it even more difficult for lawful and eligible voters to register to vote and to vote. The state should be making it easier to vote, not harder, as our voter turnout in Texas is already embarrassingly and pitifully low for a state that prides itself on civic duty, patriotism, and civic engagement. I saw voters turned away at the polls who thought they were registered and met every requirement to be registered, but through technicalities were not in fact registered. As an American, it is heartbreaking to see people who want to and should be able to vote get turned away simply because their registration wasn't processed or received on time or due to some other procedural glitch. We should be allowing same day voter registration, and making it easier for the elderly, disabled, veterans, immune suppressed people, parents of young children, etc to vote including allowing curbside or drive through voting and 24 hour voting for those like doctors, police, paramedics, and others who work long, irregular shifts. We should be allowing counties to decide what works best for them to reduce long lines and avoid Texas landing in the news as an embarrassment where people have to stand in line for hours to vote. We should be requiring automatic notice to those on parole or released from prison about whether they can vote or not to avoid looking like a racist state when we prosecute black people who truly thought they could vote for trying to vote. Suppressing the vote, doing nothing to improve the ease of lawful voting, and taking away local election officials ability to run their elections efficiently and fairly will only bring more attention, fundraising, and activism to the state of Texas, like they've seen in Georgia. Please rethink your priorities and withdraw this bill or revise it to include things like required notice to parolees and released prisoners of the impact on their right to vote, allowing same day voter registration, automatically registering people to vote when they get or renew their license, allowing online voter registration, allowing any lawful voter to vote early by mail since it is none of states business why someone might not want to go into a polling place, and striking all provisions that make it harder for election judges & election officials to do their jobs.

Bjorn Bennett

Self, small business owner

Southlake, TX

Please do not take away the procedures that made the high turnout in 2020 possible. It is a lie that there is voter fraud, and giving in to that lie harms all Texans.

Tell Rep Giovanni Capriglione, since he blocks me on all social media, that I will be pleasantly surprised to find that he works to

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make the voting system easier for his constituents. But I expect he will be for voter suppression, instead, as that has been his pattern in the past.

Kyle Laverents

Self

Houston, TX

There is no reason for this bill to restrict voting. In fact we should find more ways to get qualified people to vote. This bill absolutely targets minorities. Please spend time on better issues.

Ricky Hurt

Self, CFISD reflection room para

Cypress, TX

Time to clean up the voter poll books. They must be updated annually, when i was an election judge a few years back, names of residents had moved years ago or died (I went to their funerals). No more harassing attempts to vote early by mail, whether by email, phone, or snail mail. As a senior citizen I prefer to vote in person and if I wish I can request a mail in ballot. I do not need my mail box filled with attempts to get a mail in ballot and or phone calls. All voters must show ID.

Veda Kull

Self Retired Educator

Rowlett, TX

There are many areas of concern in HB3, but one simple question is why the Texas Legislature feels it must dictate specific hours in the legislation. Not everyone works 8-5 and some have more than one job. How about stating each early voting location must be open 12 hours and leave it up to the Counties to determine what is best for their communities? Some days it could be open 12AM-12 PM or 7AM-7PM or 12PM-12AM.

Dolores Portugal

Self

Georgetown, TX

Texas has been recognized as having the worst voting laws in the country and this bill will make them even more restrictive. American men and women of every race, ethnicity and creed have died for the right to vote in this country. This bill makes it harder for Texans, who are Americans in case you have forgotten, to exercise this right.

Please vote against the passage of this bill.

Marissa Riolo

Self- homemaker

Montgomery, TX

You are creating a problem where none exists. We need to focus on helping Texans- fixing our electrical grid, providing Medicaid to those who need it, supporting our educators and fixing our infrastructure. Instead, you are all focused on things that no one cares about (minus a few crazy base supporters). We are the laughing stock of the country right now- please set aside this asinine bill and do what Texans want!

Jennifer Gutkowski

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Self/Student

Houston, TX

Would this bill make it illegal for activists to assist others with their voter registration applications at events such as festivals, protests, or any large outdoor gathering where activists often ask others if they are registered to vote and have forms to help them do so?

Eileen Gallahorn, Dr.

Self | Clinical Psychologist

Houston, TX

This bill is a blatant attempt to perpetuate “the big lie.” Instead of acknowledging the reality that was not widespread voter fraud in Texas, nor in any other state in this country; the republican members of the legislature are choosing to waste time and resources debating a bill that seeks to make voting more difficult, less convenient, and creates greater inequities among Texas voters. The party of limited government is pushing for more regulations that are clearly intended to disenfranchise urban voters. Instead of taking pride in the record turnout in 2020, in the midst of a pandemic, no less, this bill seeks to outlaw all the innovative efforts introduced in Harris County that made voting easier, but no less secure. I am truly disappointed and disgusted by this effort. The legislature’s time would be much better spent fixing the power grid in Texas. The grid is a real problem in need of a real solution and not a manufactured problem put forth to consolidate power and feed the former president’s ego.

Jeanette Smith, Mrs

Self. Retired R.N.

Bedford, TX

Tx. Resident of over 32 yrs. Elections in 2020 both primary & presidential were secure, orderly, fair & reasonable. Better access & choices- I’m disabled #GregAbbott. We need every voter to have fair & easy access to the polls, early voting, & mail in options for everyone! Some are too distant from polling, some work nights! I am especially opposed to any partisan “poll watchers” or partisans of ANY KIND being allowed in polling place!! That is a FASCIST TACTIC & one that only dictators use! Our Constitution guarantees free + fair elections. We the majority of Texans will fight your voter suppression & intimidation. Drop the false outrage & just let every citizen have free & fair elections! NO changes from 2020 policies. We all know GOP is going along with the big lie of “voter fraud “. Give us NON-PARTISAN, safe & free elections please!

Chris Byrd

Self / Corporate Communications

Manchaca, TX

If Texas cares about election integrity and security, and the right of all citizens to vote, then state representatives need to act like it. In doing so, they need to increase the hours in which you can vote, expand early voting, and allow legal citizens of Texas to vote by mail. We need to make it easier to vote, not harder to vote. We need to ensure that lower-income communities have proper access to voting machines, as those who are wealthy. No Texan should have to stand in line hours to vote. I've not heard one single politician talking about making it easier to vote and/or addressing the fact that so many in this state have a hard time voting. Voting machines should be based on population, a formula that is publicly known. All electronic voting machines should have paper ballots as well to confirm the votes match electronic tallies. Anyone in line at the time the polls close should still be able to vote.

And gerrymandering by Republicans in the state of Texas needs to stop. It is unfair that representatives are chosen by carving out blocks of their constituents in order to give an unfair advantage to Republicans. Those that continue to do this should be shamed out of office and/or put in jail.

Those representatives who support the big lie and use their office to continue to spread misinformation and disinformation about the recent presidential elections should be removed from office. That would be the best start Texans could have in ensuring the

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future of voting in this state and country is secure moving forward.

Heather Rathbone

self

Denton, TX

The actions taken by the Republican party during this session have disappointed me. I proudly voted for Republicans in the past, but if bills like this are passed, I will stop supporting the Republican party. Texas is already the hardest state to vote in, we don't need additional gatekeeping of the vote, because you don't like the way certain people vote.

Dona Murphey, Dr.

Woori Juntos

Pearland, TX

There continues to be no evidence of widespread voter fraud. This is a fiction manufactured by those in power to secure their positions in the face of changing demographics in Texas that are not reflected in government. As a physician scientist, I can say that the evidence is overwhelming that this has real health and social consequences for Black Texans, immigrant Texans, LGBT Texans. Take one look at the kind of legislation the GOP is attempting to quietly advance on a Sunday during a special summer session. These are bills that are unequivocally harmful to many of us. The only way for us to get the support our communities deserve from our government is to be able to participate in our democracy. This is a foundational right.

During a contentious election in 2018, a few young professionals volunteering their Sunday afternoons were kicked out of a polling location while interpreting in Koreantown. Why? For speaking Korean!? Despite the fact that we had been sworn in to interpret at the polls under penalty of perjury for attempting to influence voters, it was decided by a white, Republican judge, white, Republican County Clerk, and white passing, Republican Secretary of State that we might be electioneering - and that since this could not be further adjudicated by people who do not speak Korean, it would be assumed that we were. The poll judge requested that the county sheriff's office send a unit to remove us from the polling entrance, as we attempted to convince her that we were within our rights. They sent 4-5 officers and dogs in two large vehicles. I can't speak for others, but I, for one, did not feel safer with this maneuver.

HB3 will mean more intimidation of Black, Brown, and limited English proficiency immigrant voters. It will mean less electoral participation by Texans with disabilities. It will mean prolonging government by people who look less and less like Texans. It won't mean "election security."

Those who suggest that making it harder to vote will protect the integrity of elections know very well what they are doing. Let's be honest. They are the fraud. Vote no to HB3.

Stephanie Bailey

Self

Montgomery, TX

Creating doubt in the integrity of our election process is partisan games and disrupting the rights of ALL Texas voters. If there were really concerns about Texas elections, we'd have to recall every elected official who won in 2020 closing the statewide races. It's obvious that the Lege is trying to set themselves up for cheating or creating doubt in order to win elections in a state with ever changing demographics.

Bill Aleshire

Self

Austin, TX

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Please, Members, listen to your better angels, and don't support anything that restricts or reduces the opportunities for a registered Texas voter to vote. If this is partisan, it's not democracy. Support democracy. You'll be prouder later.

Steven Zimmet

self, physician

Austin, TX

What a joke. How about addressing a real problem like the grid.

Rob Lowe

Self

Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to this voter suppression bill. This is designed to disenfranchise a subset of voters who already have one of the hardest barriers to voting in the country. We should be making it easier to vote not harder. This is all a send up to Donald Trump's big lie of 2020 and an attempt to deny the right to vote to people who you disagree with. It is a blatant power grab and we will not sustain it. If you pass this legislation we will work even harder to ensure that all Americans have access to exercise their right to vote. You cannot stop progress in this country and Republican control of the state of Texas is not yours to ordain or enshrine. I am a lifelong Texan and am disgusted with where the Republican Party has fallen to. I am disgusted with this legislation but not surprised. It is cynical, debased and confused. I could not stand more strongly against this legislation. Vote no!!

Chris Portugal

Self

Austin, TX

Here is what I submitted:

Texas has been recognized as having the worst voting laws in the country and this bill will make them even more restrictive. American men and women of every race, ethnicity and creed have died for the right to vote in this country. This bill makes it harder for Texans, who are Americans in case you have forgotten, to exercise this right.

Please vote against the passage of this bill.

Kathryn Nicholson

Self

Richland Hills, TX

Everyone should be allowed to vote

Ernesto Perez

Self

Fort Worth, TX

This bill unnecessarily restricts voting and was created based off lies perpetuated by elected officials who know better but don't care. Our laws should make voting more available to people especially during a time when we have the technology and resources to do so. Voting for this bill is a vote against freedom.

Pam Palmer

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Self

Balch Springs, TX

Unless it has been PROVEN with 100% FACTS that there is a need to change the election system, WHY change it?? Leave it alone and focus on things that are broken, like our power grid!!!

Ann Rayborn

self Homebuilding

Austin, TX

The only thing that is lacking integrity about our current elections is that I live in a very blue district of a very blue city and I am unrepresented. You have decided that my representation is not as important as your power. I'm angry, sad and resigned to the fact that your lies have become the law. There is no fraud and you know it. Creating a false issue and taking draconian measures to "fix" it is political Munchausen syndrome and I am a victim in my own state. I don't get a choice about who my representatives are so I can only hope you have some sort of conscience about making my vote count even less. Your children and grandchildren will read about this very dark time in history and your part in it. You are not fooling anyone. I protest in the strongest terms any move to ensure election "integrity".

Daniel Krutka, Dr.

Self

Denton, TX

Please do not pass this HB3 as it will make it harder for Texans to vote. It is undemocratic and unTexan.

Marsha Milsom

Self

Willis, TX

I Strongly Support this Bill!

Christina Windham

Self

Spring, TX

Integrity is paramount to elections! Every person has access to identification. Even in prison inmates have identification...it should mandated for voting as well....

Alissa Sughrue

Self, Social Worker

AUSTIN, TX

As a member of the League of Women Voters and someone who has registered voters and served as a poll worker during the 2020 general election, I believe voting is the cornerstone of a strong democracy. This bill contains several provisions designed to limit an individual's access to voting, especially those from marginalized communities. We know that administrative burdens and red tape serve as the greatest barrier to voting, not a lack of interest. Initiatives in Harris County such as drive thru voting and 24-hour voting, as well as expanded vote by mail initiatives, offered the opportunity to guarantee free and fair elections with greater participation in Texas. This bill would undermine democracy by removing secure, legitimate opportunities for citizens to engage in their civic duty to Texas, which will have a negative impact on voters across party lines.

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Stacy Waterman, Dr.

Mexicanas

San Antonio, TX

Stop trying to take my voting rights away putos

Caroline Chamberlain

Self, IT program manager

Austin, TX

Our elections are already secure and the results reliable and accurate. This bill was created solely to suppress the vote by making it harder and by scaring voters with the threat of criminal prosecution for simple mistakes. It's outrageous and un-democratic.

Kyle Huang

Self, student

San Antonio, TX

I am Kyle Huang, and I am in opposition of House Bill 3. I am 17 years old and I just graduated high school. And yet I find myself here today to defend the right to vote, a right that I myself cannot yet exercise, but a right that is under attack

When I phonebanked last year, I spoke with many senior citizens who relied on mail-in voting because of a lack of access to transportation and technology. I remember talking to an elderly man who did not have internet access. He explained that he got a mail-in ballot application because the county sent him one. However if the county had not sent him one, he wouldn't have been able to request an application because he didn't have internet and would not have been able to find out who to call or where to request an application. After the call I realized that if the county hadn't been proactively sending out mail in ballot applications to eligible seniors, this man would not have been able to exercise his fundamental right to vote. Under HB 3, the county official who sent him an application would be criminally charged, but for doing what? Making sure all citizens participate in democracy?

The man I spoke with is not alone. The Texas comptroller reports that over 2 million Texas households don't have internet access, many of which are senior citizens, and without internet, they rely on counties sending them mail-in ballot applications every election because they have no way of requesting an application online. HB 3 would ban counties from sending unrequested applications to anyone, disenfranchising seniors who lack access to voting in any other way. Senior citizens, who have contributed so much to this state and country, are the most vulnerable of our communities, and we should make voting easier and more accessible for them, not more difficult and complicated. Texas is where we are supposed to be champions of independence, limited government, and democracy, yet HB 3 is completely contrary to that spirit. I urge y'all to stand in opposition to HB 3.

Michelle Palmer

Personal

Houston, TX

This bill is not going to affect people who look like me. But it WILL affect my Black and Brown students negatively. Many of my students will be the first voter in their family and they shouldn't need so much support to figure out a system that is trying to keep them out. This bill will close voting locations in their neighborhoods, it will make it more difficult for them to vote by mail for those who go away to college. Allowing extremely hyperpartisan poll watchers to record people voting is not acceptable.. It isn't right. As a government teacher, I try to instill a love of citizenship and participation in my students but bills like this make my students feel disheartened and that it is pointless to try to participate in the process. The data from the Republican Secretary of State said that there was no voter fraud in this election and yet the sponsors and supporters of this bill are using voter fraud as the impetus for enacting these changes. We all must do better for the students of Texas. We must do better for ALL of Texas.

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Robyn Czarnecki
Self, writer/editor
Austin, TX

History will not look kindly upon democratically elected leaders who seek to decrease voters' access to the polls and who intentionally make it more difficult for voters who don't agree with them to vote. You may have the numbers now because of years of gerrymandering, but we know (and YOU know) what you're really doing, and we won't forget.

Kara Turner
Self
Spring, TX

As a Texan, I am against this bill. This is a knee jerk reaction by our current officials in an attempt to mold future elections in favor of themselves. After a huge turnout in the 2020 presidential election, why are they asking our citizens to jump through more hoops to exercise their constitutional rights in the future? We need to protect voter rights in this state!

Teri Rodgers
Self, retired
Cypress, TX

I support that it is easy for everybody to vote, however it also needs to be difficult for fraud.

Karen Kirkpatrick
Self
Sunnyvale, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill. This is not a proactive measure to protect election integrity. It is out right voter suppression. I'm a fifth generation Texan. This bill does not reflect the conservative Texas I grew in.

Melodi Weinberg
Myself
Wimberley, TX

Why are you restricting voting? Afraid you won't stay in power? In a democracy, everyone should have easy access to voting. What does that say about how the Texas Legislature feels about true democracy?

John Drosche
Tripple D goats
WHARTON, TX

I am whole heartedly in favor of this bill and support those involved being prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Consuelo Allen
Myself
Austin, TX

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This bill is designed to restrict lawful voting & access to the polls. It is unconstitutional.

Carolina Valladares

Self

Spring, TX

Do not make voting more difficult for people of color and stop restricting access to voting in Texas! There is no evidence of voter fraud as stated by Republicans. Stop trying to suppress the vote

Antony Chavez

self/ retail sales associate

Dallas, TX

Unacceptable voter suppression by Republicans

Nancy Schlirf

Self. Retired flight attendant

Colleyville, TX

What is wrong with polls that are open for 24 hours? As an airline employee I worked many different shifts. It would have made it easier for me to vote if the polls had been open for more hours. Many hard working Americans work long shifts and unusual hours. As a worker who also traveled it would have been nice to have been permitted to submit a ballot by mail. I don't believe this bill will protect our elections. It will just throw up more obstacles for citizens who just want to exercise their right to vote. But that's probably the goal of the Republican Party!

Kimberly Krutka

Self

Denton, TX

Please do not pass this undemocratic bill that would make it harder to hear the voice of the people. It would make it harder for people to vote. A vote for this bill is a vote AGAINST American democracy.

D. Shawn Stevens Stevens

Self - Attorney

Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3, and urge the committee to exercise your power in order to make voting in Texas easier, not harder as does HB 3 in its current form. Removing the option of drive through voting, a solution instituted — in not only Harris County, but Republican counties such as Tom Green and Bee — to make it easier for citizens to vote more safely during the pandemic, serves no purpose other than make it harder for some voters to vote. Removing 24 hour voting as an option due to the purported difficulty in recruiting Republican poll watchers for the overnight hours places the political interest of poll watchers appointed by political parties and candidates above the bedrock constitutional right of eligible citizens to vote, especially when overnight voting would allow many shift workers such as hospital nurses, refinery workers, and service industry personnel to have more convenient access to voting while having to work extended hours or multiple jobs.

Joel Brickell

Self - retired

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Dallas, TX

This blatantly partisan bill designed to further restrict largely Democratic voters from exercising their right to vote has no basis in factual evidence. Voting should be made easier for all, not harder. Consign HB3 to the legislative oblivion it richly deserves.

Alexandra Whittington

Self

HOUSTON, TX

I strongly support expanding voting access in Texas. Drive-through voting and early voting are important solutions to ensuring more of us have the chance to cast our ballot.

Elected officials are not supposed to impede voting rights. It's your job to represent us, but your voter suppression efforts do not represent our actual interests.

Stop working against us and start working for us. If you don't want people to vote, why are you in our government? Support democratic freedom or get out of the way!

Bill Sargent, Former Chief Deputy Clerk for Elections, Galveston

self

Galveston, TX

I support this measure but it can be improved:

Article 3: Conduct and Security of Elections

Allowing the expansion of voting hours during the first week of Early Voting by requiring at least nine hours while limiting the total number of hours to no more than twelve hours in any given day.

Limiting voting hours to twelve hours on Saturdays and during the second week of Early Voting

Justification: These recommendations are made because it is difficult to get election workers and under the original language it is possible to have the polling locations open for 16 hours each day of Early Voting making it a real challenge to get election workers to volunteer. By limiting voting hours to no more than twelve hours while at the same time allowing different jurisdictions the flexibility of what hours to have their polling places open (within the 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. time frame) this is a compromise that will help with staffing the polling places.

- Require that all counties utilizing countywide vote centers have all their polling locations open during the same hours as the main polling place.

Justification: Requiring all the countywide vote centers to be open for the same hours addresses a technical issue. All the poll books must be in sync in real time to ensure that a person cannot go to one location and vote and then to another and vote a second time. If the polls are open at different times it take a long time for vote centers that open later to sync all the transactions that have occurred at locations that opened earlier in the day. This is especially true in large counties where potentially thousands of transactions are involved. Requiring all the vote centers to be open at the same time deals with this issue.

- Requiring that counties utilizing countywide vote centers and which have a population of over a million shall have an equal distribution of temporary polling places by state representative districts within their county.

Justification: There have been numerous instances where large counties (such as Harris County) have placed more temporary polling places in parts of the county that have a larger number of voters from one party and fewer polling locations in areas frequented by the other party. This could tilt the vote toward one party or another. Requiring that there be the same number of countywide polling place in each state representative's district within the county guards against the kind of misuse we have seen and ensures equal treatment and equal access for all voters, regardless of their party affiliation.

[Additional comments to follow]

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Jerry Sharp
retired self
Georgetown, TX

Texas has been recognized as having the worst voting laws in the country and this bill will make them even more restrictive. I'm a former Marine pilot, risking my life fighting for what was right. Sadly, your passing this bill is not right. Other American men and women of every race, ethnicity and creed have died for the right to vote in this country. This bill makes it harder for Texans, who are Americans in case you have forgotten, to exercise this right. You should be ashamed if you vote for this bill.

Please vote against the passage of this bill.

Barbara Fisher
Self
Humble, TX

Yes, election integrity and security, including preventing fraud in the conduct of elections in this state, increasing criminal penalties, creating criminal offenses.

Maggie Radtke
Self
Kyle, TX

This bill should not pass and does not represent me as a citizen of this state.

Gloria Perkins-Sellers
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc
Fort Worth, TX

The uproar over voter security is a made up urgency. With the intended voter so called election security measures, many people will be harmed, mostly the elderly such as myself and people of color. Let the people vote. Older people need help not just getting to the polls but extra time and alternative ways to vote. Early voting, extended time, more polling places are needed. Let the people vote.

Bill Sargent, Former Chief Deputy Clerk for Elections, Galveston County
self
Galvesto, TX

[Comments Continued]

Article Four: Election Officials and Observers

- There have been issues raised about there being an apparent conflict as to when a poll watcher can be removed from a polling place. In order to counter this complaint, we have suggested language that clarifies when a poll watcher may be removed and takes away this possible argument.

(h) Notwithstanding Subsection (g), a presiding judge may call a law enforcement officer to request that a poll watcher be removed if the poll watcher commits a breach of the peace or, **SUBSEQUENT TO BEING WARNED**, a violation of **THIS ELECTION** election code.

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•We also make it clear that a poll watcher can observe anything except a person actually voting at a voting booth with an exception of when an poll worker is assisting the voter. (See Section 4.04)

•In Section 4.10 we require that the Secretary of State establish procedures for ensuring the source code on voting machines has not been tampered with. Election Administrators most likely have no idea how to do this.

Article Seven: Fraud and Other Unlawful Practices

•Added a new subsection under Sec. 276.016 that prohibits anybody from distributing unsolicited ballot by mail applications with the party and/or annual ballot by mail fields pre-filled in.

Justification: Every primary election we are flooded with complaints from voters who received a ballot for the wrong party because they submitted a pre-filled in application for a mail-in ballot from a party they do not support. This requires election officials to cancel the ballot they were sent and, if there is time, to send them a ballot for the other party.

Likewise in November – and also in local entity elections—we get voters who insist they never asked for a mail-in ballot. Ninety-nine percent of the time this is caused because they submitted a pre-filled in application that had the annual ballot by mail box checked. If the voter doesn't bring the mail-in ballot with them to the polling place, they must vote provisionally which upsets the voters.

The simple remedy is to prohibit the filling in of the party affiliation and the annual ballot by mail boxes, thereby requiring that the voter determine which party's ballot they want and whether they want annual ballots by mail.

Proposed Language:

“Anybody who sends out an unsolicited ballot by mail applications shall not pre-fill in the party and/or annual ballot by mail data fields.”

[To be Continued]

Sarah Meyers

Self, Equine Professional/Instructor

Austin, TX

As a proud Texan I want our elections to be fair and honest and these restrictions will do the exact opposite. Cutting voting access and threatening jail and fines for voting is voter intimidation and disenfranchisement. This bill will silence our most vulnerable of Texas when their voices need to be heard louder than ever. Texas is hurting and this is not the way to heal it.

Ankit Mehta

Self

Plano, TX

I am against HR3. I believe that both the letter and the spirit of this legislation are anti-Democratic, unnecessary, and disproportionately affect minorities.

Carolyn Southerland

Self—lawyer

Houston, TX

This bill isn't about election security—no Texas official elected in 2020 contests the validity of their election. Rather, it's based on Trump's lie about fraudulent voters. Trump won Texas. Our Secretary of State confirmed the 2020 election as secure. The provisions of this bill which ban 24 hour voting and drive through voting in the name of “security” are a farce—not a single claim of election fraud has been raised, much less prosecuted—as a result of these programs.

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In a democracy, elected officials should ENCOURAGE voting, not suppress it. This bill is as Unamerican and anti-Texan as they come. The sponsors should be ashamed. History will not be kind to those who support this time of voter suppression legislation.

Bill Sargent, Former Chief Deputy Clerk for Elections, Galveston County

Self

Galveston, TX

[Comments Continued, Part Three]

Article Eight: Enforcement

•Added language under Section 8.03 that clarifies the authority of the Secretary of State under Section 31.005 allowing him to act if there is a violation of the Texas Election Code.

Justification: Section 31.005 of the Election Code, as amended, is added here because the Secretary of State's office does not think it currently has the authority to call law enforcement to investigate and, if necessary, stop violations of the Code. They interpret the code as currently written to only allow such action when voting rights are being restricted. This, in turn, means that the only avenue to combat election code violations is through the courts and by the time they act, the damage has already been done.

Take for example the case in Fort Bend County where representatives of the District Attorney's office, illegally sat in polling places and, in the opinion of many, intimidated poll workers. They were told to leave by the Fort Bend Elections Administrator and also the Secretary of State's office, but they refused to do so. There was no other avenue open to the Secretary of State's office.

With the change suggested in the attached, SOS could have called DPS and asked them to investigate and, if necessary, remove or arrest the offenders and thereby resolving the problem. There is an urgent need for "real time" enforcement and making the change to this section of the code will give the Secretary of State an additional tool to allow this to happen.

I hope you find this information helpful and that these changes can be made to the legislation.

Proposed Language:

Sec. 31.005. ENFORCEMENT; PROTECTION OF VOTING RIGHTS.

a) The secretary of state may take appropriate action to protect AGAINST VIOLATIONS OF THIS CODE and to protect the voting rights of the citizens of this state from abuse by the authorities administering the state's electoral processes.

(b) If the secretary determines that a person performing official functions in the administration of any part of the electoral processes is exercising the powers vested in that person in a manner that impedes the free exercise of a citizen's voting rights OR OTHERWISE VIOLATES A PROVISION OF THIS CODE, the secretary may order the person to correct the offending conduct. If the person fails to comply, the secretary may seek enforcement of the order by a temporary restraining order or a writ of injunction or mandamus obtained through the attorney general.

Rachel Turman-Smith

Myself, a voter, who works in finance/credit

Elgin, TX

Texas does not have any remarkable or significant election security issues yet a lot of effort has been put into promoting the need to further increase election security and subsequently, integrity. It is concerning to me because it plays to the widely spread misinformation about 2020 election integrity. For the 2020 election, the pandemic necessitated a temp expansion of policy to facilitate voter participation. The hidden opportunity within the crisis resulted in voter participation at its highest nationally in 120 years AND it was (repeatedly) proven to be secure. It was a serendipitous victory for democracy that shined a light on the way forward. If I were a legislator serving the public interest, the next logical step would be to ask how to support continued high

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voter participation. Democracies perform best when more people vote. Elements of HB3 seem to support the opposite and that is of highest concern Re: restrictions on distribution of mail-in ballot applications- We're talking about blank forms. As I understand it, HOW one comes into possession of a blank form would become a legal issue. In a free country where we have a right to vote, the distribution method of a blank form would be criminalized? Voting is a right. I do not believe an invitation to vote (via a blank form) in itself creates an opportunity for fraud. Other requirements, in combination with the submission of an application, would sufficiently curb attempts to commit fraud. For these reasons, restricting & criminalizing distribution seems to serve little other than voter suppression. Re: vote curing - Absolutely supported! Every vote should count and no mail-in vote should be disqualified without a vigorous attempt to contact the voter with an the opportunity to cure it. The PROMOTION OF VOTER ACCESS is the ask. Cleansing of voter roles must not be done close to elections. It needs to be a scheduled process, an announced process, and voters must be able to check registration status either online or through a phone service. POLL WATCHERS absolutely must be trained, the same as other election officials, "irregularities" must be defined to set a standard for behavior in advance (as opposed to creating an unfair opportunity for a subjectively perceived violation to be defined after-the-fact). Aggressive behavior, intimidation practices among poll watchers cannot be tolerated. Reports of intimidation from voters must be documented and more than two reports must result in dismissal from poll watching.

Haylee Kurtz

Self / Customer Service

Addison, TX

You call us necessary workers during a pandemic that took friends, family and necessary coworkers from us.

You call us heroes, and mock us with hollow applause that rings emptier than the promises of the american dream, that, if we work hard enough, we will succeed. we worked hard; we carried papers that let us out during lockdown, and sanitized spaces during one of the deadliest times in our modern memory. We did this, because we were told we were necessary--the only people capable of keeping society going, and it was true, and we kept society going. You have decided to repay this effort with restrictive voting laws that single us out the most.

You say we are necessary to keeping society going, but you are doing everything you can to make sure we don't have a voice in the very society we risked our lives for. This bill purposefully punishes anyone who does not hold a 9 - 5, which, is an impossible schedule for necessary worker. We do not work 9 - 5 hours for the very convenience of those who do. This bill does nothing to hold "voter integrity" and does everything it can to destroy it by silencing the voice of the American peoples.

This bills is an insult to it's own citizens, and does nothing but continually silence the voices of the people for the power profit of those already in charge; the modern age, and work hours have changed, and voting laws need to respect that.

This is not respect; this is violent silencing.

John Gatej

Sefl

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and others like it. This bill has been proposed based on the Big Lie that led to the Capitol Insurrection in Washington DC on January 6, 2021. Texas lawmakers should be ashamed to support it.

Corlice Mims

Self; Clinical Analyst

Katy, TX

I am a member of the Katy Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, a public service organization that is 108 years old and boast more than 103 members who are registered voters. We ask you to oppose House Bill 3 and any revisions of that same bill which seek to deny access to voting for Texas citizens. Our organization represents 20,450 Deltas in the State of

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Texas; our mission is to protect the rights of the underserved and historically disenfranchised. House Bill 3 will adversely affect the communities that we serve.

Election integrity does not appear to be a problem based on the statistics released by AG Paxton: "There have been 130 illegal voters between 2005 and 2018." This low percentage has become the priority of the Attorney General? Also, the illegal voters appear to be residents who are unsure of the voting eligibility: Representative Bucy's proposed bill to advise felons of their voting rights and eligibility would resolve the issue of "Illegal Voters".

I had the privilege of being a part of the mail-in vote counting process in Fort Bend. No ballots were counted without a member of each party present. The process maintained the integrity of the ballot processing. The watchers were in the room observing the ballots being placed in the counters; any issues were discussed and resolved in a bipartisan manner.

I also witnessed an illegal candidate parade at my polling place and the poll watchers DID NOT prevent the action because they supported that candidate. If poll watchers are going to be empowered, I suggest that poll watchers serve in pairs-one from each political party. In the words of Representative Moody, "We either believe in people's rights or we don't." Denying access to voting is an infringement on every American citizen's Constitutional right. Many amendments have been put in place to protect the vote of all Americans regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, age, etc; this bill would double down on the errors of the past and take us backwards. Voting is not a privilege, it is a RIGHT.

LaDonna Massad

Self

Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. As a former poll worker, I am especially concerned about the poll-watching provision and the extra burden placed on those trying to run the election.

Richard Duncan

Self

Tomball, TX

It is critical that we ave election integrity. Any methods of voting that can be exploited nees to be eliminated. Hundreds of people have lined up to argue that these common sense protections are suppression or that this bill is taking away someone's right to vote. I argue that not passing these protections and leaving opportunity for improper voting will do exactly that as my vote has the chance of being canceled by an improperly cast ballot, taking away my right to have my vote count.

Elizabeth Wilson

Self, housewife

Wichita Falls, TX

We need vote by mail for every voter in Texas. We also need hand marked paper ballots at every voting site. The old voting machines we have have no auditable paper trail. I know that's intentional.

David Flores, Mr

Self

Austin, TX

Elections are the most sacred right we have in a democracy, and it should be protected at all costs. However, this bill does nothing but make it harder for people to vote for no apparent reason. The instances of voter fraud in this country are so few it's embarrassing this subject continues to come up. There's barely any documented instances of voter fraud in Texas that can be pointed to, which means this bill solves nothing. SOLVE THE POWER GRID!!

Robin Garcia

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Self

San Antonio, TX

I agree that our elections need to be secure, but in no way do I agree with voter suppression. Every single registered voters should have access to the polls, be it in person, drop box or mail in. I also think that this ridiculous gerry mandering we have going on needs to stop. It is beyond wrong and should be illegal.

Andree Chalaron

Self/ Interior Designer

Austin, TX

Free and fair elections are the right of US Citizens. I STRONGLY oppose any additional legislation limiting voter access. It is not constitutional to suppress the vote of minorities. I oppose this measure.

Katie Naranjo, Chair, Travis County Democratic Party

Travis County Democratic Party

Austin, TX

I urge you today focus election integrity efforts on technology which will actually improve voting security and accessibility — online voter registration. Online voter registration will improve voter rolls, decrease most duplications across counties, and allow for more accuracy by matching to a voter address. In addition, online voter registration programs allow for tracking of vote by mail applications and tracking of the registration status. All of this improving voter information and confidence. The provisions in HB3 will do nothing to address voter fraud, mainly because it is statistically non-existent. Any issues regarding voter identification and eligibility, which are the main causes for voter confusion, would be addressed with online registration. Thank you for your consideration.

Joe Blanda

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Members of the Select Committee on Constitutional Rights & Remedies:

My constitutional right to vote is sacred. I take every opportunity to exercise it, from the most important national and statewide races to local elections that generate little or no heat. Fortunately, my access to the voting box (at least in Austin, where I live) has been relatively unimpeded. There are convenient locations to vote early and in person (although the COVID crisis created problems for us all). I'm also old enough (67) to vote by mail, if I choose, or use a convenient drive-through drop-box to deposit my ballot. I like this state of affairs. I believe voting should be encouraged and that eligible voters should be able to cast a ballot in as many ways as possible. Life is challenging enough without having to jump through hoops to do your civic duty. What's more, according to the TX Secretary of State (a Republican), our statewide/national election this past November was free and fair, with few, if any, reports of fraud. And, you know what? I believe her. The question is: Why don't you? HB 3 masquerades as a solution to a problem that doesn't exist. What it's obviously designed to do is limit (or discourage) access to the ballot box, making it harder for young, black, and Hispanic voters to cast a ballot. It will add yet another layer of deterrence to voting in Texas, once you factor in the many heavily gerrymandered districts in this state (such the one I'm in, #10). If you really want to do something positive with regard to voting, trash this terrible bill and get rid of gerrymandering once and for all. Don't let your greedier instincts get the best of you. The right to vote in free and fair elections for our civic, state, and national leaders is a precious right. Please don't ruin it.

Naida Kellogg

Self

Cypress, TX

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I support election integrity, voter ID, USA citizens only!

Susan Cummings

Self

Baytown, TX

The ability to Participate in our Democracy must be safeguarded. We MUST have drive - through voting, extended early voting, mail-in voting.

HB 3 is not about protecting election integrity: is about suppressing voters!!!

Voting should be easy. There is no voter fraud at any level that could have changed an election. Your scare tactics are disenfranchising Americans!!!

Shameful

Juliana Kellogg

Convention of States

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote Yes, securing elections for all legal voters upholds equality for all voters. To imply that any race must be treated differently violates equality under the law. All representative government begins with the sanctity and security of elections. The consent of the governed is only given when the governed believe that the elections are secure. This bill must be passed to close gaps in the current laws which have been exploited. No fraudulent vote is acceptable, because that fraudulent vote cancels my vote, treating any race differently regarding voting is racist.

Omar Valerio

Self

San Antonio, TX

As a Texas resident, a United States citizen, and a life-long voter, I am opposed to HB3, which is being considered in this special session in July 2021. I am appalled by the state legislature's efforts to pass a voter suppression bill. While the supporters of HB3 claim the bill is aimed at "election integrity" by preventing fraud, they have not demonstrated that widespread existed in the most recent elections. Voter fraud in Texas is practically non-existent as various news outlets and election observers have noted. Curtailing voting hours, vote by mail, and limited polling places are specifically targeted at people of color and the poor. It is the height of hypocrisy for the legislators advocating for this bill to argue that they are trying to protect democracy when they are specifically trying to limit voting. As a history professor who teaches Texas history, I am very familiar with previous attempts at limiting voting such as poll taxes, and white man's primaries. Like these previous attempts at voter suppression, the current attempts (e.g., HB 3) are undemocratic attempts to reduce the number of voters who can exercise their constitutional right. It is also hypocritical of Governor Abbott and the Texas Republican Party to call a special session to address voter fraud, when fraud is practically non-existent, but Governor Abbott has not called a special session to address the state's faulty electric grid. This past winter, Texas residents experienced blackout and high energy bills because of the instability of the state's electric grid. This is a widespread problem because a failing electric grid affects thousands of people, but the governor and his party have chosen to ignore it. Moreover, the governor and his party failed to call a special session when the state has experienced other crises - such as school shootings and the 2019 domestic terrorist shooting in El Paso. If Governor Abbott and the state's Republican Party are indeed pro-life, they should care try to pass legislation to curb the sale of guns and make our cities safer.

Cissy Sanders, Self

Self

Austin, TX

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I OPPOSE HB 3. Republican members of the Texas House Elections Committee say the purpose of this bill is to prevent voter fraud. However, these same members have not disclosed the cold, hard evidence of voter fraud. Not one single piece of evidence has been disclosed. Sworn affidavits are just a fancy term for a letter and do not have the weight of proof or evidence. Let's see the cold, hard evidence of voter fraud. Show it.

For disabled voters like my mother, it is not fair or free to require disabled voters to go through more steps to vote than another person who doesn't have a disability. My mother's voice and her vote are just as important as the next person's. My mother should not be required to spend \$ to go to a doctor's office to get a note to share her medical diagnosis with election officials to be able to receive a mail-in ballot. That is unconstitutional and violates federal medical privacy laws. And, lastly, I should not be subjected to intimidation by poll watchers when I go to vote. I should not have to deal with invasion of my privacy, invasion of my voting experience and harassment by individuals because they don't like the candidate I vote for. That is behavior you see in Third World countries that are run by authoritarian regimes. We have a problem of voter participation in Texas; not voter fraud. Focus on the real problem at hand and expand access to the ballot box for the 7 million Texans who can't vote because the state of Texas restricts their constitutional right to vote.

Heather Hughes

Self

Houston, TX

I was an Associate Precinct Judge in Harris County on election day 2020 in 77055. We had many people utilize drive up voting, especially the disabled, older citizens and parents with young children in the car. Every single person thanked us for providing this service. I worked alongside a Republican Precinct Judge who had worked all of early voting and she talked to me about how many voters were grateful for the extended days and hours for voting in 2020. Many of my friends who work in the medical field or first responders were thrilled with overnight voting as they could vote immediately before or after their shifts. We should create more opportunities for all eligible voters to vote by extending voting hours, adding more polling places for early voting and election day and continuing drive-through and drive-up voting.

Lolita Bruce

"Self" PA-C

Rowlett, TX

"I hold that I am a member of this body. Therefore, sir, I shall neither fawn nor cringe before any party, nor stoop to beg them for my rights."- Henry McNeil Turner

I truly believe it would be a fallacy on my part to think any elected officials that have committed themselves in support of passing this new restrictive voter bill will be dissuaded by anything I say in disagreement to this bill. This bill is about maintaining power by suppressing the right to vote of lower economic areas and areas represented by Black people and other people of color. It isn't about so called election integrity because I see no true integrity in the Republican officials that can blatantly lie about the purpose of this bill and that it is because of election fraud that has transpired within the state and country. It is about the status quo. It is about how they support gerrymandering. It is about power. It is about voter suppression. It is about not letting every eligible citizen in Texas vote because that would mean too many low income and too many Black people and too many people of color finally being able to vote without restrictive barriers.

Jerry Walker, Regional Captain SD_3

Convention Of States

Brookeland, TX

We must do something to secure our elections, increasing penalties for voter fraud, voter ID, and no mail in ballot that does not follow the exact rules as an absentee ballot. In this day and time a person should be able to go online and see how they voted or if they voted and for whom they voted for and swear by it with a penalty for fraud.

Deena Walker

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Self Retired

Mansfield, TX

There was no voter fraud in the 2020 General Election. Our Texas legislature has done everything they can to make voting difficult for the people of Texas and it has to stop. My husband and I stood in line for 4 1/2 hours in 95+ degree weather during the middle of a major pandemic to vote in the 2020 general election because the option to vote by mail was not available to us. Why? Why was the option to vote a straight ticket deleted? You create an even worse situation by insisting people mark each and every candidate while voters wait in an endless line for their turn to vote. Do I need to remind you the right to vote is the bedrock of any democracy? AG Paxton said former President Donald Trump would have lost in Texas in the 2020 election if his office had not successfully blocked counties from mailing out applications for mail-in ballots to all registered voters. It is obvious this bill has nothing to do with election integrity. You are perpetuating the Trump lie which resulted in our Capitol being desecrated on January 6. There was no voter fraud. The fraud lies with some in our legislature hellbent on destroying our democracy so they can remain in power. It truly is shameful. Our democracy is in great peril. This bill is nothing more than the consequence of a lie spread and perpetrated by a former president and his sycophants. I urge all legislators to vote NO on HB 3.

Kimberly Smith

self

Austin, TX

HB3 is VOTER SUPPRESSION. Its only purpose appears to be to make voting harder, especially for minority groups, people with jobs, families, poor people, people far away from voting sites without transportation, basically just regular people. Texas is already the hardest state to vote in. Why in the world would you make it even more difficult if not to disenfranchise voters who you think won't vote your way? If you are trying to kill democracy and create an autocracy, this is a good way to do it. But maybe that's what you want.

Dee chambless

Self

Bullard, TX

The biggest cause of voter suppression is when people don't trust the election process and simply stop showing up to vote. Even worse is when we do not enforce our own laws. We've heard public testimony in the Senate today, multiple times, about clearly documented fraud that was never corrected and nor prosecuted even by the Lt. Governor (i.e., Travis County). We should play offense by passing HB 3. Why wouldn't all Texas lawmakers vote to strengthen and enforce our laws and give voters confidence in our elections? I support HB 3. Let's make it easy to vote and hard to cheat.

Patricia Sumrow

Myself

Frisco, TX

I am a Texas resident, and I oppose this bill. This unfairly discriminates against minority voters and has no place in Texas or our country. Voting should be made easier, not more difficult. The argument that voter fraud exists is a proven lie, and this bill does not serve the people of Texas. Our lawmakers should be focusing on issues that will help Texans, like healthcare. Please do the right thing and do not pass this bill.

Bradley Morris

Self

Frisco, TX

This effort is a complete waste of time. I do not support this farce.

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Jean Holland

Self

Austin, TX

More access to voting should be provided rather than attempting to restrict access. Voter fraud is so rare and unusual in Texas that these restrictions are obviously aimed at preventing voters who might vote against the prevailing party rather than trying to solve a problem that exists. Working people who aren't able to stand in lines for hours and be away from work, the elderly poor, the disabled, those who don't have a drivers license or access to to get restrictive Identification formats are the targets. Aim your legislative efforts at actually providing energy and health services to those in need rather than trying to keep them away from the polls. These bad faith restrictions are transparent to most Texans and ultimately may backfire.

Kevin Hawkins, Mr.

self, librarian

Denton, TX

As you know, from 2015 to 2020 over 44.1 million votes were cast in Texas, but there was a mere 197 complaints of election fraud during that time period, with only 23 from the 2020 election. It's clear that there's no actual problem with voter fraud in Texas, so there is no need to make voting more difficult through measures such as those in HB 3.

Martha Dolese, Ms

Self

Luling, TX

As a citizen of Texas, I am submitting my formal opposition to HB 3. The legislature should be focused on making it easier to vote, like online voter registration, and broadening the choices of ID used to vote.

Respectfully,

Martha Stark Dolese

Luling, Caldwell County, Texas

Tina Obryan

Self - Digital Publisher

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

Jim Johns

Self

Cypress, TX

We MUST have election integrity! Anything less than complete confidence in our system makes us no better than Venezuela, Cuba or other totalitarian regimes. Again, you MUST pass this bill.

Ryan Maddings

Self

Huntsville, TX

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II support strengthening election integrity

Avigdor Marshel

- None -

Houston, TX

if you don't have free and fair elections then you don't have a functioning democracy.

Brooke Woodard

Self/Associate Professor of Chemistry

Marshall, TX

Greetings, Chair Ashby, Vice Chair Thompson, and members of the committee.

I am a member of the Marshall Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, with more than 40 members in our local chapter as well as a founding member of Educators for Public Service—a group of local educators whose mission in part is to equip and train members to take on key leadership roles in the community.

I earnestly implore you to vote NO on HB 3 and any revisions of that bill which seek to disenfranchise and suppress the constitutional right to vote of more than 20,000 Deltas in Texas and the communities we serve.

As you know, Texas voters turned out in record numbers this past fall and we should be embracing the fact that so many Individuals have taken a vested and proactive interest in our democracy. We should, thus, be looking for more ways to encourage participation and ease access to voting.

Last year, I volunteered with a voter preparation campaign and served as an Election Clerk where I had the privilege of speaking and connecting with citizens from ALL backgrounds and political beliefs to ensure that ALL of them had a voice and were able to make their voices heard at the polls.

I pray that you take a stand to promote fairness and equity in this sacred constitutional right by voting NO to HB 3.

Meagan Butler, LPC

Self

Austin, TX

Hello representatives,

Thank you for your service and for reading my testimony. My name is Meagan Butler and I am a native Austinite, and a 4th generation Texan.

I'm here to oppose provisions in HB 3.

I'm concerned that Lawmakers are putting up deliberate barriers to voting, especially for those Texans with health and mental health disabilities. All Texans deserve to cast their ballots, freely, safely, and equally.

When I first saw this bill I immediately thought of my family. My nephew Sullivan was in 4th grade when he was diagnosed with brain cancer... it rocked our family. For a year he went through rounds of radiation, chemo treatments, and many surgeries to remove the cancer. We set up shifts of different caretakers to visit him in the hospital, care for him at home, and help raise his two younger brothers. For a year, anyone who visited him and took care of my nephews had to limit exposure to germs, and to crowds. It was kind of like COVID but just for members of our family for an entire year.

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Caretakers deserve to vote without having to be exposed to crowds. And the caretaking circle is dynamic. For my nephews, one day it was an aunt in charge, then it was their mom, then a church member. We took turns. We all stayed home to limit crowd exposure. Drive through voting and mail in voting are necessary for entire the community of caretakers. These forms of voting need to be more accessible, not less. Everyone deserves to cast a ballot freely, safely and equally.

My other concern relates to mental health. I've been an educator in Texas for 16 years- a public school teacher and school counselor and now I'm a central office administrator and licensed professional counselor.

If I've learned anything from working to serve the public, it's that mental health impacts everyone and it's often undiagnosed. I think about all of the students and their parents that I have supported who struggled with depression, suicidal ideation, anxiety, agoraphobia, ptsd, panic disorder and ocd. Some of these folks struggled to even get out of bed or take a shower, much less take the bus to stand in line for hours and hours and be around crowds of strangers to cast their ballot.

Mental illness impacts 1 in 4 people. 1/4 of Texans. Mental illness is treatable but it can be debilitating and disabling at times. That's why different forms of voting are so important. Voting by mail and by car need to be easier, and more accessible, so we can include all our voters.

I urge you to consider this and vote NO on house bill 3. Make the promise of democracy real for all of us— all of us. That includes those with health and mental health issues, as well as their community of caretakers.

Teresa Doyle

Self - geospatial technologies intern

River Oaks, TX

There is absolutely zero evidence that can be provided that indicates our elections are at risk of fraud at a statically significant level. HB3 is a deliberate attempt to reduce the vote of the democratic party. It is unamerican, undemocratic, and supporting and propagating notions that are instilled to hinder particular groups from having the same freedoms as others is fascism. This is a place for liberty protected by democracy, managed by public servants. The For The People Act had bipartisan support over 60% Do your job, serve the public.

Meg Kelly

Self - Analyst

Keller, TX

The right for Americans to make their voices heard in public elections is perhaps one of the most crucial as a citizen in this country. Now, this right is being infringed upon by the elected officials entrusted with the well-being of their constituents. Voting has already been made incredibly difficult in this state for certain populations; Texas has been ranked as the #1 most difficult state to pass a vote in by NIU, and I see this as an absolute disgrace. For public servants to even attempt to limit voting rights further in this state is a blatant assault on democracy. Furthermore, there is almost zero evidence of voter fraud in Texas, and when fraud does occur it is addressed immediately. This bill serves exclusively to prevent minorities and vulnerable populations from easily casting their votes. Please, do the right thing and think about the people you were sworn in to protect - you are now actively silencing them.

Kristi Bartlett

Self clerical

Odessa, TX

People need ID to vote. It is insulting and discriminatory to insinuate that minorities are not smart enough to get one. They are able to get all sorts of government aid and they can also get an ID to vote.

Juli Ottea

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Self

Bulverde, TX

I am in favor of all measures that help prevent any kind of voter fraud. Illegals should not be allowed to vote..you must show proof of citizenship

Ceyli Jackson

Self

Austin, TX

I believe that we should make voting more accessible to ALL citizens NOT creating more restrictions. Creating barriers is inequitable.

CAROL SEWELL

Self

PLANO, TX

Voting is our most basic right and should be held to the highest standard. We the people deserve no less. This bill does not prohibit or discourage citizens from turning out to vote. The polling done on this issue shows a majority of Texans support this bill. When the voter ID bill passed the mantra was that it would keep people from voting. However, the numbers actually went up. I believe the same will be true with HB3. Each generation needs to know that their vote matters and it counts. It is a sacred right.

In order to discourage fraud the penalties for hindering poll watchers and any type of fraud should be classified as felonies. That is the only way to put a stop to those who think that cheating is a right.

Thank you for considering my comments and please support HB3.

Beverly Jurenko

self

Houston, TX

There was no evidence of widespread fraud in the 2020 General Election. Vote NO for this bill. Don't put election judges and voter registrars at risk of being charged with a felony for simple mistakes. Allow drive through voting and extend early voting schedules. Elections should be fair and open to all eligible voters. Thank you.

Curt Acton

Self, sales

Plano, TX

I am an Independent. I am against this HB because only parts are dealing with election integrity. Please stop adding credence to the lie that Texas 2020 elections were full of fraudulent voting. It's not believable. This is deplorable that you waste our tax dollars on such a frivolous folly.

S May

Self, government

Houston, TX

Texas is already the hardest state in which to vote. I am deployed overseas and every time I vote, it is a challenge to update my registration address. The current proposals are based on racist voter suppression - to make it harder for Black and Hispanic citizens to vote. Harder for mothers. Harder for young people. We see what you are doing and will not stand for it. The specious claims of the last election being stolen are disgusting lies meant to enrich a former president and destabilize America. The Texas Legislature should investigate Greg Abbott for publicly claiming that he changed voting procedures in the state to deliberately make Democrats lose.

Savannah Norton

self, data management analyst

Austin, TX

You know full well that this bill has nothing to do with voter fraud (a practically non-existent problem) and everything to do with dismantling democracy in the state of Texas. If you were real Texans you would win elections under your own strength instead of trying to keep the poor and people of color from voting. If you were real Texans you would work on real issues instead of making this great state a national embarrassment. If you were real Texans you would defend the right to vote with your life. And if you were smart, you wouldn't dare stoke the anger of your constituents any further. Come and take it.

Rhonda Lopez

Self, provider relations

Baytown, TX

Dear House Members,

I am writing in opposition to HB 3. I could go on and on about my grievances with the provisions outlined in HB3. What I see is a desperate power grab from your constituents, a way to subdue opposition of the electorate.

This is a manufactured problem.

In essence, you are creating doubt in our election process where there is none, going along with the Big Lie. What you mean to do is dilute my voice in matters of education, immigration reform, fixing our infrastructure problems like our power grid, and preventing nothing but a narrow agenda of nihilism and oppression to move forward.

Shame on you. Shame on those who embrace bills fashioned by dark money organizations like ALEC to undermine and subvert democracy. We see exactly what you are doing.

Do better,
Rhonda Lopez

Susan Pintchovski

Self Retired

Austin, TX

I vehemently oppose HB3 which is a thinly veiled attempt at limiting those voices who have traditionally been underrepresented in our elections. Texas has a low voter turnout in general so we must make it easier to vote, not harder. There is no proof of election fraud and we had a very secure 2020 election. Oppose this bill since everyone's voice in a democracy must be encouraged and protected under our Constitution.

Sunday Shibley

M6self

Kingwood, TX

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I sent in my testimony in support of this bill. I have never given testimony before. I did not understand what “organization” meant. As this bill is important to me when I saw “organization” I thought it meant am I affiliated with any organization. But I was giving my personal feelings and that I feel this bill needs to be passed

Luis Varela

Self/ Real Estate Agent

Pasadena, TX

I support strengthening election integrity. Easy to vote is ok, but it HAS to be hard to cheat.

Rachel Morris, Ms.

Self -blogger

San Marcos, TX

I'm respectfully asking the TX house to vote against any measure that would make it difficult for Texans to vote. Having more and more aggressive poll watchers will not only lead to intimidation- it could lead to violence. Preventing people from voting doesn't allow the best for TX to get implemented, but the most cowardly. We are at our best as a democracy when we debate, when we compromise, when the best ideas for the most people win. Disallowing people to vote will prevent all of that from happening. I'm a 9th generation Texan- a fact I've been raised to be proud of my whole life. Texas leaders keeping Texans from voting isn't something to be proud of. It's something to be ashamed of- I am ashamed of the TX House for indulging this and I'm ashamed of anyone who would vote for it. Those aren't the Texans I know or was raised to respect. Thank you for your time.

Robin Goodpaster

Self, senior copywriter

Dallas, TX

I am not in favor of this bill. It does nothing to help election security and would actually hinder people from being able to vote. There is NO EVIDENCE of significant voter fraud. You should spend your time on the Texas electrical grid, controlling a year old worldwide pandemic, or help Texans get back to work. You are trying to fix a problem that doesn't even exist. Texas voters are not falling for it. On top of that, you are making us a nationwide joke. Who else lets their constituents freeze to death and then tries to limit their ability to vote?

Ed Wuensche

Self

Cypress, TX

HB 3: As mentioned before: Voting should be easy and cheating should be hard. Voter ID should be required on all mailed in ballots. Mail In ballots should only be given

to those over 65 or disabled or other similar exemptions.

Voter harvesting should not be allowed, since it allows individuals to collect many ballots through intimidation or without voter's knowledge. Poll watchers should be close

enough in the voting area to see what is going on. Dead people should be deleted from the voter rolls continually with the funeral home sending the notice to the county and a non partisan voter inspector for followup. At the end of the year each funeral home should send a record of all funerals for the past year and an inspector verifying to the county that all the dead people have been deleted. All voting machines should have detail record of all votes and not be connected to the internet. A camera system should be installed for the vote counters in a special area and be online. Anyone needing voter ID would be able to call the county if necessary to pick them up and get a voter ID. Doors would be locked when polls close. All the voting machines should be on a camera system online when polls close and no one would be able to get in without a random police person letting them in for a valid reason and that being on a continuous camera system online. No voting should be able to be entered into in any area

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with an outside command.

All voting machines should be checked for 0 votes before voting starts and verified in writing by an inspector and both parties and the machine should be kept under camera system on the interest until voting starts .Also after voting stops, for 24 hours or until the machines have been examined for vote count accuracy, the machines should be under a camera system online Anyone causing a wrong vote intentionally would have committed a felony and should have due process immediately. Each of the above points should have individual assigned responsibility with penalties for not carrying out the rule including forfeiture of position and felony for willfully disobeying the rule I believe the above rules will allow everyone to easily vote and have a honest election Voting should be easy and cheating hard. .Hopefully, the above helps to accomplishes that.

Deborah Morgan

Self

Austin, TX

The government in the state of Texas has erected obstacles throughout the voting system, and when you compare the comfort and convenience of voting in Texas with other states, Texas ends up at the bottom of the list. Texas maintains an in-person voter registration deadline 30 days prior to Election Day, has reduced the number of polling stations in some parts of the state by more than 50% and has the most restrictive pre-registration law in the country, according to the analysis.

I thought Texas was about freedom and less restrictions on individuals yet we see more restriction happening all the time. Allow people to vote during election times 7 days a week for those that need the flexibility. Allow mail in voting for people that are handicapped or older. Texans deserve better than what is occurring with this bill!!

Chuck (Charles) Gray, Ph.D.

Chuck Gray, Ph.D. & Associates

Sugar Land, TX

How many potential voters would this bill disenfranchise for every case of voter fraud? I am a proud Texan who believes in honesty and democracy as priorities. I will vote against anyone who supports false claims of voter fraud and encourage all I know to do likewise. Please put election honesty ahead of partisan interests.

JANIS REINKEN, ATTORNEY

SELF / ATTORNEY

AUSTIN, TX

As written, I oppose HB 3.

Free and fair elections cannot happen without the clerks, election judges, and local officials who manage the election process. This critical issue should be foremost in the election security / voter suppression conversation, but it seems eclipsed by the justifiable uproar over tactics to marginalize voters and minimize voting.

Texas and other states have rushed to create legislative hurdles for voters. These unnecessary restraints on registration, ballot by mail, in-person, and provisional voting need to be eliminated. Also, there need to be enough election workers to handle procedural duties. The paperwork cannot manage itself.

Nobody can vote, unless reliable people are willing to serve as election judges, clerks, ballot board reviewers, ballot counting and processing teams, early voting clerks and county clerks. We depend on their availability, integrity and honesty. They must not be denigrated, harassed, or prosecuted for actions undertaken in performing this public service.

Partisan poll watchers must not be allowed to take over the election process inside or outside of the polling places and ballot processing centers. Observe, yes – control, no. They are not election workers, and their oath of service is not required in Texas, although it should be.

Federal, state and local laws are crucial for protecting election officials and workers, inside and outside the polling places, and

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before, during and after an election. Intimidation or threats cannot be tolerated. The people who manage the election process from start to finish are your guardians of democracy. Without them, there are no ballots to be counted, and no election results to report. Texas laws should respect and protect election officials and workers in all regards.

Mark Trahan, Dr.

Hays County Democratic Party

Kyle, TX

My name is Mark Trahan and I am a resident of Hays County. I am also the chair of the Hays County Democratic Party. The average voter turnout rate for Hays County for the last 17 years prior to 2020 was 53.88%. The turnout for the 2020 election was 71%. This is miraculous. Almost a 20% increase in voting for the 2020 election.

The turnout rate across the country was also miraculously higher than usual. The 2020 election saw a 10% higher voter turnout rate than 2016. If the goal of democracy is to hear the will of the people, then by and far, the 2020 election was a massive success. A massive success.

I watched as faithful and committed volunteers worked at polls and administered the process of the election. These workers were dutiful and diligent and they volunteered their time and work. It is the work of these noble election volunteers that make our democracy possible.

Overall, HB 3 makes it harder to vote, including reducing access to people who are vulnerable to disenfranchisement, including black and brown communities, Native Americans, and those with disabilities. It also creates criminal penalties for good people who work hard to administer our Democratic elections. It favors poll watchers over poll workers.

Voter access needs to be expanded. If we are to address polarization, mistrust, and issues facing our state, we need to tell the truth that the election was successful.

In the end, I'm concerned that this legislation will further divide, reduce voter access, and create more disdain for governance. Penalizing good people, who volunteer their time and effort to make democracy work is not the answer.

I implore you to expand voting access, support elections by protecting election workers, and ensure that the freedom to vote is eligible for all Texans.

Jane Malin, PhD

self

HOUSTON, TX

I am against HB 3 because it suppresses legitimate voting by encouraging intimidation of voters and election workers, and because it creates new administrative barriers that make it harder to vote, especially for minority, disabled or elderly voters. Voter intimidation reminds me of the poll taxes that Texas kept in place far too long. Intimidation is still too common. Recently poll watchers have been recruited to go into districts where they do not respect the voters. The bill introduces several intimidating and vague criminal offenses. It also increases the authority of poll watchers to disrupt and harass election workers and voters, by making it harder for election judges to respond to voter complaints of harassment.

I am especially concerned about new administrative barriers because I am well over 65 years old and have been made a more informed voter by the process of filling out mail ballots at my kitchen table. My voting will be more difficult and will require me to divulge personally identifiable private information. I see that HB 3 does even more to discourage and discriminate against disabled persons and their assistants. No one should be punished for a simple mistake.

Please vote against this voter suppression bill, which will also lead to costly lawsuits.

Deborah Flanary

Self

Houston, TX

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I support strengthening election integrity. I believe we must set an ethical standard in voting, that means zero fraud and cheating; and voter I.D. and checking all ballots for "real" persons voting is a must. Noone should be able to commit fraud.

Jennifer Batson

self - librarian

Belton, TX

I am 54 years old. Two years ago I was diagnosed with cancer and the resulting treatment left me with a below-average white blood cell count, fatigue, and other physical symptoms. I have always felt it is my civic duty to vote and I stood in line to vote in person during a pandemic because I was afraid of the consequences of using a mail-in ballot when I did not meet the age requirement and was not disabled. I believe there are many people in circumstances similar to mine who would benefit from mail-in ballots whether or not there is a pandemic.

The TX government should be in the business of helping citizens be actively engaged in their democracy - not restricting access to the voting booth. Other states have demonstrated that broad access to mail-in ballots can be an integral part of free, fair, and secure elections. Increased access to the ballot box and election security are not mutually exclusive.

In addition, the proposed changes to the role of partisan poll-watchers are deeply troubling. I trust non-partisan election officials. I do not know what limitations are placed on partisan poll-watchers, but I do know intimidation, disruption, and interference with legitimate election activity need to be avoided if our elections are to be truly free, fair.

Please oppose HB 3 in its current form.

Daphne McCurdy

Self

Austin, TX

We do not have a problem of voter fraud in this country. Our focus should be on making voting easier not harder. Free and fair elections are the bedrock of our democracy.

David Runnels II

Self

Arlington, TX

I am in opposition of HB 3. Among many other things, the bill would ban 24 hr voting, which was an important part of Harris County's successful strategy to increase voter turnout in the county. The legislature should be making it easier to vote, not harder. While election integrity is important, there is no evidence of widespread voter fraud in Texas, so this bill is essentially being created to solve a nonexistent problem. Let's make a bill that makes it easier for people to vote with measures like automatic voter registration or online voter registration, which exists in many other states like Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, and Oklahoma to name a few. Please do not let this bill become law, as it will have a negative impact on voter turnout across the state.

Dominic Juarez

My community

San Antonio, TX

Voting is an American principle and a basic democratic right that should be protected, promoted, and practiced. Republicans need to try to win our votes; not block voting. With their efforts to block us from voting, Republicans are giving Democrats more resources to beat Republicans in elections.

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Ambrosia Azuila

usps

AUSTIN, TX

HB 3 is itself a criminally moral offense against the intent of the Voting Rights Act. The 'no shame all blame' Republican Party is seeking to diminish, dilute the will of the people. Must be stopped. Democrats need to bury and dance over the grave of HB 3.

Ambrosia Azuila

usps

Austin, TX

HB 3 is itself a criminally moral offense against the intent of the Voting Rights Act. The 'no shame all blame' Republican Party is seeking to diminish, dilute the will of the people. Must be stopped. Democrats need to bury and dance over the grave of HB 3.

Nicole Kenley-Miller, Dr.

Self - Stage Director

Baytown, TX

I am a resident of Harris County where I am certified as a VDVR. I am opposed to HB 3/SB 1, because it further restricts and discourages voting when there are already significant impediments to voting in our state. As evidenced in the last major election with 24-hour voting in Texas, this expansion allowed many more voters to make it to the polls, particularly those who find it difficult to vote because they hold multiple jobs. Why would we want to restrict our citizens' access to be able to vote? As a VDVR, I am personally invested in helping to prepare as many voters as possibly to participate in our democracy. It is a sacred right that we have as Americans and Texans. It is my goal for as many citizens to be able to vote as possible. By enacting this legislations, you would be effectively undoing the work that we VDVRs spend so much of our time volunteering to do. And on the topic of voter registration, why would you not want to automate voter registration? Why would you want to ban that? The current system is so lugubrious. A VDVR has to get certified in each individual county. In a place like Houston, that could require up to 5 or 6 different trainings and procedures, just to register voters. And recently in Harris County, there has even been a reduction in the number of dropoff places for the completed registrations. I now have to drive 45 minutes to get to the nearest dropoff. If you believe in democracy, you must vote this bill down. We should be passing bills in Texas that expand voter engagement, not that impede it.

D.C. Zamora, Self

Self - Part-time gig worker

Houston, TX

I write in opposition to HB 3 in its present form for multiple reasons. I reside in unincorporated Harris County. As I write this, the public hearing for this bill is playing in the background & just passed the midnight mark. In light of some of the public hearings held during the regular session that ran as late as 4 am & 6 am, I think it's ridiculous to completely ban 1 day of 24-hour voting. A county that wants to do this could certify by an advance date that they have enough workers to staff sufficiently.

I've heard a lot about "consistency" & "uniformity" today. That's a crutch for lazy lawmakers who don't want to acknowledge that Loving County & Harris County elections should not be run 100% the same exact way. Certain procedures do need to be exactly the same. However, no one should make Loving County have the same number of polling locations or the same voting hours as Harris County.

Other provisions I oppose in present form:

- * poll watchers
- * mail-in ballot applications
- * changes to curbside voting
- * ban on "drive-thru voting"

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Much of what I've heard in today's hearing suggests that the current bill author reviewed very little if any of the testimony given for HB 6 and SB 7 in the regular session. This is a failure to learn from experience. The state will be sued again if the bill passes in its present form.

I recommend in the future that House bills numbered above 50 should have two separate hearings, solely on a single bill, so that all parties involved can better preserve their sanity. The first hearing should be for legislator questions of the author and the invited testimony component. The second hearing should be for public testimony. I really felt for the advocate for disabled voters whom I could hear testifying in the midnight hour as I typed the first portion of these comments. I'm certain that some will protest that "we've always done it this way," but my response to that is "this is summer 2021 & you have the resources & enough intelligence to make needed adjustments."

Thomas Sims

Self

College Station, TX

I am opposed to this bill. It will make voting more difficult in the state of Texas and, as a result, less Texans will go to the polls to vote. Our democracy should encourage all voters to have their say in our government, and we should be trying to make it easier, not harder, to vote.

Timothy Ross, Finance/Insurance/Salesman

I am Representing myself.

Cypress, TX

Honorable Speaker, and Representatives, my name is Timothy Ross. I am testifying on behalf of myself.

I oppose this bill because it makes it harder to eligible Texans to vote. Among the many harmful provisions, this legislation would:

- Prohibit election officials from distributing or soliciting absentee ballot applications
- Ban drive-through voting (except for voters eligible for curbside voting due to disability)
- Ban early voting sites not located inside buildings
- Ban 24 hour early voting, and sets permissible early voting hours (6 AM to 10 PM)
- Require voters to supply their driver license number or SSN4 on mail ballot applications and mail ballot envelopes, which must match the corresponding identification number on file. This would also be a privacy concern by making voters include sensitive personal information on the outside of mail-in ballot envelopes
- Give partisan watchers special rights to intimidate voters and disrupt polling places, while limiting the ability of poll Judges to provide a civil polling place free from coercion and intimidation where voters can peacefully exercise their right to cast a ballot.
- Create a vague criminal penalty against "vote harvesting" that could encompass ordinary interactions between campaigns and voters
- Make it a felony for someone to be paid to assist voters who vote by mail (with a limited exception)
- Require voter assistants to complete additional forms and oaths under penalty of perjury

House Bill 3 (HB 3) would further:

- Impose additional, needless barriers for voter registration
- Prevent local election officials from proactively and accurately informing voters about their voting options
- Limit local election officials' ability to adapt their offices' procedures to unforeseen circumstances and local conditions such as the current pandemic
- Prevent local election officials from providing voting resources based on their knowledge of local needs and voting patterns.

I MOVE the Texas House to oppose this bill in its entirety because it is a shameless attempt to make voting in Texas harder, especially for communities of color and young voters. Voting rights are the bedrock of our democracy. The state should be doing everything it can to ensure every eligible voter can cast a ballot, instead they want to restrict access. Last year's increase in voter participation shouldn't be seen as partisan—it should be seen as good for our democracy. HB 3 is dangerous, anti-democratic, and must be blocked.

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Tracey Robnett, RN, IBCLC, BSN, Mrs.

Self, registered nurse for over 3 decades, lactation consultant for 4 years.

Kingwood, TX

Stop. Just stop. We don't need criminal penalties for election officials doing their jobs. Voter fraud is infinitesimal. Out of 146 million votes between 2000 and 2012, there were 10 cases of fraud.

We actually need more voting in Texas, not less. Texas is near the bottom for voting as it is. Plus we have the most restrictive voting laws already in the country. As a nurse, I work at least 12 hour days and being able to vote after I'm done with work would be fantastic. We should have 24 hour days to vote during early voting. My adult children have jobs and school and it would be wonderful to go vote in the early evening. Considering some schedules, being able to vote at midnight or 2 in the morning would be great.

We also need more drop off boxes not one per county. Harris county is a county of 4.7 million. It's an insult and a joke to voters to have one box per county. We should have several boxes per city. Coworkers of mine with high risk factors for Covid were very happy to use the drop off box for their mail in ballots in 2020 and I was very happy for them.

We also need more early voting days, not less, and election day should be a holiday. We could call it Patriot Voting Day.

I would also like to mention, our retired teachers need more than just the occasional thirteenth pension check. They haven't had a raise in 12 or more years. They worked hard for their pension and they should be paid well, not forgotten.

I'm also still pretty ticked off with the taking of \$5 billion on federal education monies and diverting it to the rainy day fund in 2011. We lost good teachers at the high schools where my children were attending due to the cuts in education that year.

I'm really disappointed in the focus of this emergency session. We should have on the agenda the expansion of Medicaid in Texas. We are one of the states with the highest uninsured rates. We should be able to provide an electric double breast pump to new mothers in a timely fashion instead of using a manual pump for 30 days. If they had Medicaid, they would have a pump that same day and would be better able to provide human milk for their NICU infants. It works out less expensive for the state and the country to support postpartum mothers in their breastfeeding goals.

I'll be keeping up with how y'all vote. I'll be sure to share the news with my friends, coworkers and family.

Thank you for coming to my TED talk.

Michael Thornhill

Self/retired

Fort Worth, TX

Increasing criminal penalties for VOTING? Creating criminal offenses for VOTING? Controlling who supervises registered people VOTING?

Do you hear the words coming out of your mouths? I can't perceive anything more un-American than attempting to restrict the vote! Your Mama's, bless their souls, would have slapped the taste out of your foul mouths.

Texas' future depends on encouraging more legitimate voting for all. The Constitution is not adversarial. It embraces the differences in Texans which make this state great. All inclusive discussion, debate and compromise. These are the foundations of democracy.

Do not approve HB 3 and disenfranchise the future.

ARMANDO Trevino

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N/A

League City, TX

I oppose HB3 and any legislation that makes it harder for any Texan to vote.

Janet Dudding

Self

Bryan, TX

Please vote no on this bill.

Gregory Klimaszewski

Self

Frisco, TX

I support strengthening election integrity.

Kathryn Williams

Self/ Indivisible Tx Lege

Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Kathy Williams and my zip code is 78726. I am representing myself and Indivisible Tx Lege in opposing HB 3, the voter suppression bill. In my 55 years of political activism, this bill and its siblings are the worst attack on Voting rights I've seen. My opinions are based on my service as an election worker. HB 3 requires trained and sworn election workers to allow an unlimited number of untrained and unsworn partisan poll watchers to be close enough to workers and voters to see and hear everything that goes on in the polling place except the voters' actually marking the ballot. The most absurd comment I've heard is that poll watchers are the "eyes and ears of the public." Nothing could be further from the truth. Poll watchers are partisan, political operatives. They are the eyes and ears of parties and candidates. Trained election workers swear an oath to the constitution to protect voting rights. We are responsible for conducting free and fair elections. We work long hours for little pay. We do this as a service to our country.

HB 3 erodes election judges' ability to provide a safe and efficient polling place and subjects them to costly legal liability. Every candidate and party on the ballot has the right to appoint poll watchers. Untrained partisan poll watchers could grind the election process to a halt if they disagree with the election worker on a complaint or with other poll watchers. That is a recipe for confusion and delay. Many election sites are small. Some barely have the space for election workers, equipment and the number of queues needed to provide for the various poll activities. Delays cause short tempers. In this era of ugly and violent civic discourse, this bill invites chaos at the polls. That will drive away voters and election workers. That's disenfranchisement and suppression. Do your job. Help us vote. And vote to kill HB 3.

James Allee, Cpt. (Ret)

Self - retired USMM

Sandia, TX

Only legal votes shall be counted.

All legal votes should be counted.

Gloria Youngblood

Self/retired

Midland, TX

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I am strongly in favor of HB 3 for election integrity!

Jennifer Carnell

Self

Garland, TX

I represent myself and my mother in opposition to this Bill. I am an above the knee amputee who uses a wheelchair. I live with and take care of my 80 year old mother, who is on 24/7 oxygen. We both rely and depend upon curbside voting. I have lived in Dallas County most of my life. (In fact, I grew up in the same house that my mother, grandmother and great-grandmother lived in, Dallas Oak Cliff)

I have been a past Dallas County Election Poll Judge. We already know the effects of redistricting, “red lining”. This Bill will destroy many peoples opportunity to vote. Voting is the fundamental difference in Democracy, the right to choose who shall be our representatives, aka “self governing body”. Any attempt to thwart that process is not simply wrong, it’s un-Constitutional. I am one of the “We The People”, who believe in the promise “a government Of The People, By The People and For The People”. This Bill attempts to subvert the process of “free and fair elections”. I urge the legislators to rebuke this Bill, to do anything possible to refute this. This is not how We Texas.

Zenobia Joseph, U.S. Citizen

Self

Austin, TX

1. Position: I am against HB 3 “relating to election integrity ... increasing criminal penalties; creating criminal offenses.” There is no standardized poll watcher training; “near enough to see and hear” is overly broadly; and a poll watcher has “free movement.” An ex-felon off paper—even a murderer—gets a second chance and may serve as a poll worker (Texas Election Code, Sec. 11.002), but a presiding judge violation creates criminal penalties—no second chance!

2. Opposition: I oppose Lines 1-13 (p. 13): “A watcher is entitled to sit or stand ... near enough to see and hear the election officers conducting the observed activity ...(e) Except as provided by Section 33.057(b), a watcher may not be denied free movement where election activity is occurring within the location at which the watcher is serving. (f) In this code, a watcher who is entitled to ‘observe’ an election activity is entitled to sit or stand near enough to see and hear the activity.”

3. Federal Law: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on "race, color, or national origin under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance" (USDOL, 1986).

4. Poll Watcher Recommendations: Conduct a disparate impact analysis as requested July 10, 2021/5PM by Sen. Royce West— noting without standardized training, the state faces a “precarious situation.”

a. Distance: Require poll watchers to stand 6 feet from voters, election workers, and voting booths.

- Justification: The 2019 novel coronavirus 6-foot new norm is ideal for poll watchers, too.
- Analogy: The military uses an arm’s length to “dress right dress.” Give voters at least personal space distance.
- Implementation: Minimize conflict; include standardized measuring tape and orange tape in election materials statewide.

b. Training: Require standardized statewide training for poll watchers, presiding judges, alternate judges, and election clerks, simultaneously, with a certificate. Create a 1-hour video for last minute election workers with Texas Election Code provisions and poll watcher/voter distance scenarios and a training certificate before taking the oath.

- Implementation: Require the Secretary of State to create training materials with an online certificate to certify that all election workers completed poll watcher training to minimize conflict. Review personally identifiable information law(s) and consider including personal information only inside a mail-in-ballot envelope, not on the outer carrier envelope.

c. Low-/No-Pay vs. Criminal Penalties: HB 3 protects poll watchers but penalizes presiding judges who earn \$12/hour in Travis County, for example. Primary Elections pay \$0 for 4-hour required judge training. HB 3 erodes the judge’s authority and emboldens partisan poll watchers who moves freely. “[A] presiding judge may call law enforcement,” but constitutional carry

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may result in Black/minority deaths. Please balance competing interests. ~Thanks. zcj

Christopher Lanzillo

Self

Richardson, TX

To falsify a citizens vote in any capacity is treason against our great country and should be punished as such. In my opinion, HB3 should use more severe punishment for treason, not a lesser charge. It should be a felony offense.

Alejandrina Guzman

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Alejandrina and I am a physically disabled Latina woman, committed to fighting for my disabled siblings across Texas. I am writing a super short written testimony to simply say: I am against HB 3 because this suppresses my vote. This past election cycle (Nov. 2020), I curbside voted for the first time. It was quite an adventure; I zoomed 1.1 miles in my power wheelchair to my polling place, then dealt with atrocious sidewalks and no sidewalks, then tried getting through overgrown shrubs. Every time I go to vote, a privilege to do so, I always need assistance. Now, with more restrictions and hurdles to even receive assistance, there will be a chilling effect that people will hesitate to help me. Let me remind you that the Americans with Disabilities Act, a federal civil rights law, entitles me to receive assistance to vote. Entitles me; and here I am writing a testimony pleading you all to oppose this atrocious bill. Again, I urge you to oppose HB 3. Thank you.

Brittany Wright

Self

Lubbock, TX

There was and is not enough fraud in elections to continue to make it more difficult for people to vote. This state has consistently made it easier for privileged Texans to vote and ensure the votes remain in favor of one party over another.

Quincy Dunlap, President and CEO

Austin Area Urban League and Self

Austin, TX

H.B. 3 Murr relating to election integrity and security, including by preventing fraud in the conduct of elections in this state; increasing criminal penalties; creating criminal offenses; providing civil penalties.

Black African Americans and other marginalized groups are still facing significant barriers to equitable and inclusive voting opportunities in the State of Texas. Texas SB1 is voter suppression and class warfare in practice. A healthy representative democracy can be measured by how many citizens legitimately and morally participate in the political process. If this is the case, Texas is afflicted with Acquired Voter Suppression Syndrome (AVSS). Voter turnout rates in Texas elections at all levels for non-white privileged voters, range from bad to abysmal. If you as a Texas elected official, is a supporter of HB3 then in the Texas House or the Senate you are a failed public servant who hides behind the veil of protection offered by your success in elections. Courage as an elected official demands that you do not behave like we are in 1861 when no Texas power broker offered the truth that the Emancipation of slaves was offered 2 years prior. As an elected official you ran on a base of constituents who supported your campaign. You took an oath of office to execute those duties to the citizens of the State of Texas not just your conservative base. For all purposes and intents, Texas is reimplementing its history of voter suppression and civil exclusion actioned during the Reconstruction and Jim Crow eras respectively. Voters are to be "declared free" and "living free and voting legitimately" two completely different concepts. To this day, Texans suffer from the plague of discrimination and racism, particularly in this representative democracy arena. In my opinion, if you vote in favor of Texas SB1 your next step as a supporter of tBHB3 would be to implement exclusion if you can legally make that happen. The Texas Secretary of State's office said the registration total

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was 16,901,784 with zero(0) cases of convicted voter fraud. The question is, Who will you be at the end of this session? How far will you go with the Big Lie of a stolen Election in 2020?