

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1300

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

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Hearing Date: April 1, 2021 8:00 AM

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Klint Bush, Liberty County Elections Administrator

Self

Liberty, TX

It is important for parents to teach their children about voting. If we instill the importance of voting in young people, when they do turn of voting age, they will be prepared to make good, informed decisions and the importance of voting. I do support this bill as it decriminalized children from voting with their parents. In Liberty County, we have had over 300 kids vote in the kids' ballot a separate ballot from their parents. The choices are hamburgers versus pizza and such, but it is important to get young people excited about voting at a young age. This bill encourages parents to get their children involved in the voting process, start to finish.

Martina Sutton

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I support HB1300 WITH reservations:

I support this bill since it allows a person's under 18 child to assist a parent who may have some permanent or temporary inability to physically read and/or fill-out the ballot him or herself and there are many Texas voters who have these needs for assistance. However, perhaps there should be some minimum age limitation for this. Certainly, most children of high school and middle school age would be reliably able to assist their parent but most elementary school age children might not be as reliable/capable. So perhaps a minimum age limitation of 10 years old?

Judy Cocchiarella

self

FORT WORTH, TX

Those who occupy a voting station or a child should NOT be reading and/or marking an election ballot. We need our elected officials to stand up and fight for us. The previous election was stolen by fraud and criminal activity. Only the person voting should be reading and marking the ballot.

Carolyn Watts

Self/anesthetist

Houston, TX

People who commit fraud in elections should serve a long prison time.

Patricia Jowell

Self/retired

Orange, TX

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I support HB1300

Jacqueline Brown

Self

Non-Hispanic or Latino, TX

I feel very strong about this issue as I am the caretaker for my elderly aunt. When taking her to vote in the 2020 Presidential Election I was not allowed to help her in the voting booth, although a "helper" at our voting location went to the booth with her and basically distracted her from concentrating on the voting process and machine. I believe there should be assistance provided to the elderly but it should be in the form that is easy for the voter to use without human interference.

Richard Smith

Self

Corpus christi, TX

I vote no.

Cody Northam

Self

Baytown, TX

Vote yes. Our election system needs tightening to prevent any potential fraud.

Julie Kellogg

self

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote no, only legal voters over the age of 18 should be allowed to mark or cast a ballot. It's fine to take a child with you, but voting must be taken seriously, it important to instill the seriousness of that right and responsibility in children.

Michelle Hewitt

Self office manager

San Antonio, TX

Vote NO

Marcela Martinez

Self

Weslaco, TX

Yes!! It's only fair way

Shawn Flanagan

self/retired

Corpus Christi, TX

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Please vote no. This bills is not needed and add ability for fraud to occur. Vote NO

Sherry Gause

Self

Palestine, TX

If a person needs assistance to vote I believe they should be accompanied by someone at least 18 years of age and have a valid I.D.

John Sefcik

self

Fairview, TX

March 30, 2021

RE: Reject HB 1300

In my opinion, HB1300 should be rejected because voter fraud penalties for adults would not act as a deterrent to minors. The current voter assistance procedure is adequate and already available at the polling place.

I ask that you vote against this bill in its present form and against its provisions in committee and on the floor of the House.

John Sefcik

(972)365-4394

jds@sefcik.net

Member of the Republican Club at Heritage Ranch

[www.republicanclubattheritageranch.com](http://www.republicanclubattheritageranch.com)

Sylvia Randles

Self

Kendalia, TX

Vote Yes

DONNA EYLES

Self

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Vote no. I do not believe the child should be able to read or mark the ballot. A translator, who has taken an oath, should be utilized.

Tommie Lee Jr

Self Electrician

corpus christi, TX

Vote NO! A child under 18 years of age should not be assisting voting process.

Jessie Carlson

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self

Corpus Chrsiti, TX

Vote no. There is no reason a person under the age of voting should be messing with a ballot at all. That just sounds shady.

Pamela LePage

My self as a voter in Texas

Fort Worth, TX

Vote Yes - prevents marking ballots by other than the voter, ie children, and "helpers"

Joyce Battaglia

Self

Webster, TX

We need to go back to ONLY voting in person. Mail in ballots is what destroyed the last election. I , myself, received at least 3 ballots in the mail and I KNOW I was not the only one. There are plenty of people and organizations to get a person to the voting station.

Judy Lamb

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

We need to run a transparent elect

Carol Burnaman

Self - Retired Accountant

Farmers Branch, TX

I have seen this done in a Democrat precinct. It would be nice to have a law on the books for us to cite!

Tracy Morgan McNeill

Self retired veteran

Abilene, TX

All voters should be American citizens and provide a legitimate form of identification. No one except military outside the US and ill/handicapped, or elderly (80+ } with a SSN, should be allowed to vote absentee.

Carla Reeves

Self

Cleburne, TX

Those that are reading and marking ballots should be watched by both parties and if caught cheating should be watched to keep from cheating.

Jakey (buddy) Saunders, Mr.

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Self, Internet retail business

Arlington, TX

I, as a citizen and voter, want and expect Texas elections to be fair and honest. Because I believe there is an effort by some to win elections through fraud, now more than ever in our nation's history, I support any and all efforts to insure fair and honest elections. Thus I fully support HB 1300.

Stacey Hill

Self, retired

San Antonio, TX

I agree with this bill, my light husband was legally blind and he would have been more comfortable with our children helping him properly mark his ballot as opposed to a poll worker. I understand poll workers can also serve in this capacity but I feel our own child would be more trustworthy and we would feel more comfortable with that.

patrick gerval

individual

Fort Worth, TX

paper vote the only way to prevent another election from being stolen by the Demorats

Karen Cairnie

Self

Montgomery, TX

Please support and vote for this bill.

Tammy Blackwell

Self/retire, VP for Walker County Republican Women

Huntsville, TX

I vote YES (especially HB 6), but **HERE IS WHAT SHOULD BE ADDED** to ensure we have fair and honest elections in the future:

?No electronic voting machines or computers tabulating results should be connected to the Internet or to any network vulnerable to hackers.

?Paper ballots and voting machines must be audit-able and accessible to the legislature, and to citizens via an FOIA and/or Texas Public Information Act request.

?Require voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots.

?Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations. (No deceased or duplicated voters and no non-resident voters)

?Limit absentee voting to active-duty servicemen and those with a medical disability verified by a doctor within 90 days and identify-checked by a notary.

?Limited number of days for early voting.

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Crysti Hubbard

Self

Arlington, TX

Disagree

Mark Mathiews

My self

Converse, TX

I am against this bill. In my opinion it would help to allow voting fraud

JAY HALL

Self / Contractor

SEGUIN, TX

In-person voting with photo ID

Prohibit public officials from distributing unrequested vote-by-mail applications

Ban ballot harvesting

Increase poll watcher

Mrs Iona Gorham

self

Dickinson, TX

Absolutely no one should be marking a ballot except the person whose name has been identified rightfully.

Mary Kaarto

Self, retired

Missouri City, TX

Please don't vote for this bill to pass. It seems like everything the Democrats are doing is meant to hurt our country and "stick it" to former President Trump. The man is no longer in power and if they would focus on helping the American people rather than doing everything they can to benefit themselves in all future elections, perhaps there would be something to hope for in the future. Thank you.

PATTI Burt

MYSELF, A CITIZEN

Hutchins, TX

ONLY THE PERSON OCCUPYING A VOTING STATION SHOULD HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH OUR BALLOTS AND NOT THAT PERSON CHILD

Denice Carnes

SELF

McAllen, TX

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Vote Yes - prevent marking ballots by other than the voter, ex: children, and "helpers"

Steve Warrington

Cos

Driftwood, TX

Do it

Charles Simmons

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill.

Victoria Hanson

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

HB 1300

Vote No on HB 1300

Having a child read and/or mark a ballot for a parent in a voting station must constitute assisting that voter (parent) and that child must fill out required forms identifying themselves. Additionally, a child under the voting age should not be voting just because they are with a parent.

Patricia Evans

Self - Nanny

Bacliff, TX

As a citizen of the United States of America, I agree with fairness and integrity in our voting system. I agree with investigating anything suspicious. I agree with having elections monitored.

RUTH GARD

SELF

FORT WORTH, TX

Reading and marking of a ballot must be completed **ONLY BY THE PERSON WHO HAS BEEN DEEMED ELIGIBLE TO VOTE** (Evidence that they are a Citizen of The United States of America; with photo ID) **AND THAT PERSON MUST BE THE ONLY PERSON OCCUPYING THE VOTING STATION---** no one else!

Robert Straiton

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote no!

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Being under 18 does not make it ok for someone to help someone to vote. An adult child should not help and elderly parent and neither should anyone else

Eileen Webb

Self

Allen, TX

BY PERSON ONLY. NO CHILDREN.

Janna Spreeman

self

Houston, TX

Our votes must be protected and allowing someone else to mark your ballot removes that protection.

Richie Grant

Arklatex Assessment

Texarkana, TX

Di not allow this. It opens the door for changing votes

David Park

Self

Amarillo, TX

Anyone exercising their right to vote, should cast and "mark" their own ballot.

Winter Edwards, Ms.

Self/Realtor

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote NO! There is no reason for minors, not yet experienced, or fully formed, to be entrusted with such an awesome responsibility. This idea is a travesty and leaves an even wider, gaping risk of fraud than anything else we currently have on the books. The people who make this stuff up seem to have a deep hatred for the sacredness of our votes.

Tom Haskin

Lange Ranch

Calliham, TX

If they cannot read and speak ENGLISH, they should not be allowed to vote ! The only reason for 'voting station Manager to mark a ballot for a voter is if the voter is incapable of holding a pen to mark the ballot. (That should be kept in the notes of the manager to be turned in to authorities with total ballots)

william reeves

Self Retired

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portland, TX

We HAVE to protect against fraud and double counting.

Jared Torres

Self father husband Texan and essential worker

Flower Mound, TX

I completely support this bill and ask that Beto and all those who maliciously desire to destroy Texas and turn it into California be completely ignored and that the will of true Texans like my self and all the other who voted for the constitution who believe wicked men are trying to corrupt our government be heard. Beto and his allies are simply enemies of Texas and liberty seeking to undermine the great people of this great state! Please hear us, I have a 4 year old son and a 2 and a half year son and another on the way. I'm 31 trying to start a family and own a home and I fled California because of people like Beto and all those who oppose this bill. They know this doesn't hinder minorities... maybe illegal immigrants but everyone has an ID and personally most people don't want someone with no real identification to be voting. Only they do and that's why they are so adamant on attacking this much needed bill for civility and peace in Texas!

Jeffrey Caudell

Self

Red Oak, TX

I support adding this amendment, but believe the age should be reduced to 13 years of age instead of 17.

Blair Foster

Self

McKinney, TX

Votes should only be counted by individuals who are registered to vote and have a valid ID; and those individuals should make their own choices when voting, without the assistance of any other individual. Protect the integrity of American democracy a passing thve

Kimberly Young

Self

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Vote no! What are you thinking? Why should qualified election attendants not be able to assist these people but an underage child can? Allowing a child under 18 to read and mark a ballot for a parent that is apparently unable to vote for him/herself is akin to voting for that parent. And there's no limit to how far under the age of 18, according to this bill! So, a 3-year-old could "read" and mark the ballot? A child under 18 is not allowed to vote for him/herself, and that is exactly what this bill is encouraging. Look at your own child: would you want to allow your child to vote for you? Most children can't even support themselves until after age 18, and some can't until much later in life.

Thomas Cramer

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote no. Kids these days have their own ideas, given to them by the school curriculum and the media, which aren't founded on our generation's honesty, hard work and patriotism. Letting a child under 18 "assist" a parent...does that mean 5 years old, 15 years old, whatever the age of the child? They're not able to take care of themselves, so why should they be able to vote? And

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that's exactly what it is. Voting. How many of you have kids or grandkids that don't share your values? My point is made.

Denise Lockwood, Ms

Self

Galveston, TX

A person needs to present a photo ID and a photo ID needs to be required to vote. Ballots should be paper and not digital.

Denise Lockwood, Ms.

Self

Galveston, TX

A person's child cannot be allowed to vote for that person. Only the person who is registered to vote should be allowed to mark a ballot.

James Fields

Self Retiree

Jersey Village, TX

No person should be allowed to correct a ballot for any reason.

Jan Clarence

Self-Employed

El Paso, TX

I do not support this.

Karla Bevel

Self - Public Schools Teacher

Greenville, TX, TX

A person who has sight difficulties or reading difficulties should receive assistance. As a public school teacher, I have read countless state mandated tests to students. That did not nullify their answers or speak to their intelligence ... it spoke to their reading difficulties. Unfortunately, in this state, we also have adults who cannot read - their vote is just as important as anyone else's and they should be treated with dignity.

Reuben Leslie

self, retired

Austin, TX

This bill affirms common practice and should be approved.

Cheryl Lamb

A concerned Texas Viter

El Paso, TX

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This has a negative impact on disabled persons, the elderly, and persons with a language barrier. A vulgar attempt to allow everyone a free and fair vote.

Michelle Mostert

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

I OPPOSE HB-1300. No one under 18 years old should be assisting anyone at the polls. Thank you.

Kimberly Carlile

Self Director of Purchasing Higher Education

Amarillo, TX

NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 should be voting period. Minor Children can accompany parents to the voting machine but should not be allowed to cast votes.

George Coyle

self

Bowie, TX

I support election integrity and support HB 1300

Elizabeth Exley

Exley Farms

JARRELL, TX

A child should not be in the voting station at all until old enough to vote!

Catharine Wall

Self; Unemployed/Retired Teacher

Austin, TX

I support this bill.

Elizabeth Dominguez

self/Speech Language Pathologist Assistant

Weslaco, TX

I am in favor of HB 1300.

debra price

self

Mico, TX

Thank you for working to ensure that every legal ballot in Texas is counted.

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Linda B Frank, Mrs  
TTYRRW  
Tomball, TX

Please keep our elections from election fraud and thank you for all you do for US!

Diana Millsap, Mrs.  
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Sulphur Springs, TX

I am not sure which way this bill is leaning. However, whoever is reading and marking a ballot should show bi-partisan, marking it honestly regardless of which side they stand for. No child should be marking the ballots. Each party should be able to observe the actions of the ones marking the ballot. And it should be at a close enough range to eliminate any thoughts of cheating. Never should one party be able to keep the other party from observing. So, whichever this bill is referring, I hope you will vote in honest, bi-partisan way. Not for what helps your party win.

MICHAEL FOSSUM

Self, engineer

Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill, and I ask you to oppose it too. This is just an attempt to create a loop hole for voter fraud. Please oppose this bill. Thank you.

Allison Winter  
self

Spring, TX

My name is Allison Winter, 31 Day Lily Place, Spring 77381. I am representing self.

I am against HB 1300 because:

Anyone assisting a voter should be required to fill out an oath of assistance with appropriate documentation including one's child. I do not have a problem with a child under 18 assisting their parent should it be needed and the parent designates their assistance, but the oath should be taken and documentation recorded as would be the case with any assistance provided.

Zoila Vega-Marchena, dr  
self, engineer

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. Child shouldn't be able to mark the ballot. Child could be a 15 year old high school student that is a leftist activist. Help when needed should be provided by the official in the room and recorded (what helper entered on the screen, the final vote). Poll workers shouldn't be allowed to help with the actual vote entering. It should be the official in charge.

Kathryn Williams

Self Retired

Austin, TX

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I support this bill

Zenobia Joseph, Educator

Self

Austin, TX

HB 1300 (Neutral). I strongly support the author's intent but have one recommendation to strengthen the bill based on my experience in overcrowded Title I schools (60%: Hispanics, 40%: African-Americans) as a former Teacher of the Year in Austin ISD.

1. Excerpt: Lines 7-11. "(b) a child under 18 years of age may accompany the child 's parent to a voting station and may read or mark the ballot at the direction of the parent. Reading or marking a ballot under this subsection does not constitute assisting a voter for purposes of Subchapter B."
2. Recommendation: Amend bill language on the Floor to include in loco parentis (e.g., grandparents).
3. Anecdote (Special Memory): I went to the polls as a child with my great-grandmother. As an adult, I became an election official (e.g., Presiding Judge, Alternate Judge, Election Clerk) and also served as a Volunteer Deputy Registrar. Today many minority children are raised by grandmothers/grandparents, in part, due to incarcerated parents. Including in loco parentis would make HB 1300 more inclusive.

Thanks.~zsj