

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1622

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

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Hearing Date: March 18, 2021 8:00 AM

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Kellye Duncan

self

San Angelo, TX

Dear Committee members,

Election integrity is vital to every community & county across our great state regardless of party preference. We must maintain our voter ID laws and have other means to maintain the truth in all elections. If we must show an ID to purchase beer, wine, alcohol, tobacco, BOARD AN AIRPLANE, cash a check or any other multiple times, we must prove who we are when voting. I would hate to learn that my mother had voted - she has been dead since 1997. I would hate to learn that my neighbor had voted even though he is not a registered voter. Please review with your heart the logical and legal methods to ensure our elections are true and fair. Thank you for your service to our great state of Texas!

Robert Scott

Self - Retired

Colleyville, TX

I object to this bill as a limitation to voting rights and application of more open elections. This practice is in place in a number of states and there have been no documented cases of unwelcome outcomes (including fraud). I encourage extension and openness in voting registration and voting practices. When more Texans vote, democracy wins.

Larry Ringler

Self-retired

Portland, TX

I fully support this bill, which allows the public to lodge complaints against early voting clerks who don't report mailed votes or votes by personal appearance in a set timeframe. Please vote for this bill.

DONNA EYLES

Self

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

A voters should definitely have the right to file complaints against a voting clerk who is not doing their job properly. This should apply to both early voting clerks as well as those working on Election Day. And obviously, the Secretary of State should keep a record of those complaints on file and the proper authority should then determine whether a case should be brought against them, following the new bills/laws calling for more stringent punishment. Election integrity is paramount to our voting system.

Please vote YES for HB 1622.

Eric Mann

Self

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Dallas, TX

support

Barbara Harless

self/retired

Murphy, TX

Please pass HB 1622

As a longtime election judge (since the late 1900s), and a poll watcher at central counting station (2016, 2020) I emphasize the positive points of HB 1622...

Keith Ingram testified to your committee on March 4th that 87% of ALL Texas votes cast in 2020 were in early voting. If we wish to ensure integrity in the counting of our votes, then the same stringent checks and balance we apply to Election Day votes should certainly be applied to early votes, if not more so.

Each DEPUTY election clerk (aka early voting judge for in-person voting) is responsible for accounting for each ballot cast and spoiled each day at their polling location. This is good and proper. It is a simple procedure to also charge these deputy election clerks with the same responsibility as those of the Election Day Judges – and that is to print the results tapes of their precinct/polling place at the close of their poll on the last day of early voting, and require 2 signatures from the election workers on the paper results tapes, just like the Election Day Judges and clerks do. If the reported canvassed results differ from those observed by the deputy election clerks or any poll watchers present during the printing of the tapes, a complaint may be filed with the Secretary of State, as HB 1622 proposes.

Also of great concern is my observation as a poll watcher in Central Count in November of 2020; the tabulation of the early votes and processed mail in ballots prior to the close of the polls on Election Day. This has been done several hours prior to 7pm on Election Day night. This procedure leaves too much room for the vote counts to be manipulated prior to reporting to the public at 7pm Election Day.

Please pass HB 1622 as it allows registered voters a responsibility in the accurate counting of their votes.

scott mesmer

self

corpus christi, TX

There needs to be a rapid response system that provides a process to tackle problems prior to the certification of the votes. Applying pressure and removing threats post certification is too late please vote for HB 1622

Julie Garcia

self

Corpus Christi, TX

Please vote for HB 1622. Accountability is important in Government sectors. Timeframe, record keeping and accuracy and attention to work is essential. We must hold this standard across the board. Please vote for HB 1622..

John Takacs

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

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Early voting totals should not be presented before polls close but should be available to the public on the day of the election or the day immediately following.

Dennis Botkin, Quality Engineer

Self

Richardson, TX

I am asking you to support and to pass this Bill HB 1622

Develops a tracking system when counties do not timely report early voting tabulation results according to law. This bill helps keep us from being like Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin - need we say more?

Ken & Janis Friedrich

Self retired

Doss, TX

We strongly support this bill.

Celinda Singley

Self - Insurance Agent

New Braunfels, TX

I strongly urge you to support 1622 - this bill will help ensure transparency and honest vote counting in Texas counties.

Jesse Suarez

Rabalais I&E Constructors

Corpus Christi, TX

This seems like a reasonable effort to keep election officials accountable by providing transparency via a complaint tracking system on which officials are not reporting vote totals on time. Please vote yes on HB 1622.

Pamela Oglesby

None

Cedar Park, TX

A true democracy should make every effort to minimize the obstacles to voting and maximize the turnout of eligible voters. I worked the election polls last fall and saw no evidence of voter fraud. If people didn't have the proper ID or failed to bring their mail in ballot to vote in person, they would return home and bring back the correct documents. It has become obvious that the efforts to further suppress the vote by creating more hurdles is ant-democracy and a power grab.

Sarah Shah

Self

Houston, TX

I strongly support HB 1622. This bill develops a tracking system when counties do not timely report early voting tabulation results according to law. The early voting process provides many opportunities for fraud. It is important to make sure that early voting tabulation is conducted in a timely manner to reduce opportunities for interference, vote manipulation and illegal activity.

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Kathy Williams

Self, retired

Austin, TX

Support substitute with correct substitute.

Paulette Armstrong

retired/self

Plano, TX

I recommend that the Texas House Election Committee approve HB 1622 to go to the state legislature for a vote. This bill insures that early voting and mail in ballots are recorded and submitted to the local precinct authority at the time of the local election so that there is a record of the total votes for each candidate. This ensures that vote counts cannot be changed after the date of the election. It also provides a procedure for early voting clerks who do not comply. Voters want transparency and assurance that elections are conducted with integrity.

Lana Moody

Self

Dallas, TX

I support this bill.

Roy Smith, Pastor

Self

Florence, TX

Please pass this bill

BUD CAWYER

SELF

Hideaway, TX

I BELIEVE TEXAS MUST EVERYTHING LEGISLATIVELY TO ENSURE OUR ELECTIONS ARE HONEST, TRUE AND OPEN TO HONEST SCRUTINY! I THEREFORE REQUEST THAT YOU APPROVE THE ABOVE LISTED HOUSE BILLS TO ENSURE OUR HONEST AND TRUE ELECTIONS!! THANK YOU!!

Bianca Gracia, Mrs

Latinos for America First, Latinos for Trump, Lideres de la Comunidad, and Americanos Conservative United

Pasadena, TX

Our organization of over 10k members and 2k Hispanic Evangelicals support this bill.

Marcia Steickler

WilcoWeTheePeople, wilco Voter, Wilco GOP Delegate, Wilco Election Day Field Tech Support

Austin, TX

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This bill will PREVENT any Election Official to “peek at the data” as our Election Administrator Chris Davis was quoted as saying in local papers and in District Clerk Judge Lambeths 425th District Court. EA, Chris Davis testified that on Monday, Nov 2, 2020., the day before Election Day that he “peeked at the data” and saw that the reports did not reference Precinct Level Data as required by TEC/SOS laws. Our EA via his Data employee Brandon, contacted the ES&S Tenex Software vendor who quickly created a software fix to resolve the pct level data software glitch. They then pushed the fix out and the fix was uploaded on to the e-poll books the next morning, Election Day, when the judges/clerks arrived at the polling locations and first turned on the ePoll books. I witnessed this software fix being uploaded to several ePoll books the morning of Election Day. In fact, many locations were delayed in opening the poll on time at 7am because the ePoll books were taking a long time to upload the software fix.

The judge ordered EA, Chris Davis, Wilco Central Count to be re-opened and the EA to start a chain of procedures requiring a manual sort of 234,810 Early Voting In Person Paper Ballots. Although the Judge also ordered Chris Davis to notify ALL candidates affected by the resort/rescan, NO candidates, to my knowledge, NONE were ever notified by Chris Davis regarding the Resort.

The EA would not allow poll watchers to watch the sorting process and turned a poll watcher away when she showed up to do so. Even though Judge Lambeth ordered ability for poll watching, the poll watcher was told that poll watchers could ONLY watch when Central Count started AFTER the precinct sorting process was completed. No poll watchers were present when Chris Davis & staff broke the seals on the blue ballot boxes and manually sorted 234,810 early voting in person ballots without ANY oversight. I was temporarily employed by the Wilco Election Department to help the sorting process. There were over 35 people hired to do this as well as the majority of the ElectiDepartment full time personnel. The recount sort process was described by our Election Administrator as “controlled chaos”. It took several days to complete this process with no oversight or ballot chain-if-custody that I witnessed. I then was sent as a poll watcher and watched the Central Count ReScan process. Poll watchers should be allowed to be present during any unsealing, sorting or recounting / rescanning of ANY Central Count activities. Peeking at the data, although SOS claims is currently legal for Counties with 100k people or more, should NOT be allowed. What went on related to the Wilco Nov 2020 Election process in was unconstitutional, and much of what transpired, I have been told, is a violation of Federal Election Code and Texas Election Code. I believe this bill would prevent the EA or anyone from peeking at the data prior to the Election Night 7pm close and prevent what went on in Wilco.