

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 2546

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Hearing Date: April 8, 2021 8:00 AM

Crisarla Houston

Self, Attorney

Houston, TX

Texas voters have a right to vote that should not be limited. Please do not pass voting laws that make it harder for people to exercise their constitutional right to vote. We are watching our leaders, and we will not be deterred from voting. We will work hard to vote out leaders who limit people's ability to vote in any way. Thank you.

Anthony Underwood

Self

McKinney, TX

Annual Voter Roll clean up will assist against the potential for voter fraud

Richard Mouser

Self, Software Consultant

Dime Box, TX

I am writing in support of HB 2546. After sitting through about 15 hour of pubic testimony in the Elections Committee for HB 6, it is clear to me we have some serious problems with voting procedures in Texas. Cleaning up the voter roles and providing penalties for those who resist should be a priority. If anything, the bill as written allows too many chances to county clerks that drag their feet and delays implementation too long. Please move this bill forward quickly, before we lose our republic.

George Clement

self

Austin, TX

My name is George Clement. I am representing myself and I support HB2546. We've all seen accounts of irregularities in respect to voter rolls through the years, and unfortunately this last election was no exception to that. This bill would help maintain cleaner voter rolls by helping enforce timely voter roll maintenance by laying out responsibilities, expectations and penalties for lax maintenance... all very good things in my opinion. Please support the bill.

Thanks

George

Carrie Moore

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote yes- assisting the SOS with oversight of voter registrars is a good thing

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shawn flanagan
self/retired
corpus christi, TX

Vote yes, excellent bill. Makes it more likely to have accurate voter rolls.

Larry Ringler
Self-retired
Portland, TX

Vote YES to ensure court clerks and voter registrars are operating lawfully by setting steps the SoS will take for an offenses, including audits and requiring training on maintaining voter rolls.

Jessie Carlson
self
Corpus Chrsiti, TX

Vote yes. This will help the Secretary of State better enforce our voting laws.

Liz Biesel
Texas Eagle Forum
Dallas, TX

-) Transparent, audit-able elections with access to everything for forensic analysis , including ballots, machines, reports, databases, internal communications
- 2) Vote tabulation must be based only on the paper hand count
- 3) No federal jurisdiction in Texas elections
- 4) Clean, legitimate voter rolls and legitimate voter registration procedures
- 5) Only 3 days of early voting w/ no gap between EV and Election Day
- 6) No waivers by SOS, Courts, or Governor w/o legislation voted on by TX legislature.

Amanda Friedeck, Mrs.
Silver Star Food Stores/BRANDS Marketing Group, LLC
Alice/Jim Wells County, TX

I am in favor with HB 2546. Please consider to pass this House Bill to cut the loopholes in the election system.

Jo Foley
Self N/A
Henderson, TX

I support HB 2546. I am asking the committee to bring forth HB6 and vote it out of committee to calendars. It is an extremely important bill. Word is that our House Republicans have become weak toward this bill due to democrat voices bombarding them with negative views. Please do not submit to that. We NEED HB6. Please review during this hearing and vote it out of committee.

Richard Smith
Self
Corpus christi, TX

I vote yes

DONNA EYLES
Self
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Vote yes. Everyone should do their job properly, but we all know that doesn't happen. Voter clerks, registrars... need oversight.

Zora Burkleo, Retired
Retired
Dallas, TX

Asking to vote For HB 2546

Kimberly Bridges Young
Self, Retired
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Vote yes! Although court clerks and voter registrars may be operating within the law, for those that aren't, this bill addresses that. It implements steps the SoS will take for offenses, to include auditing the accused's county voter records as well as requiring training on maintaining voter rolls according to the law. If the SoS is going to take the heat for all Texas' voter registrars, then this bill helps the SoS better manage those registrars.

Melissa Spence
Precinct Chair
Allen, TX

I am in support of this bill to help improve our voter rolls and to improve our election integrity. I feel that the progressive discipline for clerks or registrars is fair and allows for honest mistakes with training, but then with repeat offenses there are penalties.

DANIELLE CONVERSE
Self
Portland, TX

Please support House Bill 2546! Keeping accurate accounts of registered voters is imperative to secure and honest elections. While the vast majority of court clerks and registrars do a fantastic job, Texas must have a process to address those who are not. The escalating enforcement allows those who may need additional training, experience, or resources the opportunity to correct deficiencies. I support that clerks or registrars failure to comply after more than ample opportunities have been given, may escalate to a criminal offense. Thank you for your service to the great state of Texas!

Thomas Long
Self - Geologist
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Wichita Falls, TX

Wichita County voter registration data indicates a total of 83,993 registered voters. 589 of these registered voters (0.7% of all registered voters) list the same primary address: 1530 P B Lane, Wichita Falls, TX. This is the address of a single family dwelling. An online "Commercial Mail Receiving Agent" business is being run at this address, with mail forwarding and mail scanning services. While these services are legal, it is the responsibility of the County Clerk to ensure that registered voters use their residential address in the county. Of the 589 voters registered at this single family dwelling, 181 voted in the 2020 general election, and 99 of these voted by absentee ballot. I support giving the secretary of state the ability to enforce that county clerks perform certain voter roll maintenance procedures. Perhaps then we would eliminate out-of-county, or out-of-state, or even foreign nationals from voting in our elections.

Jensen John, Mr.

self

McKinney, TX

I support maintenance of accurate voter roll for election integrity and preserving trust in our democratic republic.

Rebecca Hill

Self-Acupuncturist

Austin, TX

Yes Please!

Victoria Hanson

self - retired

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote yes on HB 2546

To ensure voter rolls are maintained accurately and within the law, investigating those who consistently mishandle this important duty is a good safeguard.

Marlow Newton

Self

The Woodlands, TX

Dear Congressmen and Congresswomen,

I fully support HB 2546. Accurate voter rolls are a critical component for honest and fair elections. I support incorporating requirement for training and consequences for not adhering to the requirements to keep voter registration lists up-to-date. Consequences will have a positive impact to ensure local and county election officials are handling their roles responsibly.

Sincerely,

Marlow Newton

Kara Trissel

Self

Jonestown, TX

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Voter roles are imperative to clean and fair elections. I saw the work they need first hand in November. Please vote yes for HB2546. Thank you.

Sally Fiveash

Self

Carrollton, TX

I believe that cleaning up the voter roles is one of the strongest steps the legislature can take to improve election integrity and I support this bill. This does not infringe on any qualified voter's right to vote or ability to vote and it is hard to understand why anyone who wants to see clean elections could oppose this measure. Please stand strong on all of the voter integrity bills so that when millions of Texas citizens cast their votes they know that they are not being cancelled out by any fraudulent votes. Thank you.

Sylvia Coulson

Self Dietitian

Waxahachie, TX

I am for this bill. It helps secure our elections.

Gwen Withrow, SREC SD 4

SREC Texas Republican Party

Beaumont, TX

voter Integrity is the number one priority of the people of Texas. All are concerned that the system is not working as it should. We need laws like this which will give the people confidence in the system. We thank Representative Jetton for responding to the cry for voter fraud protection. Please vote this bill to the floor for a full vote.

Susan Hamilton

Convention of States

Pittsburg, TX

Support HB2546: Election Integrity Bill - Our votes should not be diminished by caving to the will of big corporations and their shareholders. I am a voter, I AM a resident of Texas, my vote SHOULD count.

1. It is of utmost importance that the voter rolls are cleaned up every year, and that there be punishments given for those that do not adhere to the laws that are currently on the books and the ones that will be passed in this legislative session. Hopefully, HB6, this one, SB7, and HB1314 will all pass and give the voters confidence in those we elected - to represent the will of the people that elected them.

2. Having the trust of the voter should be important to the legislators. The tax paying, law abiding Texans need to be heard, and need to be represented by those that we elect to represent us. Otherwise, you are not ruling by the "Consent of the Governed". We, in the Convention of States, are teaching others to be self governing.

Susan Hamilton, District Captain, House District 5, CoS

Tom Holman

Self

Austin, TX

With out valid and verifiable voter registration status votes don't matter! I support the Bill!

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Amy Huggins

self

Houston, TX

I fully support this bill and ask that you vote YES. The voter rolls must be maintained regularly to assure that only registered voters in Texas vote in our elections. When people move or die, they must be removed from the voter rolls. There should be no dispute about that--only legal voters. VOTE YES! Texas needs to lead the way on voter integrity

Michelle Anderson, State Organizer

State Organizer

Dallas, TX

I Ebony Johnson write to you representing myself and The Afiya Center. Why are we changing a perfectly fraud-free election system which would only create more voter suppression? This suppression will definitely be seen and identified in communities that have been historically left without their voices being heard. The results of creating criminals will not and should not be the avenue in which we treat the elections process, instead, elections should be transparent in the fact that person/persons may not and can not leave their homes, have debilitating illnesses and numerous reasons why being present is impossible. These and others should not be punished. Senior's, disabled, low-income communities need access to better voting procedures and ballot protections. There is not add to an already seamless system that has shown no voter fraud.

Shantia Reese

Self

Austin, TX

Corporations are not people and do not get to vote with their dollars. People are people and use their voices to vote in the ballot box. These laws are anti-democratic and you need to increase access to voting and not to limit it, "We the People" choose our leaders that govern us, making the voting process harder goes against our constitution. These are new Jim Crow Laws of the time to prevent The republican party thinks it should be easier to own a gun than it is to vote. You said that you are for common-sense laws that protect voting. In the U.S. Constitution, it is a right and a privilege, and your party is trying to limit that, which is disturbing as you condemn democrats for adding in gun laws that protect people from dangerous weapons. How are the proposed bills by the republican party for Texas common-sense bills? They are restricting access because you all want to control who elects you. If you want to protect voting rights for the people, you will get rid of the redlining that limits and determines who represents us in the senate and house that disenfranchises minority communities by lumping them into districts Republican voters. You would be allowing their voices to be heard by creating a system that allows them to vote for who they want. I am for increasing access for more people to vote and not less. It should not be harder to vote in this country or state than to buy a gun. Voting allows us to determine who decides how our government will function to protect us; buying a gun allows you to hurt people with that gun. It appears that the Republican party is aiming to control who has the ability to put them in power but the most recent laws that add restrictions to voting. There has been no evidence of voter fraud from the 2020 election, and your party choosing to use the Big Lie to enact these restrictions is Ludacris. The slogan is "Don't Mess with Texas" please refrain from altering how Texans choose their leadership by enforcing laws and restrictions that do not help the people use their voting rights. You should vote in favor of S.4263 - John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and you should also make the election day a state holiday. Hence, individuals get the day off to have access to go vote, and service workers (who work in groceries, fast food, etc.) who cannot get off can submit absentee ballots and cast their votes. This would be the correct way to ensure all Texans and Americans can use their right as there is no voter fraud with the system we have other than when the Russians hacked the 2017 elections when Trump won, and those investigations were not changed. It appears that republicans only want to change voting laws when mass amounts of minority people use their voice. You should be voting yes on the John Lewis voting rights act as it is clear the federal government cares more about protecting voting rights than many state leaders. We need to stop putting party over people and have more social ethics when creating laws.

Barbara Kelley

TEXAS VOTER

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New Braunfels, TX

I RESOLUTELY SUPPORT HB2546. TEXANS ARE RELYING ON OUR LEGISLATORS TO REPRESENT ALL LEGAL VOTERS SO THAT NO TEXAN'S LEGAL VOTE IS DISENFRANCHISED. ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHO BREAKS ELECTION LAW HAS COMMITTED A CRIME AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF TEXAS. PLEASE ENACT THIS LEGISLATION.

Charles Cox

Charles G Cox, MD

LAGO VISTA, TX

Support HB 2546

We are now seeing the results of major election fraud on the national level. We can't let this happen in Texas. It is critical that Texas follow other states and set the example for secure elections, otherwise the republic is lost. Please bring forward HB 2546 for a vote which will strengthen the penalty for many activities resulting in fraudulent vote results. It's now or never.

Alexandra Schilling

Fort Bend County Republican Party Precinct 1008

Wallis, TX

In Favor - We must secure the integrity of our elections to assure everyone that every legal vote counts.

Julie Kellogg

self

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote yes, this re-enforces that clerks and registrars are trained and are in compliance, protecting our votes matters for all of us.

Teresa Campbell, Precinct Chair

Precinct 4113

Fort Worth, TX

We strongly support this bill! We must make sure our elections are fair and accurate. I'm happy to assist in voter roll updating! We are watching our Representatives!

Jayne Boyer

self

Georgetown, TX

I am writing in support of HB 2546. This is common sense legislation that should have been done years ago. Nothing is more important than honest and accurate elections. The people who hold positions that can negatively impact honest and accurate elections should be held accountable. The repercussions of failing to properly do the job must be severe enough to be an absolute deterrent.

Tanya Robertson, Senate District 11 SREC

Republican Party of Texas

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Taylor Lake Village, TX

IN FAVOR of HB 2546

The below language came from the Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priorities as voted on by thousands of Republican delegates in 2020 along with similar language below that was overwhelmingly approved by millions of Republican Primary voters!

Legislative Priority: "Require citizenship verification of each voter, and felony penalties for Election Code violations that threaten election integrity."

2020 Republican Primary Prop:

Texas election officials should heed the directives of the Office of the Governor to purge illegal voters from the voter rolls and verify that each new registered voter is a U.S. Citizen.

(Received the MOST 'YES' votes out of all ten 2020 Republican Primary Ballot Props)

Yes – 98.36%

No – 1.64%

Every illegal vote cast cancels an eligible vote. That is the definition of voter suppression.

We urge passage of this bill!

Thank you for your time!

Char Doonan

Self, Retired

Winnsboro, TX

In support of this bill.

Bradford Holland, MD

McLennan County Republican Party

Waco, TX

To the Honorable Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the McLennan County Republican Party, and as a member of the McLennan County Election Commission, I urge your support of HB 2546. It is critical that we increase the penalties for infractions against the election code.

In my own county, in Election 2020, we had an Election Judge who was breaking the law and derelict in her duties. She was not subject to any scolding or reprimand officially at all. This was preposterous.

This bill will enact needed changes that those of us at the county level in Texas need. I ask you to support this bill and that it make it to the House floor for a vote.

Thank you!

Cordially,

Bradford Holland, MD McLennan County Republican Party Chairman

ROSALIE CRAIG

Printed on: April 26, 2021 12:01 PM

self

Rhome, TX

I am a registered voter in the great State of Texas. I am Speaking in FAVOR for the bill.

Election integrity is paramount to safeguard the faith Texans have in those we elect to office. Clear penalties & enforcement mechanisms are what's needed to give violations teeth. HB6 not only achieves this goal but creates layers of checks & balances to make it a fair process.

Allison Winter

self

The Woodlands, TX

I strongly SUPPORT HB 2546. We need the enforcement of the SOS to assure proper maintenance of our voter rolls with the logical steps and warnings to the county clerks. Three warnings is appropriate and I support state jail felony for those that continue to ignore the law to clean up voter rolls.

Anne Grinols

Self - retired

Waco, TX

Every fraudulent vote cancels a valid one—that is voter suppression! The roles must be constantly updated so that only legitimate voters vote. This is an important element of election integrity. How can any legislator take a stand otherwise? How can any legislator take a stand against election integrity? I strongly encourage every legislator to support and pass this bill — to demonstrate that you stand with the vast majority of Texans who want integrity in our elections.

Mark Dorazio

Self

San Antonio, TX

I am in FAVOR FAVOR FAVOR of HB 2546 Thank you

Donna Nichols

self/nurse

Clifton, TX

I support this bill

Staci Mendelsohn

self

Plano, TX

I am opposed to HB 2546 and want you to vote no to this bill. It threatens elections administrators with state jail felonies for violating unclear and undefined standards (the same felony class as criminally negligent homicide). The bill continue to criminalize every aspect of the elections process. We rely on members of our communities to run smooth elections as election officials, poll workers and voter assistants. These bills add and expand criminal penalties for making honest mistakes.

Jennifer Mathews

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self

Porter, TX

I strongly support this bill. We need to ensure that our voter rolls are accurate and that there are incentives and penalties in regard to their maintenance. This should not be a partisan issue. With a rapidly expanding population we need to make sure that our rolls are accurate and secure - just like our elections should be overall.

Rachal Hisler

Self

Anahuac, TX

Texans support the maintenance of voter rolls by the SOS. People who attempt to defraud our voter rolls should face a criminal offense.

Robin Hill, Mrs

Self

Arlington, TX

I was born in Houston and have lived in Texas all my life. I ask you to please vote FOR HB 2546. After watching the 2020 voting debacle, it is clear that we need to protect our election integrity now more than ever. This bill will help to insure that elections in Texas are above reproach. Thank you.

Charles Lamping

self

Frisco, TX

As we found out last year, election integrity and voter roll maintenance are critical to our state and our republic.

Lisa Nilsson

Self, Bexar County Republican Election Integrity Committee

Boerne, TX

I support this bill. The right to vote must be treated as more valuable than money because true and lawful elections are the linchpin of our Republic. Criminal penalties have become necessary to discourage unscrupulous and fraudulent behaviors in every area of the election process. The technology exists to verify voters and the whole of our State Departments and offices should work together to prevent every type of eLlection fraud.

Maureen Riebel, Mrs.

Self

Boerne, TX

Dear House Representative Jetton,

I am all for people being prosecuted/penalized when they break voting laws. If there is no penalty - then people feel - "Why not do it - if there are no repercussions?" I am sorry - but having penalties is the way of the world. I support HB 2546

Veronica Morales

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Self

Dallas, TX

Please vote NO to changing anything about the current voting process.

Kathy Turner

self, retired

McGregor, TX

I support this bill. Greater oversight by the Secretary of State is needed to maintain accurate voter rolls that are uniformly maintained. Penalties deter inappropriate or illegal action.

Kathryn Williams

self/retired

Austin, TX

OPPOSED - So many of this bills are assuming bad will on the part of so many people. As a retired journalist who has covered 30 years worth of elections, and in retirement has served as an election clerk, a voter assistance hotline worker, a volunteer deputy registrar. I have never seen any evidence of voters or election worker of any party try to commit fraud. I have seen many older people in tears because they didn't understand some provision of election laws. Their concern, to a person, was how can I avoid even the appearance of impropriety. I think these bills, especially the ones that intensifies criminal penalties make mistakes much more likely on the part of election officials voters and voter assisters. I have seen no facts that suggest such Draconian laws are needed and that would cure such problems if the did exist.