

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 3276

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

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Hearing Date: April 8, 2021 8:00 AM

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Robert Edmonson

self; real estate brokerage

Dallas, TX

Voter ID required; no Dominion voting machines permitted; 2-party polling station oversight; no ballot harvesting.

Robwer Edmonson

self, real estate sales

Dallas, TX

Support

anthony green

NAACP

Waco, TX

Please vote against SB7 this bill negatively effect all Texans.

Rebecca Mallory

Self, Administrative Coordinator

Manor, TX

In order to protect the integrity of our elections, I believe we must implement a system of controls set in place to ensure that votes are recorded as the voter intends. The strongest effort to secure and protect the ballot from the time of submission throughout the process of tabulation and as far as the retention of records is realized, should be a top priority. Every effort should be made for dual control from both sides of the major parties as well as a third independent controlling body. Audits should be able to be conducted to measure quality control and results should be held until counts are confirmed by both parties and certified by the independent controlling body. Guidelines should be established and adhered to by polling officials, election judges, auditors and observatory parties as well as the independent controlling body. As an American Citizen I should be able to trust and have faith in our election process and our elected officials should welcome such safeguards. The only reason to oppose such measures is nefarious in nature and should not be tolerated.

Darlene Towe, MRS

SELF

Pampa, TX

ALL voter ballots should be protected from fraud, manipulation, and abuse by certain individuals to alter said ballots, and therefore DESTROYING honest, hard working individuals ballot that has been put in what they believe to be trusted officials

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Marga Matthews

Myself

Baytown, TX

Need to stop the ballot harvesting!!!

Lisa Hale

Self

Liberty Hill, TX

In favor of

JOHNNY KOPECKY

Self--Engineer/Executive

Montgomery, TX

I support the concepts contained in HB 6 and respectfully request your vote in favor thereof and further request that you add, and vote for:

- 1 Requiring voter identification for mail-in and absentee ballots
- 2 Routine verification of voter rolls and new registrations

Crisarla Houston

Self, Attorney

Waco, 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.

James Clark

Voter

Dripping Springs, TX

Very little 2020 election fraud was investigated and prosecuted. Some are intentionally denying the facts of electronic vote manipulation. Why?

We are fed up with “business as usual” state politics. We demand stronger statewide oversight, fraud reporting, training, and standards for all officers, observers, poll workers, or volunteers involved in elections. We must have real-time transparency of all voters and audits, increased security and preservation of records, deterrents, and reduced opportunity for fraud; much more severe penalties for violators, and more prosecutions. Only lawful Texas resident citizens with current picture state ID should participate in any aspect of our elections. We demand 100% transparency and auditability of all: ballots, records, systems, logs, hardware, and software, to include contractors, all persons at polling stations, service providers, and manufacturers; no judicial or executive waivers ever, including SOS!

1. 100% Transparency and Auditability: Real-time accountability for open audit of voting records, and active security deterrents with much higher penalties for voter fraud, and the highest mandatory penalty for election fraud (over 20 ballots). Increase ID standards; instant fraud detection; real-time reporting of dead, duplicate or ineligible voters.
2. Early & Absentee Voting: Early voting must be eliminated or limited to no more than 2 days. End the gap between early

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voting and Election Day or early release of data; Sunday and Monday before an election day only. Voting Absentee should only be allowed for: (A) in-state residents with a severe physical disability, verified by a doctor within 90 days, and identity-checked by a notary, and (B) Texas resident active duty or activated military reserves outside the State on Election Day. Allowing anyone to vote absentee has opened the door to blatant and rampant fraud.

3. Restrain Computer Usage: Computer election fraud is real. We must return to paper ballots. Outlaw internet connection for all voting systems. Tabulation must be based only on the paper hand count (double-verified, certified by a supervisor with commissioned observers present, and mandatory state audits, all under severe penalties for fraud), no tabulation on computers except for real-time audit, ballot reconciliation, detection of fraud, dead voters, duplicate or repetitive voting, ineligible, or unregistered voters.

4. Federal & Tech Restraints: We demand a resolution that provides severe criminal penalties, fines, arrest, or expulsion for any non-resident, to include any federal agency or social media entity that advocates for or attempts: voter registration, vote-by-mail, application distribution, prison registration, ballot distribution or harvesting, computer intrusion, foreign or external intervention. We DEMAND that federal overreach into Texas elections is stopped.

Garland Henderson, Mr.

self

San Antonio, TX

I am in favor of HB 3276 relating to the security of voted ballots.

Phillip Ward, Mr.

Self

Rosenberg, TX

Elections should be as secure as possible

Sonya Perry, Mrs.

the silent majority/self/ teacher

Rowlett, TX

To Whom it may Concern,

I believe every election or voting process should have voter ID, and that we should go back to paper ballots that can be traced and verified by hand. We should never have any electronic devices that are accessible by the internet or that are produced, manufactured or designed by a foreign entity involved in our elections. All current electronic devices should be removed from our elections at all levels of voting unless they can be retrofitted with electronics, software and parts that are produced, manufactured and designed by the United States of America. No foreign entities should have any knowledge of the design, production or manufacture of our election devices. Voter ID is an absolute necessity for everyone who is registered to vote. Only citizens of this country/state should be allowed to vote in any election held in this nation, including but not limited to local, state and national elections. All ballots should be clearly marked with an official ballot seal, the candidates name, party affiliation and office they are seeking to hold. Some local level ballots in the 2020 election did not have party affiliation designated on the ballot. All ballots should be further verified by fingerprint and facial recognition from a verified state ID. These concerns for security of voter ballots should be taken very seriously by our elected officials now, in order to secure any future elections. Texans will not stand for any voter fraud, interference or illegalities before, during or after an election. We are watching our elected officials and the actions they take in these matters and we will act accordingly in the next election.

Thank you,  
Sonya L. Perry

Karen Marx

self, educator

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TX, TX

Ms. Button,

One of the things I really respect about you is your presence in the community and your availability to your constituents. I would ask that you use that love of community to ensure that the entire community has the most reasonable opportunity to vote. Voter security is not a problem in our state, and additional restrictions to correct a incredibly minor problem opens the Republican party to the accusation of voter suppression. I ask that you vote no on HB 3276, and all related bills that increase restrictions on voter access.

Thank you,  
Karen Marx

Richard Smith

Self

Corpus christi, TX

Vote yes. The more security the better.

Carrie Moore

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote Yes- we need more security for chain of custody for ballots. Police are more qualified to protect ballot integrity.

Jessie Carlson

self

Corpus Chrsiti, TX

Vote yes. Securing our ballots is one of the most important parts to trusting any election, this must pass.

shawn flanagan

self/retired

corpus christi, TX

Vote yes, improves election security

Larry Ringler

Self-retired

Portland, TX

Vote YES to better protect voted ballots with trained police officers instead of "security guards." Additionally, using video surveillance at the central counting station further protects those ballots, and should be expanded to include every move of those ballots even before they get to the central counting station.

Ruth Chambers

Myself, retired.

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New Braunfels, TX

My concern is mainly with HB 6 which I did not see on this list--I want HB 6 brought up for committee vote ASAP!  
Please keep Texas elections protected and honest. We need transparent, auditable elections. I'm part of New Braunfels  
Conservatives--  
this is the number one issue on our minds. Thank you!!

Amanda Friedeck, Mrs.

Silver Star Food Stores/BRANDS Marketing Group, LLC

Alice/Jim Wells County, TX

I am in favor with HB 3276. 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 3276. 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.

Victoria Hanson

self - retired

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote Yes on HB 3276

I agree with having video surveillance of areas containing voted ballots as records for future edification of any questionable behavior within the central counting station. This refutes any he said/she said questions regarding debatable actions by any party participating in the election counting process.

Thomas Cassidy

Self

Richmond, TX

I am in full support of election integrity

DONNA EYLES

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote yes. This just makes sense in today's world. This would ensure no tampering occurs - or if it does occur, that the people tampering can be identified and dealt with.

Carmen Prince

Precinct Chair 3023

Coppell, TX

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Please vote in favor. Thank you.

Suzanne Payne

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Security of our ballots, especially after this last presidential election, is of the utmost importance. America should have security at our voting stations. Obviously, licensed law-enforcement officers would be an asset to this process.

DANIELLE CONVERSE

self - manager

Portland, TX

Please support H.B. 3276. It is critical to the voting rights of myself, and all Texans who can legally vote, that our elections be conducted with the highest levels of integrity and defensibility possible. A licensed peace officer has taken an oath to defend our constitutional rights, and will hold them in high regard when entrusted with such an important matter as securing ballot boxes. In addition, as we saw in Georgia in the 2020 Presidential election, video surveillance will provide a safeguard to Texans, knowing that if any ballot tampering has taken place, evidence of the crime will be available. Video surveillance will also deter any election interference.

Kimberly Bridges Young

Self, Retired

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Vote yes! A licensed police officer is certainly more qualified than a "security guard" in protecting voted ballots! Having video surveillance at the central counting station to further protect those ballots is exceptional, and should be expanded to include every move that those ballots make even BEFORE they get to the central counting station.

Melissa Spence

Precinct Chair

Allen, TX

I support this bill as it helps provide better security and protection for voted ballots while they are being stored and processed.

Cinde Weatherby, LWVTX Voting Rights/Elections Issue Ch.

League of Women Voters of Texas

Austin, TX

I am Cinde Weatherby, speaking as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas. We speak ON HB 3276. In the spirit of open and transparent elections, our position would be in SUPPORT were we confident Texas Counties will receive funding to install, maintain and operate the required surveillance equipment. Employing video surveillance equipment is much more acceptable than the alternative use of unbridled partisan poll watchers. Peace officers are generally present in these areas. We believe most county election officials already use county's sheriff department personnel as guards.

Rebecca Hill

Self; Acupuncturist

Austin, TX

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This is a no-brainer guys!! Please secure our elections so that only qualified citizens can cast a ballot!!! PLEASE!

Marlow Newton

Self

The Woodlands, TX

Dear Congress,

HB 3276 is pivotal in protecting the integrity of ballots. Video surveillance is critical to ensure that ballot harvesting does not take place and better ensures chain of custody of submitted ballots. I urge you to pass this piece of legislation on for a full vote in the House.

Thank you for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Marlow Newton

Jesse Suarez

Rabalais I&E Constructors

Corpus Christi, TX

Glad to see a licensed peace officer sworn to uphold the law will be required to keep election ballots secure instead of a rent-a-cop or some random Joe Schmoe hired off the street. Video surveillance of ballots is also a great idea. Please vote yes on HB 3276

Bill Sargent, Former Chief Deputy Clerk for Elections, Galveston County

Self

Galveston, TX

I UNDERSTAND THERE IS A COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE IN PROCESS THAT WILL EITHER HAVE THE SECRETARY OF STATE PAY FOR THE COST OF PURCHASING AND INSTALLING THESE CAMERAS OR IT WILL EXEMPTING SMALL COUNTIES THAT HAVE A POPULATION OF 100,000 OR LESS FROM THE MANDATE. ADDITIONALLY, IF YOU ARE GOING TO DO THIS YOU NEED TO INCLUDE THE EARLY VOTING BALLOT BOARD AND ANY SIGNATURE VERIFICATION COMMITTEE THAT MAY BE CREATED.

PREVIOUSLY I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE UNFUNDED MANDATE THE BILL, AS FILED, WOULD CAUSE AND ITS IMPACT ON SMALL COUNTIES; BUT WITH THESE CHANGES I AM IN FULL SUPPORT OF THIS MEASURE.

Rebecca Broughton

Self

Seguin, TX

I am in Favor of HB 3276. This is a must to retain election integrity. It will protect election workers, poll watchers and more. Protecting election integrity is very much needed and will make voters more secure about Texas Voting.

The video cost should not be over 5k for initial buy. Expected cost of 7k to 10k seems like a high range. I would be willing to investigate cost & contact merchant for a discount to purchase all video equipment at once. Discounts should be available for 254 counties. Maybe the SOS should be in charge of purchase.

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Calvin Tillman  
Self  
Valley View, TX

I support this bill.

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 vote no on it as it bans 24-hour voting, it allows poll watchers to film voters, it requires proof of disabilities for easier access of our constitutional right, and allows the Attorney General to purge voters. 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.

Martha Castillo  
Self/Retired  
Woodway, TX

Security in our elections process is critical to our elections process. I support this bill!

Kenneth Moore  
Self - Retired Machinist  
Pearland, TX

I am for this bill. It hardens the election against would-be cheaters and provides a check against election worker mistakes. One need not always assume the threats to election integrity are from persons with bad motives. Please report this bill favorably to the whole house.

Julie Kellogg

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self

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote Yes, protecting elections is critical, and ensuring the proper handling of ballots must be ensured

Caleb Pillado Leon

SELF - Engineer

Katy, TX

H.B. 3276

I support HB 3276. We need assurance that our votes and the will of the people is respected. Accountability through a peace officer to ensure the security of ballot boxes and surveillance is imperative.

Please implement chain of custody.

Michelle Anderson, State Organizer

The Afiya Center

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.

Debby Efurd

Convention of States

Pittsburg, TX

I am in full support of HB6 and all bills relating to election integrity. As a proud Texan, constituent, and volunteer with Convention of States, urge you to vote for And strengthen our election integrity. Our votes should not be diminished by caving to the will of big corporations and their shareholders. We want every valid vote to count. Please don't sell out our great state!

Sandra Dunn

Self-Retired

Riesel, TX

Please vote in favor of proper securing of voted ballots

diana chambless

self

bullard, TX

I SUPPORT THIS BILL. This bill enhances Election Integrity.

For example: In 2020 we saw on national tv videos of poll workers pulling suitcases out from under tables after the poll site was

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closed in GA. Had there been no surveillance we would never had known about this corrupt behavior. I pray all election workers are honest people, but the videos proved otherwise in that instance. However, people act differently when they know they are being videotaped. People who want fair and honest elections will support this bill. People who want to cheat their way into power will vote against it. It's that simple.

WILMA JOY PUTNAM

SELF; RETIRED

GEORGETWN, TX

I SUPPORT VIDEO SURVEILLANCE OF VOTE COUNTING AREAS AND HAVING PEACE OFFICERS AVAILABLE.

The videos of the ILLEGAL counting AFTER HOURS without both parties appropriately represented in both the main counting site in Fulton County, GA, as well as well as at the Philadelphia main counting site were quite revealing. They mus be required at all counting sites in the future.

Kathy Turner

self, retired

McGregor, TX

I support this bill. Election security is of the utmost importance.