

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 3566

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Hearing Date: April 15, 2021 8:00 AM

Virgina Sandoval
Self - Scrum Master
San Antonio, TX

As a Deputy Chair, Precinct Chair and as a voter in Bexar county, I believe it is imperative that a person running for precinct chair or appointed as precinct chair should provide some type of contact information. Such as: phone number & email address. Voters in the respective precinct should be able to contact their precinct chair with questions about the election, candidates, voting locations & more. They should not have to drive to their front porch & hope they are home or via snail mail. It is also pertinent for the Party Chairwoman/man to be able to contact them via phone or email with meeting information and other important matters. I understand that some people do not want their information made public. However, if they want to represent the precinct and county, they must be reachable to the people they serve.

Kimberly Robertson, Mrs
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am in support of HB 3566. This House Bill would allow basic information for Precinct 1121 voters to reach out to me as their Precinct Chair in Bexar County during election cycle(s) or for their election questions.

Ted Santos
3153
San Antonio, TX

Support this bill

Mark Camann, Dr.
Bexar County Democratic Party
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 3566. It does not give advantage to either political party, but it does help the party organization when its elected precinct chairs can be contacted by a more expedient method than by mail.

When a county party organization has a large number of precinct chairs who have no available contact information, it is difficult to achieve the quorum needed for the party to conduct business at meetings of the County Executive Committee. Thus, either party is vulnerable to a large-scale effort by the opposing party to identify registered voters whose contact information is not readily attainable, who rarely vote and who are thus unlikely to respond to mailings, and to recruit them to file for precinct chair for a party in which they have little interest, without any intention of participating. As the organizers of this effort can submit the filed application by mail while remaining anonymous, all the filer has to do is sign the application and have it notarized. When a large number of such precinct chair candidates are elected in the primary, the result would be that the county party is practically inoperable without the ability to reach quorum.

Printed on: April 26, 2021 12:05 PM

In 2018 the Bexar County Democratic Party received a great number of notarized applications by mail during the filing period that lacked any contact information other than the residence and mailing address. One applicant who was unopposed in the primary election later contacted the party in response to multiple mailed notices, and he insisted that he did not want to be a precinct chair and that he never applied to be precinct chair. It is evident that someone else mailed the application in his name and without his permission. While it would require separate legislation to prevent fraud of this type, the incident clearly demonstrates that there was indeed an organized effort to submit precinct chair filings by mail for applicants who did not intend to participate in their county organization.

It is in the interest of both the Republican Party and the Democratic Party to support and to pass HB 3566.

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

Self

Galveston, TX

I agree it is important for voters to be able to reach candidates. However, for the position of Precinct Chair, a candidate may not want to have his or her personal cell phone number widely distributed. This bill requires a candidate for Precinct Chair to provide EITHER his or her phone number OR an email address. As long as said candidate has the choice of providing either I have no objection to the adoption of this legislation.

Kimberly Bridges Young

Self

Crp Christi, TX

Vote no!

Kathy Turner

self, retired

McGregor, TX

I support this bill.

Denise Gordon

Self/ TX Dem Veterans

Round Rock, TX

Please AMEND this Bill. Providing an email as a Precinct Chair is understandable. Providing a Phone Number will no doubt result in even more spam calls than are currently made, please delete the requirement for phone numbers!

Victoria Hanson

self - retired

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote No on HB 3566

Having either an email address or a telephone number seems adequate. Both are not needed.

shawn flanagan

self/retired

corpus christi, TX

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Please support this bill. While not huge it does solve some problems

Elida De La Cruz

Self, Democratic Precinct Chair 3129

San Antonio, TX

I support HB3566. Precinct chairs should provide contact information on precinct chair application

John Goodman

Bexar County Democratic Party

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill.

Susan Korbel

resident and precinct chair #3067

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill. It is necessary to assure proper documentation of candidate qualifications.

Andres Lopez

self

San Antonio, TX

As being a member of a party . last year they had a precinct chair in my area that won . there was no way to contact them to tell about are meets that we are having . If they want elect precinct chair by there party they should leave there contact information . . thank you for your time

Linda Maldonado

Bexar County Democratic Party - Precinct Chair

San Antonio, TX

I support HB 3566. Precinct Chairs need to have contact information on their application.

Jamie Eickhoff

self

San Antonio, TX

This is a long-overdue law pertaining to application for accuracy. In Bexar County we had many precinct chairs apply using addresses other than their true residence in order to become a precinct chair. This causes voter confusion and in some cases a true precinct chair being unelected by someone who doesn't actually live in their precinct. It's fraudulent and has been done in an organized fashion by some groups trying to disrupt our party organization. They should also be required to provide an email address and telephone number.

Rebecca Flores

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Self

San Antonio, TX

This required information is obviously necessary.

Robert Miller

North East Bexar County Democrats

San Antonio, TX

The efficient operation of county political parties requires that precinct chairs, who are the members of the county executive committee, the party's governing body, be easy to contact, both for routine party matters and for urgent campaign-related requirements. Here in Bexar County, many precinct chairs were unwilling to provide full contact information, leading to real problems in contacting them for CEC meetings and for critical campaign activities. I believe that the provision of full contact information, including an email address and a valid telephone number should be required and I urge passage of this legislation.

katrinka hansen, TSgt retired

self

San Antonio, TX

Please support HB 3566. Precinct Chairs applicants need to have contact information.

Anita Medina

Self

Helotes, TX

I wholeheartedly support the requirement of all Precinct Chairs to submit an email address and valid phone number on the application. It is a necessity to properly function as a Precinct Chair.

Ian Straus, Mr.

Bexar County Democratic Party

San Antonio, TX

Currently some ballot applicants for precinct chair do not provide either phone or email. This impedes the citizens from contacting precinct chair candidates so they can ask questions and cast an informed vote. If such candidates are elected this prevents citizens from contacting their precinct chairs to express their opinions and ask for help. These situations undermine the representative nature of this lowest rung in the ladder of representative government, and impede the effectiveness of both major parties. They also impede the parties from easily contacting the precinct chairs. Now in the 21st century we ought to be able to contact every precinct chair by the means that ordinary people most commonly use, and now, unlike the 1950s, those means are telephone and e-mail. Although about 7% of adults do not have email these days, almost everyone has a phone, so the proposed requirement to provide one or the other is not onerous. I ask you to pass this legislation.

Heidi Schoenfeld

Self Retired

San Antonio, TX

As a precinct chair in Bexar County I am an elected official. I represent an area that is defined. My basic personal information should be made public so the people I say I represent know I am a neighbor & how I can be reached, Thank You

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Sara Aranda

Bexar County Precinct Chair 3096 / Self employed

San Antonio, TX

I am in support of HB 3566. This House Bill would allow basic information for Precinct 3096 voters to reach out to me as their Precinct Chair 3096 in northwest Bexar County during election cycle(s) or for their election questions. This information is important to voters in Precinct 3096 since this precinct is in rural Bexar County where John Igo Library (13330 Kyle Seale Pkwy, SATX) is the nearest public library at 7.5 miles of rural road, internet is intermittent at times and no public transportation is available to facilitate a quick trip to the library to conduct research for the voters of Bexar County Precinct 3096. I respectfully thank you for your time.

Amanda Friedeck, Mrs.

Silver Star Food Stores/BRANDS Marketing Group, LLC

Alice/Jim Wells County, TX

I, Amanda Sue Friedeck (Jim Wells County) am in favor of HB 3566. This is so that our elections are transparent, accountable and fair.