

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 3868

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Hearing Date: April 8, 2021 8:00 AM

Lisa Hale

Self

Liberty Hill, TX

Against

Larry Ringler

Self-retired

Portland, TX

Vote YES to require Texas presidential electors to live in the Congressional district they represent, and to require each Elector to swear an oath to "mark my ballots for president and vice president for the nominees for those offices of the party that nominated me."

Carrie Moore

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote Yes- Presidential electors should live in the district they represent. The oath to vote for the elector of my party is important.

Jessie Carlson

self

Corpus Chrsiti, TX

Vote yes. There's no reason an elector should live outside the area they are representing.

shawn flanagan

self/retired

corpus christi, TX

Vote yes, this helps Presidential election security

Richard Smith

Self

Corpus christi, TX

I say vote yes

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

I am in favor with HB 3868. Please consider to pass this House Bill to cut the loopholes in the election system.

Victoria Hanson
self - retired
Corpus Christi, TX

Vote Yes on HB 3868
This bill provides clarification of the selection process of a Presidential elector and provides that person take an oath to “mark my ballots for president and vice president for the nominees for those offices of the party that nominated me.” I agree an elector should be a resident of the Congressional District they are chosen to represent, with the Secretary of State serving as the electoral chair and further simplification of the selection process.

DONNA EYLES
Self
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Vote yes. Texas needs to have full clarity of who can be an elector, clarity of the job requirements and the assurance that electors don't hold multiple government-related positions.

Kimberly Bridges Young
Self, Retired
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Vote yes! This bill strengthens the laws relating to Presidential Electors for the State of Texas. It is more than reasonable to require an Elector to reside in the congressional district they're representing. The best part is the addition of a sworn oath, requiring the Elector to “mark my ballots for president and vice president for the nominees for those offices of the party that nominated me.” That's his/her job, after all, and they should be able to swear to that.

Mark Miller
Self
DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX

I support HB 3868.

I am sympathetic to the concerns of those who feel that their vote (and thus their voice) is diminished by the Electoral College. The dominance of two-party politics in the US makes this concern more significant. Presidential campaigns largely ignore states that vote reliably for one party (such as Texas). Voters in those states justifiably feel ignored and even disenfranchised. Reduced voter turnout is a likely consequence, particularly in states for which elections for statewide offices are held in off-presidential years.

I believe the most egregious problem with the Electoral College is the winner-take-all provision used by all but two states (Maine and Nebraska). Voters favoring the out-of-favor party in one-party states (e.g., California and Texas) most certainly feel disenfranchised when it comes to presidential politics. Not only are these states ignored during the campaigns (except the primaries), but many voters see little point in showing up on election day knowing how their state's entire slate of presidential electors is essentially pre-ordained.

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HB 3868 would deal with this problem by selecting an elector from each of their Congressional districts based on the votes in each district, with the remaining two electors selected based on the total statewide vote. This type of system, already used by Maine and Nebraska, would be in service to Texas voters. Imagine the electoral vibrancy (and voter turnout), that would come from increased local campaigning for both a district's Representative and for President. This would be good for Texas politics and good for the country.

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.

Julie Kellogg

self

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote Yes, this strengthens the guidelines for electors, ensures they are compliant with the expectations

Ebony Johnson, Policy Associate

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

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protections. There is not add to an already seamless system that has shown no voter fraud.

Martina Sutton

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I am AGAINST this bill. It only adds more red tape to the electoral process and adds more possibility of the electorates not voting for the candidate who got the most votes but for the candidate of the party that has the most electors. This does NOT represent the voting will of the people.

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!

Rebecca Broughton

Self

Seguin, TX

I am in Favor of HB 3868. Per SOS - No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated. Please Vote Yah on HB 3868. Election Integrity is #1 to restore faith in our voting system.

No person should have say in our elections accept some that lives and works here.

You could add that electors should be a resident for no less than 1 year, to give them time to get to know our candidates.