

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 4028

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Hearing Date: April 21, 2021 8:00 AM

Chris Garrett

NA

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote yes
inconsistency between polling locations is a problem.

Dave Augustus

self

Argyle, TX

Texas needs election integrity and training the staff that run our elections is needful. I support HB 4028.

Thank You,
Dave Augustus
Argyle Texas

Paula Clark

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote FOR this bill

Carla Birk

Self

Leander, TX

I am writing in support of HB 4028. I worked as a primary election administrator in 2012, 2016, and 2018 as well as helping recruit and place election workers for many years in Travis County. I have repeatedly had to argue with county workers placing judges who were not following the term appointments for judges, early voting, and ballot board. They seemed completely unaware of the TEC requirements for party parity, requirement to work with the party on vacancies, and the requirement to use appointments. They would tell me explanations including keeping "teams" (of all Democrats) together was good, people had "self identified" as Republican (who often had Democrat voting records and were obviously not from the appointment list), and saying they had no way to know what party the workers were with, clearly oblivious to the appointment process defined in the TEC. The trainers have given incorrect instructions on poll watchers which leads to obstruction at the polls. The Central Counting manager obstructed poll watchers in June and November of 2020. Required training would hopefully improve the likelihood that elections are administered according to the TEC.

RICHARD BOHNERT

self A/C contractor

Printed on: April 26, 2021 12:06 PM

COMFORT, TX

My name is Richard Bohnert. I live in Comfort, Texas Kerr county and I am in favor of HB 4028. I would like to have standard training for all county officers through the state so every county in the state can be monitored by the same rule book, universal throughout the state. Please pass this bill relating to county election officers training, HB 4028. Thank You.

Bonnie Seelig

Self Retired

Spicewood, TX

Support: Everyone needs to be on the same page. Everyone needs to know the law and know the repercussions for NOT FOLLOWING THE LAW. If everyone is confident in his/her knowledge of what is supposed to happen, each person will become a poll watcher.

Beth Biesel, TEF Election Integrity Chair

Texas Eagle Forum (TEF)

Dallas, TX

Texas Eagle Forum supports this bill. Dallas County Elections Department has trained judges and clerks to do things that are not legal. For example, in the Presidential 2020 election, Dallas County Elections Department taught that cancelling mail ballots was not necessary. We were told to leave the live ballot as is. We had 1000s of un-cancelled live mail ballots floating around the county. We need consistent legitimate training.

Kathryn Williams

self/retired

Austin, TX

On -- My reaction depends solely on the content of the training.

Alan Vera, Chairman

Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee

Houston, TX

Alan Vera, Chairman, Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee testifying IN SUPPORT OF HB 4028.

The county elections officials and staff in Harris County are desperately in need of the training called for in this bill. During the 2020 General Election, we had to involve the Secretary of State on multiple occasions because the county officials were about to, or already had violated the Texas Election Code. Among the issues addressed were:

1. The requirement that the signature on the mail ballot carrier envelope and application form must be that of the VOTER, not just be that of the same person.
2. The requirement that mail ballots dropped of in person still have to go through the signature verification committee.
3. The fact that poll watchers ARE allowed to observe the work of the signature verification committee.
4. Proper chain of custody for official election records being picked up from polling places by temporary contract workers.
5. Proper cancellation of mail ballots surrendered at the polls by voters who wanted to vote in person.
6. ETC.

It's a bad mistake to assume that county election officials actually KNOW the Texas Election Code, let alone know how to properly apply it. Many of the errors, violations and infractions we had to report to the SOS are rooted in the absolute ignorance of the county election officials.

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The requirements of this bill are not only necessary; they are long overdue.

Please recommend HB 4028 favorably to the full House.

shawn flanagan

self/retired

corpus christi, TX

vote yes, brings needed reform to the process to ensure fair elections

Jessie Carlson

self

Corpus Chrsiti, TX

Vote yes.