

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 4044

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Hearing Date: April 21, 2021 8:00 AM

Chris Garrett

NA

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote yes

A rogue official willfully abdicating required duties needs punitive guidance.

Jennifer Mathews

Self

Porter, TX

I strongly support this bill and urge you to favorable pass it out of committee.

Caleb Pillado Leon

self - engineer

Katy, TX

I am FOR House Bill 4044. Not only funds should be withheld from a Registrar's willful neglect to perform his or her duty more severe penalties must be imposed on any neglectful Registrar.

George Clement

self

Austin, TX

This is very important to helping us clean up the voter roles. We need enforcement of this activity because we have seen it not followed through in the past and it has left large holes for fraud in our larger metro areas. This is a violation and dilution of league voters voices.

WILMA JOY PUTNAM

SELF; RETIRED

GEORGETOWN, TX

I support HB 4044 because it is a critical element in the various election integrity bills support HB 6 -- this one deals directly with a registrar's failure to cancel registrations by making it possible for the SOS to withhold funds from the registrar's office. I would have preferred making this a criminal offence.

Terry Putnam

Self

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Georgetown, TX

I fully support HB 4044 which assures "clean" voter registration rolls.

Dave Augustus

self

Argyle, TX

Texas needs to have clean voter roles and it is the job of the registrars to maintain this list accurately. I support HB 4044.

Thank You,
Dave Augustus
Argyle Texas

Frank Holman

Self

Austin, TX

Please support this bill we need clean voter rolls.

RICHARD BOHNERT

self A/C contractor

COMFORT, TX

My name is Richard Bohnert. I live in Comfort, Texas Kerr county and I am in favor of HB 4044. Pleas pass this bill out of committee. Thank You.

Paula Clark

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote FOR this bill

Paula Kothmann

self

Austin, TX

It's outrageous that you're trying to criminalize registrars. You need an equal law to protect people who are cancelled unjustly. We saw how White Supremacists used this tactic in Georgia and we won't stand for it in Texas.

Tanya Robertson, Senate District 11 SREC Committeewoman

Republican Party of Texas

Taylor Lake Village, TX

IN FAVOR of HB 4044

Voters in Texas expect there to be consequences codified into law for those placed, and elected to, a position of trust who don't

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perform their duties.

Below is the language that was overwhelmingly passed out of the Republican Party of TX 2020 State Convention pertaining to Election Integrity as one of our party's legislative priorities:

“Require citizenship verification of each voter, and felony penalties for Election Code violations that threaten election integrity.”

Millions of Republican voters consider this a top priority according to the following 2020 Republican Primary results.

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%

We implore Chairman Cain to bring this up for a committee vote ASAP and for committee members to vote it favorably out of committee.

Thank you for your time!

Bonnie Seelig

Self Retired

Spicewood, TX

No one pays attention to laws that are not enforced. Just think of 25 mph zones. When tickets are not issued, soon that zone is a driver's 50 mph zone - until a child is killed. Well, tolerance for laziness and corruption has lead to rampant voter fraud.

Tolerance is the last virtue of every great nation. Its people no longer have the courage to stand for law and order or they don't have the integrity to stand for law and order. Either way when there are no repercussions for violating the law, more will join in and more laws will be violated. I hope the 87th Legislature shows their fellow Texans that they love their state and will fight to make their elections safe, secure and honest.

Gwen Withrow, SREC SD 4

SREC Texas Republican Party Election Integrity committee

Beaumont, TX

I support this bill and we are asking that it be voted favorably out of committee. It is important to Texans that our votes count and that only qualified voters are allowed to vote. When voters lose faith in our system of voting because our officials have not performed their sworn duties we will have lost everything that makes this country great. It is not voter suppression to stop people who do not qualify from voting from voting.

Beth Biesel, TEF Election Integrity Chair

Texas Eagle Forum

Dallas, TX

Texas Eagle Forum supports this bill. TEF would prefer that a misspelled word in line 10 be corrected to "willful".

Mary Studor

self, retired

Fredericksburg, TX

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Please pass this bill. Voter registrars must follow the law for our Republic to work.

Kathryn Williams

Self/retired

Austin, TX

OPPOSE - This is a ridiculous bill. As a Voter Assistance Hotline worker in 2020, I talked with many elections administrators to help work out problems voters had with accessing a ballot or application for vote by mail, or tracking down registration and applications. Many, in smaller counties, were one-woman shops and several said they were quitting after the election. Pulling funds from counties that are doing a poor job of keeping up with records makes no sense. They probably need more funds to hire some help or buy new equipment or hiring technical workers. This also introduces a new level of partisan politics which already injures the process of safe and fair elections and full enfranchisement. As with many of these punitive "voter fraud" (really voter suppression) bills this session, it appears to have been written hastily and with little regard for the reality of how elections offices and polling places work in the real world. They could have been written by a middle school debater. There is such a wide variety of situations that happen in this process, there is no way one size fits all.

Cathy Jaster

retired / self

Georgetown, TX

My name is Cathy Jaster and I am for this bill. Only legal citizens have any right at all to vote and people hired to keep the voter registrations up to date must be able to do so or else they are not the right person for the job. Willful or negligent violations need to result in penalties.

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 4044.

Our ballot security committee is growing, both in numbers and in capabilities. We now have an election data analysis sub-committee which has just begun a deep dive into our county voter registration rolls. We're finding some interesting anomalies.

But sometimes, you don't even have to dig to find problems with the voter rolls.

In 2020 the interim Harris County Clerk mass mailed BBM applications to every registered voter over the age of 65. That was around 400,000 applications. He publicly stated that he used the current voter registration rolls for the mailing.

Within about 10 days of the mailing, we began receiving phone calls from people who live at the addresses to which the applications had been mailed and who were related to the person to whom the applications had been addressed. They were calling to complain about their relative receiving the unsolicited application because the relative was deceased. The range of time for which the addressee had been deceased was between 2 and 11 years.

We told them how to report the information to the registrar. They thanked us and moved on.

But we also got several calls from voters in Oklahoma who had moved to Oklahoma from Harris County between 2 and 6 years ago. They received their Harris County BBM application at their Oklahoma address. Something is wrong here.

In the private sector, if you consistently fail to do your job correctly, you get fired or demoted. Your compensation is cut.

Our citizens deserve to have confidence in the accuracy of our county voter rolls. Period.

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We need to get serious about the quality of our voter rolls. And there should be repercussions for failure to consistently achieve quality and accuracy. This bill is an important step toward real accountability for the quality of our voter rolls. Please report HB 4044 favorably to the full House.

David wylie, SREC SD12
Republican Party of Texas
ARGYLE, TX

I am David Wylie, a member of the State Republican Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Texas from Senate District 12, and I live in Argyle Texas. I am representing the Republican Party of Texas.

I am speaking in support of HB 4044 today.

This past spring, over 98% of the voters in the Republican Primary in Texas voted to maintain the integrity of our voter rolls. This past summer, almost 8000 delegates met virtually at the State Convention of the Republican Party of Texas. These delegates heard testimony on the issues facing the state and voted to support efforts to maintain the integrity of our voter rolls as the most important Legislative Priority of all issues facing Texans.

This bill will help to maintain the integrity of our voter rolls. We need this bill to be law to maintain the integrity of our elections.

Please approve this bill so that it can be heard by the full House.

Thank you
David Wylie
RPT SREC SD12
POBox 1110
Argyle TX
817 247 2237

Melissa Spence
Precinct Chair
Allen, TX

I am in favor of this bill and ask that it be voted in favor and sent to the house for a vote. We need to have registrars that know the laws and follow them.

JENNIFER YOCH, Mrs.
Self/ Teacher
BLUE RIDGE, TX

I am in FAVOR of HB 4044 which is relating to a registrar's failure to cancel voter registrations under applicable law. This bill will strengthen the integrity of our elections.

It is vital that the integrity of our elections is shored up to give Texans faith in the republic. Our elected officials write our laws, so our elections are the foundation of our government. Please vote yes on this bill and bring them to the House floor. Thank you.

Kara Trissel
self
jonestown, TX

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Please vote in favor of HB4044 and help support Texas election integrity.

Tina Woodle

Self retired

Port Neches, TX

Vote in FAVOR of HB 4044 and HB 2339.

Thank you!!!

Tina Woodle

Self retired

Port Neches, TX

Please schedule HB 329, HB 335, HB 1368, and SB 7 for a hearing ASAP.

Thank you!!

shawn flanagan

self/retired

corpus christi, TX

vote yes, brings accountability to the process

Carmen Prince

Precinct chair 3023- Denton

Coppell, TX

I am in favor of passing HB 4044.

Thank you.

Jennifer Bezner

Southwestern HVAC

San Antonio, TX

Please keep our elections HONEST and only allow for LEGAL votes. I have only 1 vote and by not taking the basic steps to ensure our voter rolls my vote can be nullified. I am in FAVOR and fully support HB 4044.

Amy Huggins

self

Houston, TX

I support HB 4044 and respectfully request that the committee vote in favor of this bill and pass it out of committee. It is critical for Texas to maintain accurate voter rolls and if a registrar is ordered to cancel voter registrations under applicable law, there must be penalties in place if the registrar refuses. I have seen first hand as a poll watcher how many ways there are for people to cheat during the voting process. We must only allow legal voters to vote in Texas.

Shelley Barineau

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Self

HOUSTON, TX

in FAVOR of HB 4044 and HB 2339. Please Protect Texas!

Jessie Carlson

self

Corpus Chrsiti, TX

Vote yes.

CARLA BIRK

self

LEANDER, TX

I am writing in support of HB 4044. The voter registration lists must be cleaned up to reduce fraudulent voting. I have worked elections for over ten years including three cycles as a primary administrator.

Unfortunately, when there are no consequences to ignoring much of the TEC, Travis County officials regularly ignore the clear instructions in the TEC in a variety of areas. There must be consequences.