

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 4498

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Hearing Date: April 15, 2021 8:00 AM

David Doscher

Self - Computer Programmer

Cedar Park, TX

My name is David Doscher and I chair the City / County Community Advisory Board for Texas District 136.

I write today in SUPPORT of HB 4498.

HB 4498 supports "Motor Voter Registration" and complies with U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia of San Antonio 2020 rulings.

The federal judge ordered Texas to comply with national law and treat driver's license renewals and change-of-address requests as simultaneous applications for voter registration.

He ordered the state's Department of Public Safety to set up a system to allow the simultaneous online transactions.

One change is requested. Line 20 and 21 read as:

"the registration becomes effective on the 30th day after the date the application is approved"

These lines should be changed back to the original language of:

"the registration becomes effective on the 30th day after the date the application is submitted to the registrar"

as the new language creates uncertainty of the effective date and is an unnecessary change.

We support the idea of increased Voter participation and reject the idea of Voter suppression no matter how it is packaged.

The Community Advisory Board recommends the Texas House vote FOR HB 4498.

Thank You,
David Doscher
1205 Forest Oaks Path
Cedar Park TX 78613
512.585.9168

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

Self

Galveston, TX

This is a good piece of legislation and should be enacted. There is only one change I would suggest. Under SECTION 4 Sec. 13.072 (a)(2)(A) of the bill I would strike the word "or" and insert in lieu thereof "and" making it read:

(A) the applicant's Texas driver's license number or number of a personal identification card issued by the Department of Public

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Safety; [or] and
(B) the last four digits of the applicant's social security number.

The reason for this change is simple. We continue to have duplicate registrations and people showing up at the polls and wanting to know which one to use. Duplicate registrations, of course, opens the door for less scrupulous people to go to different polling locations and vote more than once.

Usually, duplicate registrations happen when a person registers using their Social Security number and then later, when renewing their driver's license, they use their TDL number.

Requiring that both numbers be provided when registering will allow the Secretary of State and local County Voter Registrars to cross check their records and when discovering duplicates, to merge the records into one record.

Kimberly Bridges Young

Self

Crp Christi, TX

Vote yes!

Sarah Berel-Harrop

self/seminarian

Farmers Branch, TX

I urge the committee to reject this bill. It delays the voter registration process by requiring verification of the registration by a centralized department (the secretary of state) who is appointed and not accountable to voters. Furthermore, the changes to section 3(a) serve only to create confusion for voters. The 30 days after submission of the application IS for processing and validation time. Once the voter's registration is approved, there should actually be NO delay, because the registrar has made the determination that the voter is eligible.

This is not difficult. Citizens have a constitutional right to vote. Tinkering with voting laws to create hurdles and delays disproportionately affects the people who are most vulnerable - poor, Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color, students, disabled people. Instead, think about ways to help all eligible voters vote!

Joy Cunningham

self/writer

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. The National Voter Registration Act is intended to make it easier, not harder to register to vote. I sign things differently from time to time, sometimes my first, middle, and last name; sometimes my first initial and then the name by which I'm called and the last name...it depends on the document I sign. People should not have to match a signature exactly and be held up for an indefinite period of time before they are notified, I'm sure as close to an election as the Secretary of State can manage, of the problem with their signature. Again, a bill that pretends to comply with the National Voter Registration Act while in reality just putting up more roadblocks to registering to vote. I can go buy a gun in the next hour. Why is that so easy and voting less so? Shame.

Beth Richardson

self tutor

Buda, TX

I support this bill and HB6

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Cissy Sanders

Self

Austin, TX

I OPPOSE HB 4498.

Keena Miller

self/education

Austin, TX

OPPOSE

Denise Gordon

Self/ TX Dem Veterans

Round Rock, TX

This bill is Classic Voter Suppression; it is unnecessary and needs to be defeated. The testimony opposing HB 4498 during the Committee Hearing was specific as to the many issues with this Bill, so it will not be repeated here.

DEFEAT THIS BILL!

Kathryn Williams

Self/ retirement

Austin, TX

OPPOSED

This bill makes the certainty of whether a person is registered to vote in time to vote in an election. It will create confusion among voters of whether they may legally vote which would have a chilling effect on voter turnout.

It is poorly written and would be expensive for the state to defend. it is unconstitutional.

Sec. 1 is vague and language conflicts within the bill. It also is in conflict with existing federal law.. There is no means of curing such problems that arise when a person was erroneously flagged.

Repeals safe harbor protections, which penalizes voters.

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director

Grassroots America - We the People PAC

Flint, TX

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America - We the People PAC, speaking for the organization:

Grassroots America strongly supports HB 4498. Long ago, the State of Texas should have been in compliance with the National Voter Registration Act when it comes to verifying the voter registration list. It is absolutely essential that the State of Texas implement a real-time verification of identity, eligibility and residency for all voters. Every eligible voter should be able to vote and not have their vote stolen by an ineligible voter. The passage and enforcement of this law would go a long way in restoring faith in Texas elections.

We urge the House Elections Committee to pass this bill out of committee.

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Tom Thomas

self

Corpus Christi, TX

Republicans, PLEASE STOP YOUR WAR AGAINST DEMOCRACY. Texas is already one of the most voter-suppressed states in the U.S. Making voting even more difficult is ultimately self-defeating and not at all American.

Ricardo Rosales Zuniga

self

Austin, TX

I believe lowering the barrier of entry for every citizen to participate in our democracy is always a step forward, we should do everything in our power to help people participate and make their voices heard

Dolores Withrow

Self retired

Conroe, TX

Need election integrity

shawn flanagan

self/retired

corpus christi, TX

Please vote Yes. Chairman Cain put this together and his acumen in this area means this bill is required.

Jerry Allen

Self

The woodlands, TX

If we're ever to trust American and Texas voting integrity. You as our legislators must pass the necessary measures to prevent fraud. Mail in ballots should only be permitted for military and those totally physically challenged. And they must sign for them with ID Proof. Thank you

Victoria Hanson

self - retired

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote Yes on HB 4498

This bill articulates the rules and regulations (governance) which aligns with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993. I believe whether a person is registering on a secure online system or in person, facilitating voter registration is good for all involved. This appears to adhere to security concerns that are being addressed in this Legislative Session.

Richard Smith

Self

Corpus christi, TX

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Vote yes, one more step for voter integrity

Jessie Carlson

self

Corpus Chrsiti, TX

Vote yes. Allowing people to register when they renew their drivers license just makes sense.

Amanda Friedeck, Mrs.

Silver Star Food Stores/BRANDS Marketing Group, LLC

ALICE, TX

I, Amanda Sue Friedeck (Jim Wells County) am in favor of HB 4498. This is so that our elections are transparent, accountable and fair.