

PUBLIC COMMENTS

SB 1114

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Hearing Date: May 4, 2021 8:00 AM

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

Self

Galveston, TX

I support this measure.

As I have noted in numerous hearings this session, Galveston County discovered a person who had voted in five separate elections but who was not a U.S. citizen. Under both Federal and State law a person must be a U.S. citizen in order to vote. This bill attempts to set out a process for discovering individuals who are not citizens but who are on the current voter registration rolls. This is a good thing and I support doing so.

The only enhancement I would suggest to this bill is to modify the language in paragraph (a-1) to say that BOTH the "Secretary of State AND DPS shall enter into an agreement..." This would strengthen the wording and direct BOTH agencies (not just one) to forge an agreement (i.e., not just the Secretary of State's office).

Frank Holman

Self

Austin, TX

Vote to send this Bill forward out of committee. We want all legal votes counted, but we do not want illegal votes counted.

William Ely

NA

Cypress, TX

I fully support this bill. I simply wonder what are the additional government processes that distinguish or determine a citizen vs. a non-citizen should also be included.

Beth Biesel, Election Integrity Chair

Texas Eagle Forum

Dallas, TX

Texas Eagle Forum supports this bill. Only legal residents of Texas should be able to vote. Voter rolls should be culled of illegitimate voters. Voter registration needs to be vetted for citizenship and eligibility.

glenda smith

self

east tawakoni, TX

proof of citizenship should be required to be able to vote.

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Ben Brown

Self

Fairview, TX

I support SB1114 which provides additional statutory support for the Secretary of State's efforts to match information obtained from Department of Public Safety and compare it to the voter rolls. SB1114 strengthens the integrity of voter rolls by requiring voter registrars to additionally cross-reference voter rolls with personal information provided in motor vehicle records. Having accurate and current voter rolls is important to the integrity of Texas election.

I ask the Committee to vote "For" SB1114 and pass it to the House floor.

Yours truly,

Ben Brown

Legislative and Campaign Activities Director
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Fairview, Collin County TX
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Tom Thomas

self

Corpus Christi, TX

REPUBLICANS, PLEASE STOP YOUR WAR ON DEMOCRACY!!!! By making it even more difficult for people to vote, you are destroying the foundation of our country! If you really loved Texas (and America), you'd make it easier for people to vote.

Lisa Humphrey

ADL Texas

Austin, TX

ADL strongly opposes Senate Bill 1114, which would require voter registrars to proactively cross-reference voter rolls with Department of Motor Vehicle citizenship records. It would also require registrars to compare voter rolls with Department of Public Safety records to verify the citizenship status of voter registrations on a monthly basis.

ADL is a national nonpartisan anti-hate organization founded in 1913 with a mission to "stop the defamation of the Jewish people and secure justice and fair treatment to all." Its mandate is to protect the civil rights of all persons; eliminate vestiges of discrimination, racism, and antisemitism; and fight hatred in all its forms. Advancing voting rights and promoting democracy has long been a core component of this mission. Indeed, encouraging voters to be active participants in the political process and promoting universal suffrage are crucial to ADL's founding goal to secure the fair and just treatment of all people. Through educational campaigns on how to vote; activism in the legislative arena and other halls of power; and, when necessary, participation in litigation, ADL has sought to guarantee basic voting rights for all Americans.

Senate Bill 1114 particularly targets naturalized citizens by seeking to purge them from voter rolls. The bill deliberately erects a barrier to voting based on the voter's failure to update their motor vehicle records fast enough – or institutional errors when trying to do so. Moreover, by requiring the Department of Public Safety to report voters' citizenship status every month, the bill undermines the relationships of trust between communities and local law enforcement agencies necessary to build safe and secure societies. Senate Bill 1114 will unnecessarily burden thousands of Texans' access to the ballot with a disproportionate impact on marginalized communities, especially Black, brown, and immigrant voters.

This bill is a proverbial solution in search of a problem premised on election fraud disinformation, lies, and conspiracy theories

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fertilized by Alex Jones, QAnon, President Trump and his most devoted enablers, and many others. These conspiracy theories and lies have been embraced by extremists who attacked the U.S. Capitol on January 6th, as well as radicalized numerous others who were part of the insurrection. Extremists are often animated by the angry and paranoid conviction that something sacred is being or has been taken away from them, and the former president has offered a story about a “stolen election,” all thanks to the treasonous “left” and mainstream media, who are, as the narrative goes, suppressing the rights and voices of “real Americans.” Yet the 2020 election was “the most secure in American history,” per the former Administration’s own Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Our legislature should be working to expand free and fair access to the ballot box. Consequently, we strongly oppose Senate Bill 1114.