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| BILL ANALYSIS |

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| H.B. 223 |
| By: Cortez |
| Elections |
| Committee Report (Unamended) |

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| **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**  In the 2020-2022 election cycle, the Bexar County Democratic Party reported receiving 444 filed applications for precinct chairs; nearly 20 percent of those applications had no contact information aside from a mailing address. Currently, the application form for precinct chair includes a place for the applicant to give a public email address, if available, and a phone number. However, giving a phone number is indicated as "optional" rather than required. H.B. 223 seeks to ensure that precinct chair candidates can be contacted by revising ballot application requirements for the election of a precinct chair. |
| **CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT**  It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision. |
| **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**  It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution. |
| **ANALYSIS**  H.B. 223 amends the Election Code to require an application for a place on the ballot as a candidate for precinct chair to include the following information in addition to complying with general application requirements:   * an email address at which the candidate receives correspondence relating to the candidate's campaign; * a telephone number at which the candidate can be reached; or * both the email address and telephone number. |
| **EFFECTIVE DATE**  September 1, 2023. |