

By: González of Dallas

H.B. No. 702

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the conduct of primary elections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 43.007(a), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The secretary of state shall implement a program to allow each commissioners court participating in the program to eliminate county election precinct polling places and establish countywide polling places for:

(1) any election required to be conducted by the county;

(2) any election held as part of a joint election agreement with a county under Chapter 271;

(3) any election held under contract for election services with a county under Subchapter D, Chapter 31;

(4) each primary election and runoff primary election if ~~+~~

~~[(A)]~~ the county chair or county executive committee of each political party participating in a joint primary election under Section 172.126 agrees to the use of countywide polling places; ~~or~~

~~[(B) the county chair or county executive committee of each political party required to nominate candidates by primary election agrees to use the same countywide polling~~

1 ~~places,~~] and

2 (5) each election of a political subdivision located
3 in the county that is held jointly with an election described by
4 Subdivision (3) or (4).

5 SECTION 2. The heading to Section 172.126, Election Code,
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 172.126. JOINT PRIMARIES REQUIRED [~~AUTHORIZED~~].

8 SECTION 3. Section 172.126(a), Election Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (a) The primary elections in a county shall [~~may~~] be
11 conducted jointly at the regular polling places designated for the
12 general election for state and county officers. The county clerk
13 shall supervise the overall conduct of the joint primary elections.
14 This section applies to the conduct of joint primary elections
15 notwithstanding and in addition to other applicable provisions of
16 this code. [~~The decision to conduct a joint general primary
17 election or runoff primary election, as applicable, must be made by
18 majority vote of the full membership of the commissioners court and
19 with the unanimous approval of the county clerk and the county chair
20 of each political party required to nominate candidates by primary
21 election.~~]

22 SECTION 4. Section 85.0091(b), Election Code, is repealed.

23 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.